

# Kids

## EVENT OUTLINE

Expanding the Impact of Your Gifts of Encouragement

# FEARBUSTERS

**NEVER FEAR,  
JESUS IS HERE!**

*When I am afraid,  
I will put my  
trust in you.  
Psalm 56:3 NLT*

## Ideas for a Fall Fun Night

Complete with Adaptations for a  
Back-to-School Night or a Fall Festival



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It's time to host a fall fun night for your church or community!

The ideas here will help you with the nuts and bolts of planning. Plus, each activity and game below provides script cues that show your volunteers easy ways to talk about Jesus. You can use this event outline for a back-to-school night or a fall festival; either way, you'll be sending the children home with Scripture in their hands and confidence in their hearts—all because of Jesus!

# Fearbusters: Never Fear, Jesus Is Here!

The games, crafts, and conversational tips in this theme will help children more deeply appreciate the gift of Jesus' salvation and protection. Each station will include a scriptural tie to the armor of God passage from Ephesians 6.

A visit to your local party store or a quick internet search can spark decorating ideas. You can choose to elaborate on the armor theme or decorate for fall. Either way, use simple strategies to make your space look a little different from the norm and create a feeling of anticipation in the children as they arrive. Streamers, lights, and posters will get you started . . .

If you're having a family event, consider preparing a few sets of wearable armor (do an internet search for "DIY armor") and setting up a backdrop so you can photograph families. It's a fun addition to the event, and if you have the pictures printed a few days later, it gives you a point of contact for following up with attendees. Another option is to take the picture on a smartphone belonging to someone in the family. They'll have an instant memory to take with them!

Consider recruiting volunteers from your church who have a natural, winsome way of talking with children about Jesus. Invite them to lead an activity. This will give them an opportunity to share the wonderful truth about God's power, peace, and protection that is ours through Jesus.

## Jesus Time

Plan a large-group worship activity to begin your event. Visit the Resource & Idea Center at [www.CTAinc.com](http://www.CTAinc.com) to download the *Fearbusters* Ministry Message from CTA. Gather everyone around you and read the downloaded Ministry Message to the group.

While you have everyone together, explain key details about your event and the activities you'll be doing. Each activity idea below connects to one of the cards in the *Fearbusters* Memory Card Game (#FRB18ACD). When the children are ready to go, give them a set of cards to take home, noting that the rules for the memory game are on the header of the bag.

Be sure every family receives information about your church and an invitation to attend future events—and Sunday school and worship services. It's best to have your next event in mind already and include that information to keep them coming back!

Consider putting the information in CTA's *Fearbusters* goodie bag (Item #FRB18TS12). It will help the children keep the armor memory card game, crafts, and any other mementos in hand throughout the event.

# Crafts



## Shield of Faith

### **What You'll Need**

- Several templates of the shield shape from pages at the end
- Sturdy cardstock or cardboard—one for each child—approximately 8 ½" by 11" (panels from cereal boxes will work)
- Heavy-duty aluminum foil—one piece for each child—slightly bigger than the piece of cardboard
- Permanent markers in various colors (be sure to have volunteers supervising these at all times)
- Tape, glue, or a stapler to fasten the aluminum foil
- Scissors or Exacto knives (adults only!)

### **What You'll Do**

1. Trace the template onto the cardboard and cut out the shield shape. Depending on your participants and time constraints, you may wish to do the tracing or cutting ahead of time.
2. Give each child a piece of aluminum foil and help each child securely fasten it to the back of the cardboard shield.
3. Instruct the children to use the markers to decorate the shield. You may want to write out the word *Faith* ahead of time so they can copy it. They can add a cross design, the name *Jesus*, and colors to make the shield look interesting. Suggest they also add their name to the shield.

### **What You'll Say**

Throughout history, shields have protected soldiers from lots of dangers, especially fiery darts. Those darts are a lot like Satan's temptations to sin. Help the children see how Satan fires temptations at them throughout the day. Then assure them that the Lord is their shield, completely surrounding them with his presence, protection, and power. Tell them to remember that truth when they look at their shield. Teach them this verse: "When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you" (Psalm 56:3).

