Knights of North Castle At-Home Packet

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Materials

Craft

- white or cream colored material, 2¼" width and around 50" length
- school glue
- letters to spell TRUTH
- felt
- foam sheets
- scissors
- masking tape
- markers
- **Stay-Put Stickers** (optional)
- **Stencils Set** (optional)
- glitter
- red and yellow beads (optional)
- plastic tablecloth
- **Create-Your-Own Knight Kit**
- marker

Science

- **Instant Snow Powder**
- water at room temperature
- teaspoon
- measuring cup with ounces
- 2 plastic cups

Snack

- strawberry-flavored toaster pastries
- crystal sugar or sanding sugar: red, yellow, and orange
- white frosting
- Teddy Grahams® snacks
- craft sticks or other child-safe spreaders
- 3 oz. sized paper cups
- plastic spoons
- paper plates

Bible Background
Daniel 3

Belt of Truth
The stories we read in the Book of Daniel take place at a time known as the Babylonian Exile. The city of Jerusalem had been conquered. A large number of Jewish people had been taken from their homes and forced to live in a foreign nation, the land of Babylon. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were young Jewish men who were put into the service of King Nebuchadnezzar. Thankfully, they found favor with those in charge. But this quickly changed when Nebuchadnezzar set up an idol and commanded all people to worship it.

The directions were simple: When the people of Babylon heard the sound of special music playing, they were to stop whatever they were doing and bow down to worship Nebuchadnezzar's idol. Failure to follow this command was met with a harsh penalty—being thrown into a fiery furnace. The people followed the command. When the music played, everyone stopped what they were doing and bowed down to the idol. Everyone except for three of the Jewish exiles.

Hoping to tarnish the reputation of the young men in the eyes of the king, some Chaldeans reported that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not obeying the king's command. The men were questioned, but they did not lie about their disobedience: "We don't need to answer your question. If our God—the one we serve—is able to rescue us from the furnace of flaming fire and from your power, Your Majesty, then let him rescue us. But if he doesn't, know this for certain, Your Majesty: we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you've set up" (Daniel 3:16-18).

The three men were sentenced to death. Perhaps in an effort to prove how serious he really was, Nebuchadnezzar had the furnace heated seven times hotter than normal. Despite the intensity of the heat, the words of the three men held true. The God of Israel was able to rescue them from the flames. Nebuchadnezzar saw for himself a fourth figure in the fire and said, "The fourth one looks like one of the gods" (Daniel 3:25). As a result, Nebuchadnezzar issued a new decree: no one was allowed to disparage the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The three men were promoted to positions of power.

It is important to note that the Bible does not promise we will always be rescued from harm. What's important is staying faithful to God. It's important to stand for what we know to be true. Even if you do something others don't like, being honest and trusting God is a great idea. The Bible describes truth as a belt. Belts hold things up and keep things secure. God is a faithful rescuer, and the truth holds us up in times of trouble.

Bible Story
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Stand True
Daniel 3

Castle Callout
Armor Up with Truth!

Teacher Tip
This Bible Background feature is a supplemental aid provided to give you context for each session's story before you teach it. ***You may share this information with your Knights, if desired, but it is not a recommended portion of the intended lesson.***

Additional Bible Reading
- Daniel 1
- Ephesians 6

Make-It-And-Take-It Bible Craft

Belt of Truth

Purpose
Knights will create a part of the Armor of God to help them remember their quests from VBS.

Preparation
Write the name of each Knight on the inside of the ribbon using a strip of masking tape.

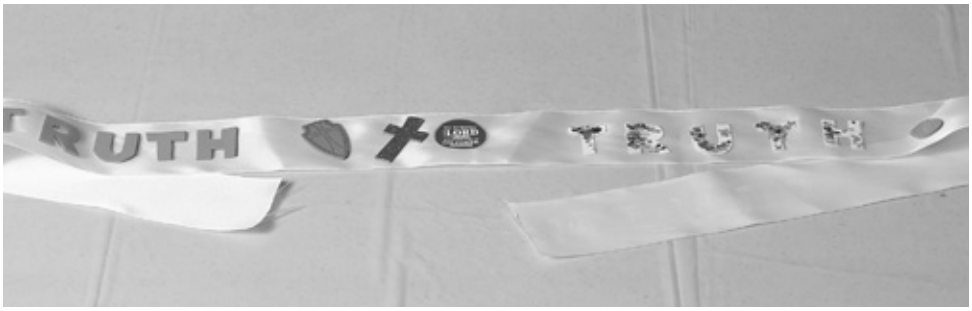
Ages
Appropriate for all ages.

