

Aim: To recognise that when we are doing things for God, the Devil will try to cause bad things to happen. To remember that God is still in control and that prayer is essential.

Refer:

If you have not already covered them, read or tell the extra stories from Sabbath and Sunday in the Orange lesson.

Even though God had chosen David to be the next king, things didn't go smoothly for him. Frustrating things and even bad things kept happening.

Have you ever heard stories of bad things happening when people are doing things for God?

(Share the following or something from your own personal experiences)

Delwyn shares: I have been a leader in the Kindergarten Division at our Conference Big Camp several times and I have noticed that it is very common for bad and frustrating things to happen just before Big Camp starts. One year as I was backing the car up on the Friday evening, a hidden tree branch smashed the back window of the car. The most memorable year was the year a fire started in our neighbours' yard and burned down our work shed. This happened only a week or so before we left to go to Big Camp. Many other smaller frustrating things happen every year.

Why do bad things seem to happen at times like this?

Read Ephesians 6:12 (fighting against principalities)

Read 1 Peter 5:8 (Your enemy the devil)

Do you think Satan was happy that David was going to be king?

Is Satan happy when you are going to a church camp? To Sabbath School?

When we follow God, Satan is mad and wants to make trouble for us.

Why does God allow these frustrating and bad things to happen? Shouldn't He be protecting us since we are doing what He wants?

Read Job 1:6-12

Read John 16:33 (in this world you will have trouble)

Even when God allows bad things to happen, He is still protecting us.

Delwyn shares again: Even though God allows bad things to happen at the start of Big Camp He still protects us. Just a day or so before the fire happened, I had moved all the boxes of Big Camp supplies out of the shed and over to the house patio. At one point during the fire, ours and our neighbour's houses were also in danger, but the wind changed, and the fire was contained at the shed. So, although we lost lots of tools and equipment in the shed fire, they were replaceable things, and the house, the Camp supplies and our pets were all fine. In my experience, every single time God has allowed something bad to happen, when we think about how much worse it could have been, we realise He has protected us, and when it has caused difficulties, He has always provided solutions.

What can we do to protect ourselves?

Read Ephesians 6:11-12, 17-18

Another time we will look at the meanings of the rest of the armour of God, but there are two key points to learn for now:

1. Praying – *I (Delwyn) now make it a habit when we are preparing for Big Camp to pray for God's protection on our 'Friends and family, property and pets.' I also pray for everyone who will be involved and for those who will be attending.*
 2. The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God – Memorise relevant Bible verses, say them often and ask God to do as He has promised in them. For example: Psalms 34:7 (The angel of the Lord is a guard) and Psalm 143:8 (Show me where to walk for I give myself to you)
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For the next 6 months, while we learn about the kings of Israel, we are also going to learn about things that happened to the Christian church after the Bible was written.

The NLT Bible suggests Hebrews was probably written not long before the destruction of Jerusalem which happened in 70AD. This would place its writing around the time that another wave of persecution started for the Christians when Nero was the Emperor of Rome. There is no one reliable source to tell us exactly what happened, but it is generally believed that the Christians were blamed for setting the great fire of Rome in 64AD. Hebrews 11 starts at Creation and lists many great men and women who faithfully obeyed God. It finishes by saying, *"There were others who were Tortured... Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword... They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground."*

Hebrews 11:35-38^{NLT}

Finish by reading Matthew 5:11-12