

PUT OUT THE FIRE!

SCRIPTURE:

In addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one (Ephesians 6:16).

MATERIALS LIST:

(1) Fire Extinguisher

SONG: "Hide Me Away"

MAIN MESSAGE:

It's no secret that Satan is after our souls! According to the Bible, he is after us with "flaming darts." One of Satan's darts can destroy our soul if we are not ready and able to extinguish it with our faith.

LESSON:

If there is a fire in our home, we have two fire extinguishers to fight it. One is in the garage and the other is in the house. What about your house? Is your family ready to put out a fire in the event that one started while you were at home? That's part of being prepared as a family. Prevention and preparation are keys to home safety. Fire extinguishers are a vital part of preparation.

Even more important than being prepared to put out a literal fire in your home is having the ability to put out a flaming dart of Satan. He is after your family! He is smart and cunning, just like he was in the Garden of Eden with Eve. He's a liar and good at what he does. He takes no prisoners. His darts are designed to totally destroy, not just wound. Some of his fiery darts include evolution, sexual immorality, immodesty, homosexuality, atheism, pleasure, busyness, etc. Are you protecting yourself? In Ephesians 6, Paul tells us the answer. The shield of faith. It's faith that extinguishes the devil's darts.

But here's the deal: faith grows and is lived out by digging into the Word and obeying the Word. Romans 10:17 says, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." James says we must be "doers of the word" (James 1:22). Elsewhere, James teaches us that "faith without works is dead" (James 2:17). Faith is trusting in God and His Son, conjoined with obedience.

As we grow in our faith (trusting and obeying His Word) we have the ability to guard ourselves from the attacks of Satan. Ultimately, faith means drawing closer to God by yielding to Him. Here's what the Bible says: "Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." (James 4:7-8). The closer your family gets to God, the easier it is to resist the Evil One.

PRAYER: God help us to draw near to you by growing in our faith today.