Tips!
For school-aged Knights, cut the ends of the fabric into strips and have them add red and yellow pony beads.

Directions

Step 1: Glue the letters TRUTH onto the belt.

Step 2: Use a variety of craft supplies to decorate the belt.



Bible Story
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Stand True
Daniel 3

Castle Callout
Armor Up with Truth!

Materials
- white or cream colored material, 2¼" width and around 50" length
- school glue
- letters to spell TRUTH
- felt
- foam sheets
- scissors
- masking tape
- markers
- **Stay-Put Stickers** (optional)
- **Stencils Set** (optional)
- glitter
- red and yellow beads (optional)

Bible Tie-In
In our Bible story today, three friends stayed true to their belief in God. Using red, orange, and yellow colors is a way to illustrate the fire from the Bible lesson as well as connecting with the Armor of God. Think of a time when God helped you be strong and tell the truth.

Cokesbury Craft

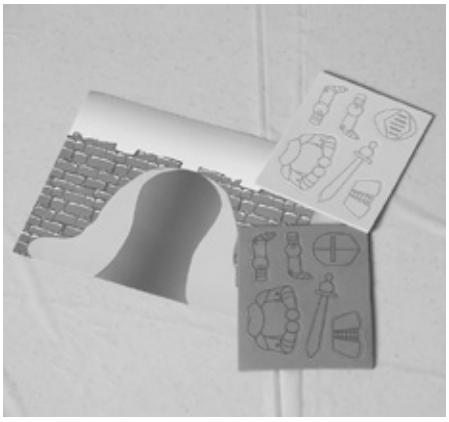
Create-Your-Own Knight

Purpose
Knights will create a fun craft to help them to remember their time as a Knight at VBS.

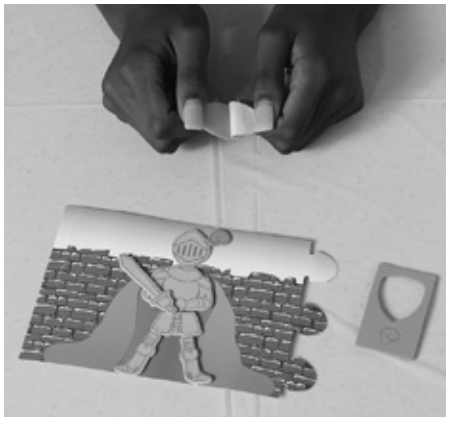
Ages
Appropriate for all ages.

Preparation
Open packages and set out supplies.

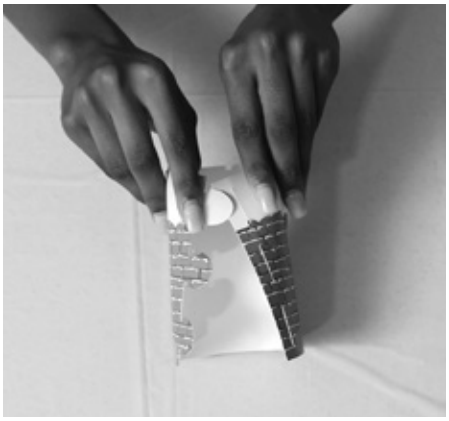
Directions



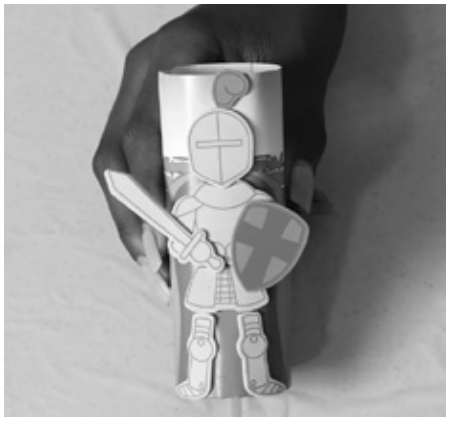
Step 1: Knights select the colors to decorate their craft. Remind Knights to write their names on their crafts.