(Note: If this is a back-to-school event, use your conversation to directly talk about the challenges and temptations students face in school.)

## Placemat Activity Page

### ***What You'll Need***

- Printed copies of the *Fearbusters* placemat from the Resource & Idea Center at [www.CTAinc.com](http://www.CTAinc.com)
- Crayons or markers

### ***What You'll Do***

It's best if children can be seated in small groups around tables for this activity. Direct the children to read the Bible verses together with you. Then give them time to color the page.

### ***What You'll Say***

As the children color, start small-group conversations by using the scenarios on the placemat. Give the children time to fill in their words of comfort. Close your craft time by reading the paragraph at the bottom of the page. Tell them what Jesus says about peace—the kind of peace he wants us to have: “The peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid” (John 14:27).

## Foam Craft

### ***What You'll Need***

- *Fearbusters* Foam Activity Kits (Item #FRB18AK), one per child

### ***What You'll Do***

Help the children assemble the foam pieces, using the picture on the header as a guide.

### ***What You'll Say***

Talk about the pieces as the children assemble the kit. Start with the red backer and then add the dog.

When you add the shield of faith, explain that just like a shield protects soldiers, we can trust in Jesus to protect us. This is a good time to read the Bible verse on the red backer.

Next, add the sword of the Spirit and tell the children how the Bible tells us that this sword is the Word of God. The Word of God comforts us and busts our fears. Teach this verse: “God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

When everyone has finished the craft, tell the children: **When you get this home, hang it in a place where you'll see it often. Share the Bible verse with someone in your family, with a friend, with a teacher, or with someone else who needs God's love. Then, share it with another person. If you're not sure what to say, remember that Jesus is your Fearbuster! He is always with you. Keep on sharing—and praying for the people God brings to you.**

# Games



## Dodge Ball

Prepare by creating an oversized rectangular cardboard breastplate from the side of a large cardboard box. If it can just about completely shield a child, the size is perfect!

Divide the children into two teams. Then choose one person to hold the breastplate—maybe the child who has the closest birthday or the child who chooses the letter of the alphabet you're thinking of in your head. Put out a few playground balls or other lightweight balls. For safety, encourage the children to throw the balls toward the players' legs. If a child is hit by a ball, that child moves out of the game and sits on the side.

Explain that the teams will play dodge ball for a set time. At the end of the time, you'll stop the game. The team with the most children left standing wins. Play as many rounds as time allows, selecting a new participant to hold the breastplate each time.

Try to play the game enough times so that the children realize the advantage of holding the breastplate—it's nearly impossible to be hit with the ball! Then talk about the breastplate of righteousness described in Ephesians 6:

**God loves you. He doesn't love you because you're good or smart or fearless. He loves you because of Jesus, your Savior, who earned forgiveness for you on the cross. Because of Jesus, you are "righteous"—all right with God. His love and forgiveness are your body armor! If you ever feel bombarded by doubts or threatened by things that worry or scare you, you can remember that just like the breastplate protected [name] from the ball, the righteousness Jesus has given you protects you. You can stand behind it in confidence!**

## Balloon Bounce Relay

For this game, divide the children into two teams and line them up in a single-file line. Blow up two balloons and give one to each team.

When you say "go," the first child from each team should bounce the balloon on his or her head five times. Then, the next child should bounce the balloon on his or her head five times. The first team that has all children complete five head bounces wins!

At the end of the game, describe the promise of the helmet of salvation described in Ephesians 6. Tell the children:

**God has given us a helmet of salvation to protect our minds and thoughts from worry and fear. This helmet is nothing like the balloon. The balloon bounced all over and you really had to chase it! But, because Jesus died on the cross for us, we have the promise of salvation. When we tell God that we are sorry for our sins, he will *always* forgive us! We don't have to chase him—eternal life is ours! And, just as Jesus rose from the dead, so will we!**

## **Sword Match**

Talk to the children about the sword of the Spirit, described in Ephesians 6 as the Word of God. Tell them God's Word is a gift to us. It's true and gives us the Good News of Jesus our Savior and God's love for us through Jesus. When we have troubles, we can use God's Word as a sword to attack those troubles.

