

# 'Jesus Protects Us'



This material is suitable for ages 5-7.

## **Aim:**

To help the children see how God watches over us and protects us.

## **Bible focus:**

Psalm 119:105; Ephesians 6:18; Acts 9:27.

## **You will need:**

A soccer uniform — shoes, socks, shin pads, shorts, shirt, mouthguard (if you have access to one) and a soccer ball.

For Bible time - A Bible, a picture of a Bible (see page 5), some pictures of some of the children's groups in the corps where they have the chance to hear the gospel (SAGALA, Sunday School, Kids Club, etc. Use pictures from page 6, but a picture of your own group would be better), a picture of a person praying (page 5), reusable adhesive e.g. Blu tac.

## **Introduction:**

Tell the children that you've been asked to play in a soccer game this weekend and you've just picked up your uniform so you thought you'd try it on to see if it fits. Ask them to help you make sure.

(Put the uniform on wrong e.g. shin pads on your arms, socks on your hands, etc. Allow them to tell you what you're doing wrong. Ask them questions like: what difference does it make if I've got these in the wrong place? How will this affect my game? Get them to tell you that you won't be able to play properly, the equipment won't be able to protect you if it's in the wrong place, etc. But don't listen to them.)

So now I'm ready to play soccer. (Have a couple of children kick the ball around with you. You will not be able to play properly. Stop the game after a short time has passed.)

What's going wrong? Why can't I play the game properly? (Again they will tell you that you don't have the right equipment in the right place and that's why you can't play properly. Listen to them this time and get them to help you put the uniform and equipment in the right place.)

So now I'm ready to play soccer. (Again kick the ball around with the children. Stop the game again after a short time has passed.)

That went much better this time. Why was that? What was different this time? I had the right parts of the uniform in the right place.

Well did you know that our best help and protection in life comes from knowing Jesus? Because Jesus loves us so much, He gives us protection when we love and follow Him. With God protecting us we never have to worry.

But how does Jesus protect us? Let's find out how...

## Bible time:

(Hide the three pictures around the room before the children arrive.) When we play soccer we have all this stuff which protects us so we don't get hurt and when we put it in the right place we can play the game properly. Jesus loves us so much that when we become His friend there are three things He gives us that can protect us from harmful things in the world. I have three pictures hidden around the room and I need three volunteers to go and find them for me. (Pick three children to find the pictures and return them to you. Take the picture of the Bible and attach it to the wall/board.)

The first thing that can protect us is the Bible. Now can you think of how the Bible can protect you? (Allow some time for the children to think and respond. It's OK if they don't come up with an answer. The response you are looking for is: if we know what it says we will know right from wrong, we won't do the wrong thing.)

There is a lot of great advice in the Bible. In fact for just about every problem we have we can find a verse in the Bible to help us. Psalm 119:105 describes the Bible as a light and a guide. That means the Bible can teach us about the right way to live. Now I know that it might be hard for you to read the Bible at the moment because you're still learning how to do that at school. So can you think of a way you can know what the Bible says even when you can't read it for yourself? (Have someone read it and explain it to you, come to Kids Club etc where the stories are



told and we learn what it means, watch Bible videos/DVD's, etc.) So even though you can't read it just yet, you can still know what the Bible says by using some of the things we've just talked about. The Bible protects us by helping us to know what is right and how we can live Jesus way.

The second thing that can protect us is prayer. (Attach the picture of a person praying to the wall/board.) Prayer is talking and listening to Jesus. It's how we tell Him about the things that are worrying us or scaring us and about the things that are great in our life. In fact in a book of the Bible called Ephesians, Paul, a follower of Jesus told us to 'never stop praying'. Paul knew that not only was praying one of the things that can protect us but it also helps us to grow closer to Jesus. Jesus loves us and he wants to get to know us and praying is a way we can get to know Him better. Praying helps us become better friends with Jesus and know what pleases Him. Praying is also how we can ask Jesus to help us, to protect us and look after us when we feel scared or lonely or upset. When we pray we are talking straight to Jesus and He hears us and helps us.

The third thing that Jesus gives us to protect us is people. (Attach the picture of the children's groups at church — either yours or the one provided.) Can you think of how people can protect us? (They can save us from harm, they can tell us about Jesus, they can listen to us when we have problems, they can help us to work out what's right.) People who are also friends of Jesus are very important because they are right here when we need help. Our friends at church, our teachers, our parents and even older children can help us to be better friends with Jesus because they have learned a bit more about Him. They are a bit older and they can help you by passing on what they've learned and praying with you and helping you to read the Bible so you know what it says.

So now you know the three things that protect us when we become a friend of Jesus — The Bible, Prayer and People.

## Response Time:

If you would like to become a friend of Jesus we're going to have a special time to do that now. I'm going to say a prayer and if you would like to pray it with me, I will leave some time after each sentence so you can pray it to yourselves.

## Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me. (pause) Thank you for loving us so much you have given us protection (pause) through the Bible, prayer and other people. (pause) I'm sorry for the things I have said and done that aren't right. Please help me to use the Bible, prayer and other people to get to know you better. Help me to be your friend (pause). Amen.