Step 2: Pull off the adhesive backing of all pieces and add the adhesive pieces to the middle of the sheet.



Step 3: Once all the pieces are attached, roll up the base and slide the small flaps into the slits.



Bible Story
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Stand True
Daniel 3

Castle Callout
Armor Up with Truth!

Materials
- plastic tablecloth
- **Create-Your-Own Knight Kit**
- marker

Bible Tie-In
North Castle is hidden in a frozen land. The king and knights are on a quest in search of the King's Armor. But the armor isn't what they think it is. The new Knights of North Castle learn at VBS that the clues to the armor are found in an ancient book—the Bible—and learn stories helping them understand the qualities each piece represents.

Instant Snow
(Purchased item from Cokesbury)

I. Preparation

Gather materials for this experiment. Test and make sure your instant snow is working.

II. Introduction

Say something like: **One thing North Castle has a lot of is snow. Since we are here at North Castle now, let's make ourselves some snow!**

Ask: (show materials) **Can you tell me what these items are?**

Ask: **What do you think is going to happen when we put them together?**

III. Experiment

Step 1. Add 2 teaspoons of **Instant Snow Powder** to an empty plastic cup.

Step 2. Measure 2 ounces of water at room temperature and pour into the second plastic cup.

Step 3. Pour the water into the cup with the **Instant Snow Powder** and watch what happens.

Step 4. Invite Knights to touch the snow. Ask: how does it feel? What did you think when the snow started expanding?

IV. How does it work?

The powder we used to make the snow is what is called a polymer. This one is derived from one like what is used in baby diapers to absorb moisture. What makes it different is that this polymer absorbs the water and the molecules expand. In this experiment, a physical change rather than a chemical change takes place. Instead of a new substance being formed, the instant snow absorbs the water, similar to a sponge. When the water evaporates, the instant snow goes back to its original size and powder-like appearance.

V. Bible Tie-in

A physical change took place because of the presence of water in this experiment. When we understand that God is present with us all the time, our lives can change. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew God was present with them—even in the fiery furnace! Their lives had been changed by their relationship with God, and they knew they could stand up for truth because of it. When we see the polymer change into snow, we can remember that our lives are changed because God is with us.

Bible Story

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Stand True
Daniel 3

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Truth!

Materials

- **Instant Snow Powder**
- water at room temperature
- teaspoon
- measuring cup with ounces
- 2 plastic cups

Frosted Furnace
Bible Story Snack

Ingredients
- strawberry-flavored toaster pastries
- crystal sugar or sanding sugar: red, yellow, and orange
- white frosting
- Teddy Grahams® snacks

Directions
- Give each Knight a paper plate. Have Knight place the toaster pastry on the plate.
- Allow Knight to spread toaster pastry with thin layer of frosting.
- Give each Knight a small amount of crystal sugars or sanding sugars in a bathroom-sized paper cup and a plastic spoon. (Use colors such as red, yellow, and orange to represent the fire from the Bible lesson.)
- Have each Knight sprinkle or spoon the sugars over the frosting.
- Place a dab of frosting on back of teddy bears and place them “in the fire.”

Session 1

Bible Story
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Stand True
Daniel 3

Castle Callout
Armor Up with Truth!

Materials
- craft sticks or other child-safe spreaders
- 3 oz. sized paper cups
- plastic spoons
- paper plates

Reflection Time Journaling

Younger Knights

First and second graders complete the **Younger Elementary Reproducible Fun Page** on page 9.

As Knights are journaling, discuss the following questions.

- **When did King Nebuchadnezzar want the people of his kingdom to bow to his statue?** *(when the special music played)*
- **Why do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego wouldn't bow?** *(They knew their God was the one true God.)* **Do you think you would have bowed?**
- **How do you think Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego felt when they saw God's messenger in the fire?**

In the end, King Nebuchadnezzar learned the truth about the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He learned that their God—our God—would rescue them and stay with them in times of need and help them be strong.

Speaking of being strong, who can say our Banner Verse with me? *("Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power." Ephesians 6:10)*

If you wonder how you can stand up for what is true like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, remember that you don't have to do it alone. Like our Banner Verse says, you can be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power.

Older Knights

Third through sixth graders complete the **Older Elementary Reproducible Fun Page** on page 10.

As Knights are journaling, discuss the following questions.