Copy the sword templates (see pages at the end) onto cardstock and cut them out. Prepare a table with six empty plastic pumpkins. Cut apart the sheet of worries and fears (see pages at the end) and put one in each pumpkin.

To play, pull a fear card out of the first pumpkin. Read it and challenge the children to work together to find the sword with the Bible verse that answers the fear. Once they have identified it, they should lay the sword in front of the pumpkin and move to the next pumpkin.

You can also add some friendly competition to this game. You could separate the children into teams and time each team. Or, time the group as it works together and then repeat the game two more times, challenging the children to beat their time. Be sure to mix up the pumpkins for each game.

### Answers:

I am facing this problem all alone! Who will help me? (Isaiah 43:1)

I am really scared of the dark! (Psalm 91:2, 5)

Is there something I should be doing to save myself? (Ephesians 2:8)

I feel alone and unloved. (Isaiah 43:4)

I am not really sure that God hears my prayers. (Psalm 34:4)

I'm wondering if God was real only for the people in the Bible. (Psalm 100:5)

# Snack Time

Use the *Fearbusters* Plastic Tumbler (Item #FRB18PT) to serve water or juice.



Try one or more of these snack ideas:

- Create an armor-of-God snack plate. Search online for additional ideas or copy the templates on pages at the end of this guide and put a few at each table for children to imitate.
  - Person
    - Tiny twist pretzel for the head
    - Carrot or celery sticks for the legs and shorter, thinner ones for the arms
  - Armor
    - Triangle snack cracker for the helmet of salvation
    - Square snack cracker for the breastplate of righteousness
    - Potato chip for the shield of faith
    - Short strip of licorice for the belt of truth
    - Mandarin orange segments for the shoes of peace
    - A pretzel stick for the sword of the Spirit

Take this time to talk about the belt of truth:

**When Roman soldiers put on their armor, they hooked all the pieces on to the belt. Then they were ready for battle. The belt of truth reminds us that God never lies to us. All the other pieces of the armor of God rest on the truth that Jesus is our Savior. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).**

- Or, to fit the season, serve apple slices and caramel dip.
- Or, call on all the tailgaters and BBQ-ers in your church. Invite them to cook and serve hot dogs, burgers, or both. This will not only be a treat for your guests, but it will get more church members involved in a great service opportunity!



# Back-to-School Blessing Time



If you use these games and activities as a back-to-school event, take time to gather the children together and assure them that God's spiritual protection goes with them throughout the year. Encourage them to remember that when they use the items you're sending home. Then close with this prayer:

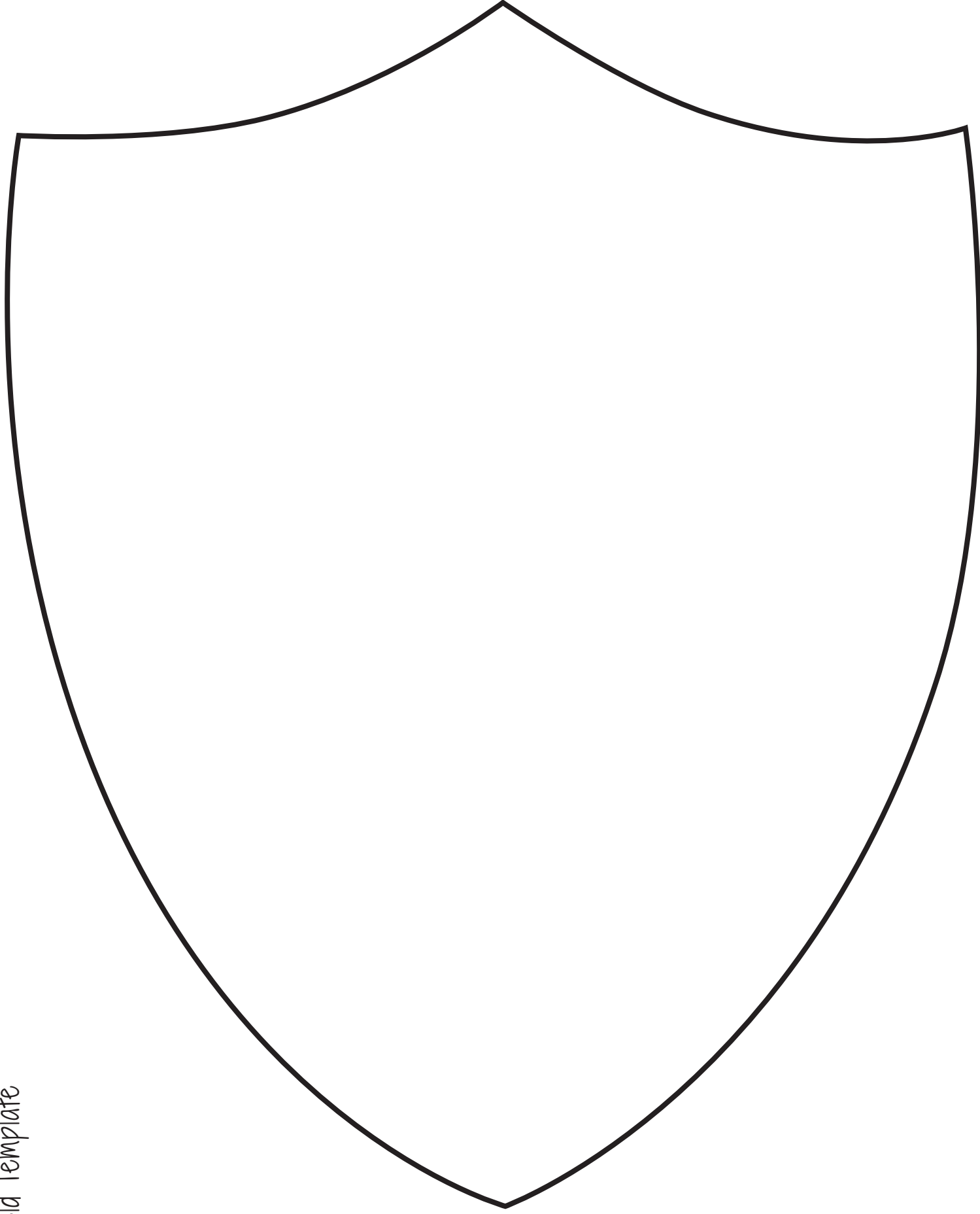
**Lord Jesus, as our children begin a new school year, bless them. Fill them with excitement as they think about all the adventures you have in store for them. Keep them safe. Guide their learning. Help them be examples of your love for their teachers and classmates. Help them always remember they belong to you. Amen.**

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#FRB18DCE





**Fearbuster**

*I hold you by your right hand—I, the LORD your God. And I say to you, "Don't be afraid. I am here to help you."*

*Isaiah 41:13*

**Fearbuster**

*This I declare about the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him.... Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night.*

*Psalms 91:2, 5*

**Fearbuster**

*God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.*

*Ephesians 2:8*

**Fearbuster**

*You are precious to me. You are honored, and I love you.*  
Isaiah 43:4

**Fearbuster**

*I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me. He freed me  
from all my fears.*  
Psalm 34:4

**Fearbuster**

*For the LORD is good. His unfailing love continues forever,  
and his faithfulness continues to each generation.*  
Psalm 100:5

I am facing this  
problem all alone!  
Who will help me?

I feel alone  
and unloved.

I am really scared  
of the dark!

I am not really  
sure that God  
hears my prayers.

Is there something  
I should be doing  
to save myself?

I'm wondering if  
God was real only  
for the people in  
the Bible.