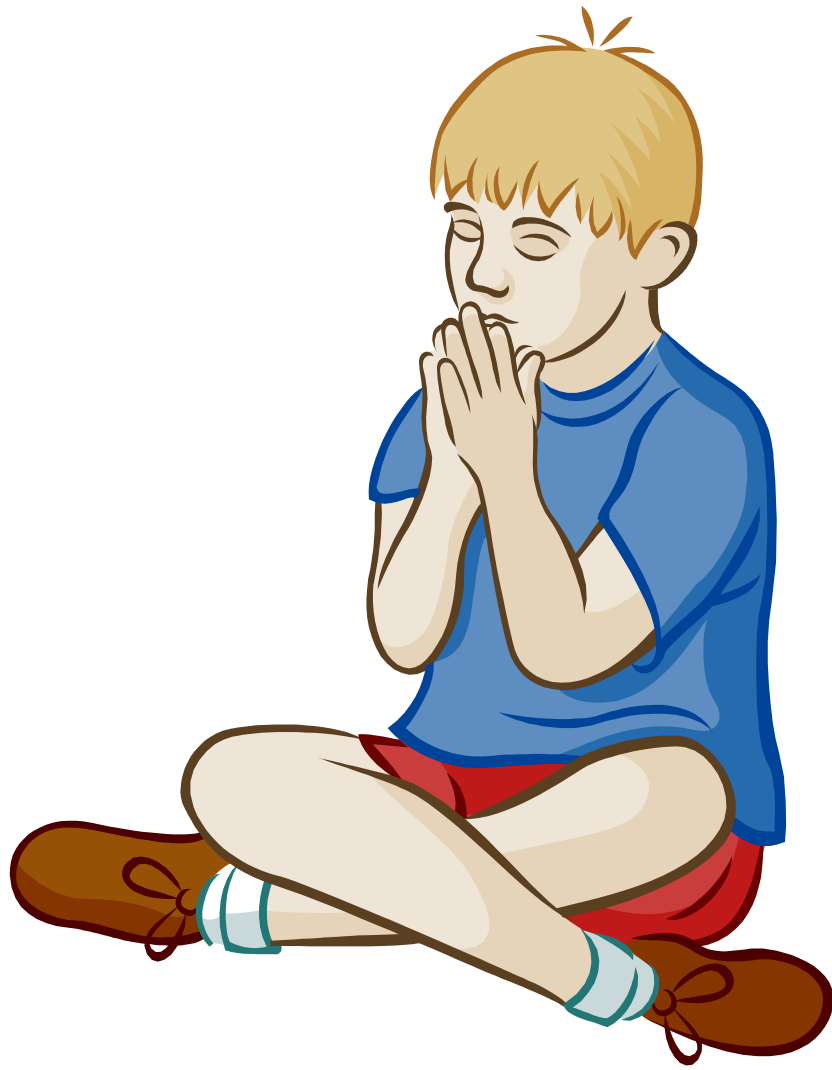


## Follow up:

It will be helpful to have copies of *Would you like to know Jesus?* for under eights as a follow-up resource for the children. Some age-appropriate Bible Reading notes that family members can help the children to read through may also be appropriate. These resources are available from your local Scripture Union Resources for Ministry bookshop.

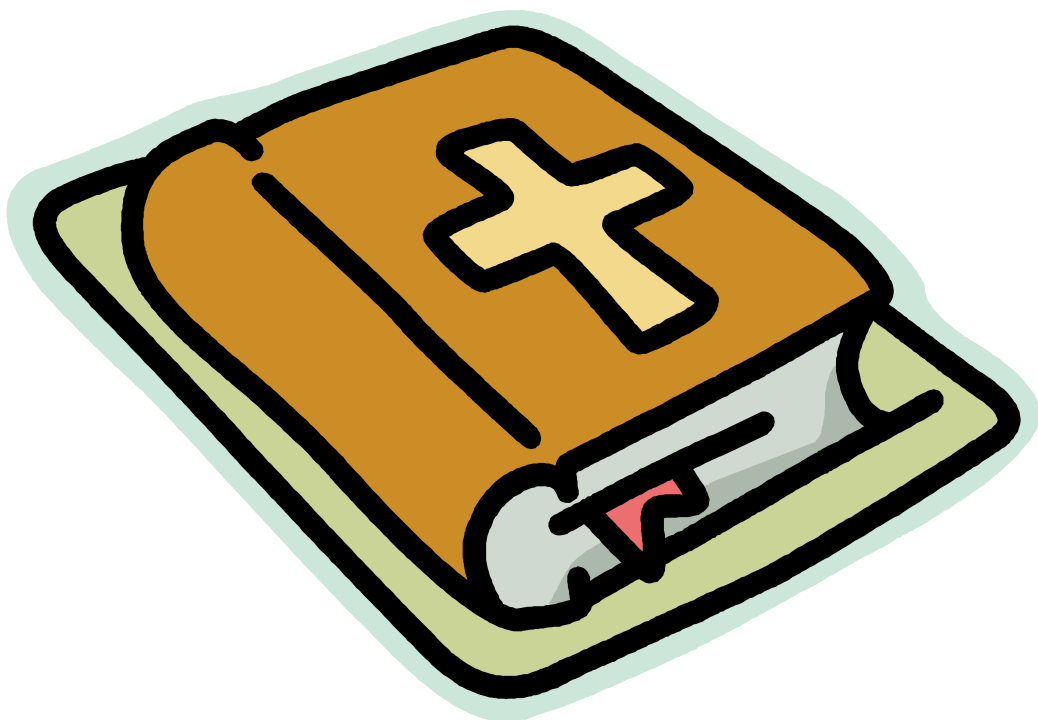
Linking children in to other sections in the corps e.g. Sunday School, SAGALA, Kids Club or Junior Soldiers will also help with their ongoing spiritual development.





Praying

Bible





Group