- **What law was passed that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not obey?** *(Everyone must bow to King Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue when the special music played.)*
- **Why do you think they wouldn't obey this law?** *(They wouldn't bow to any god but their God.)*
- **Do you think there are laws today that people who follow God might not want to obey?**
- **What might make someone who follows God feel they should not obey a law?**
- **Can you think of some ways you might want to stand up for truth?**

Because Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stayed true to their God, King Nebuchadnezzar learned that their God—our God—would stay with them in time of need and help them be strong.

Speaking of being strong, who can say our Banner Verse with me? *("Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power." Ephesians 6:10)*

Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, you might be an example to others of how God can help you stand true and be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power if you will trust God to be with you.

Closing Prayer

Dear Knights of North Castle, before I bid thee farewell, let us join together in prayer.

Invite the students to stand and march in place as they echo each line of this prayer, to the cadence of "Sound Off" or "The Duckworth Chant."

God is caring, God is kind.
God is caring, God is kind.

Giving love and peace of mind.
Giving love and peace of mind.

We can follow God's own way,
We can follow God's own way,

By sharing, caring every day,
By sharing, caring every day.

Sound off.
Amen.

Sound off.
Amen.

Bring it on down.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen!

Bible Story

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Stand True
Daniel 3

Castle Callout

Armor Up with Truth!

Teacher Tip

Explain to the Knights that they will say "Amen" after you say "Sound off" and "Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen!" after you say "Bring it on down."

Bible Story

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Stand True (Daniel 3)

Find and circle all the silly things in this scene.

Banner Verse

Ephesians 6:10 (NRSV)

A word is hidden in each line of letters. Find each word and find where it fits on the lines below (in order). We've given you the first word.

T	O	O	E	D	O	G	O	F	K	N	B	U	W	M	C
U	H	B	L	O	D	L	O	R	D	M	K	S	B	R	J
Z	O	X	P	Y	W	D	A	F	B	E	X	U	Q	P	R
S	T	R	O	N	G	W	R	T	Y	G	C	V	S	A	E
U	Y	H	i	N	M	V	Z	S	Q	P	L	K	D	B	N
J	K	T	H	A	V	X	Z	Q	W	R	T	H	E	i	P
F	R	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H	M	E	Q	O	i	S
H	N	B	A	N	D	M	C	X	E	R	T	Y	O	L	K
O	M	B	V	X	C	D	P	O	W	E	R	U	Y	X	Z
R	U	N	O	G	N	i	J	A	i	N	W	X	Z	M	L
G	T	H	E	J	i	F	D	C	B	Q	W	Z	X	N	A
G	N	M	V	C	A	S	D	W	E	R	H	i	S	B	X

BE ______ __ ___ ____

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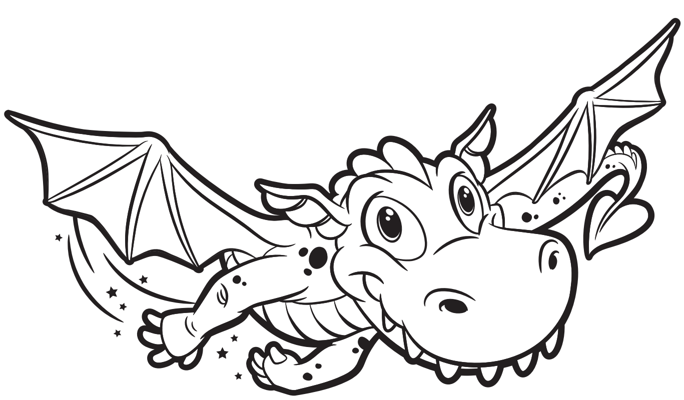


Session 1

KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE

TAKE-HOME PAGE

BIBLE STORY

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego Stand True
Daniel 3

Our first Bible lesson is from the Old Testament. In the book of Daniel, we find three young Jewish men—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—who had been taken into the service of King Nebuchadnezzar. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego found favor with King Nebuchadnezzar, but fell out when the king commanded everyone to worship an idol. The three young men said they would only worship God! Because of their decision, the king sentenced them to death and had them put in a fiery furnace. Their faith in God remained strong, however, and God kept them safe. When the king saw that God protected Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace, he made a law that no one would disparage the God of these three young men.

CASTLE CALLOUT

Armor Up with Truth!

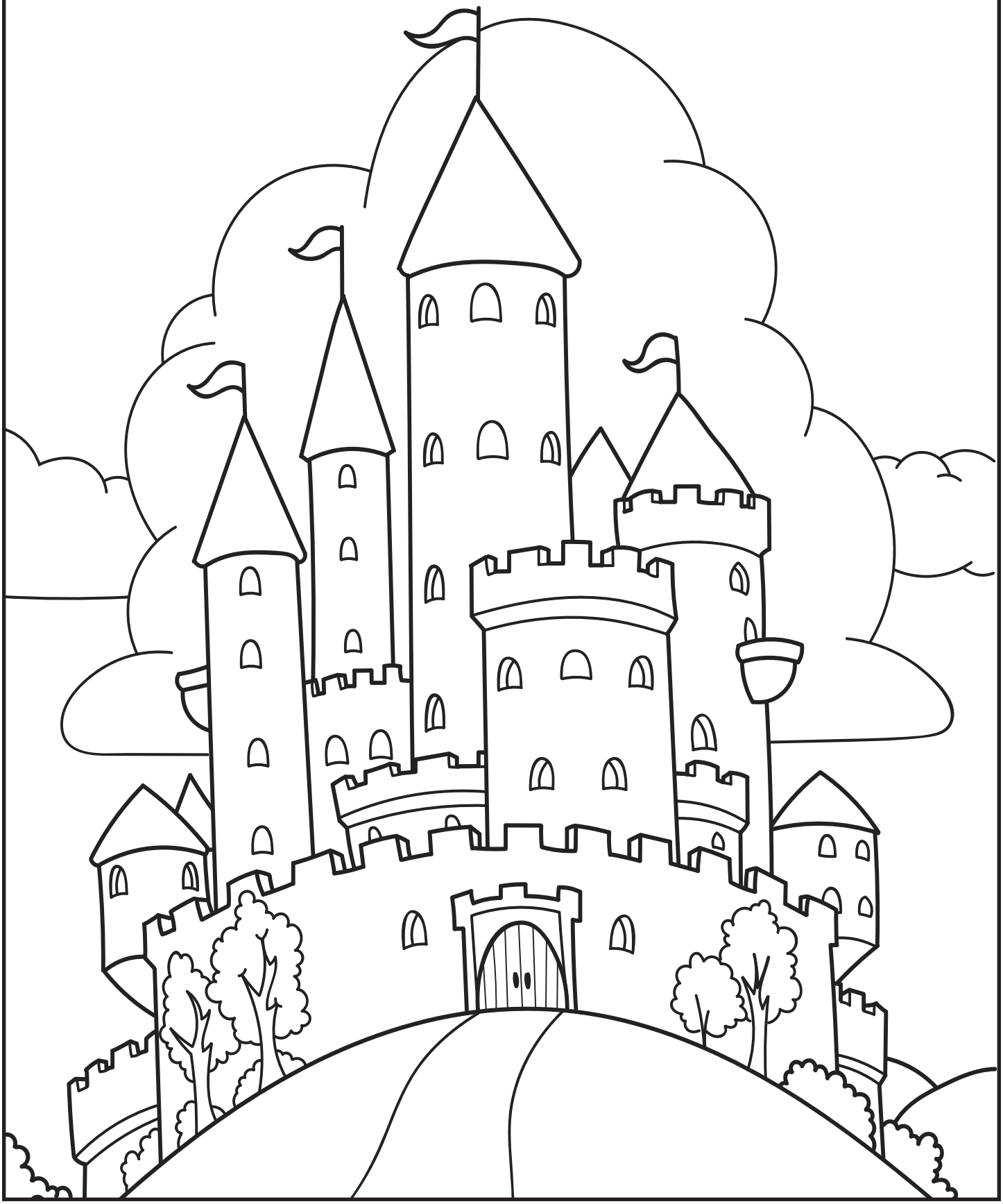
FAMILY FOLLOW-UP

Let's think of some ways God's strength helps us speak the truth and stand up for it.

BANNER VERSE

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Ephesians 6:10

Today I discovered that I am God's Knight and I am on a quest in search of the King's Armor at VBS! Coming next time at VBS, David Defeats Goliath! Can't wait to see you!

VBS UPDATE

BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE STRENGTH OF HIS POWER! EPHESIANS 6:10