Jehovah Rocks:

Don't let me be too scared to speak about You and praise Your name. I want to praise You! (Psalm 51:15)

See It:

'Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!' (Matthew 10:7-8)

On It:

This is a classic instruction from Jesus to His disciples. He is sending us out to preach that the Kingdom of God is at hand. We're game to do that. We want to get people saved! But He gives us power direct from Him to us so that our evangelizing will be even better. He says, 'Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.' Now, remember, God is good, so what God commands, God enables. He commands us to do those things, so He enables us to do those things. And the idea is that it is easier to get people saved when we can heal them or deliver them from demons (cast out demons), raise dead people, and so on. So, let's get at it!

Live It:

This week we are talking about some pretty heavy spiritual stuff. Some people try to avoid topics like this one, but we are an Army, so we must be ready to fight our number one enemy.

Do It:

Put a copy of your local Salvation Army kids' magazine or *Just For Kids* in the library.

In It:

Help me to have the courage to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons!

Eat It:

'I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' (Acts 26:17b-18) Memorize this verse.

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read Habakkuk 1-3 & John 8



Jehovah Rocks:

I am going to praise You for my whole life! You have done so many good things in my life. I trust You and I love You. (Psalm 52:9)

See It:

'Even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to those who were sick. As soon as it touched them, their sicknesses were healed, and evil spirits left them. Some Jews went around driving out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus to set free those who were controlled by demons. They said, "In Jesus' name I command you to come out. He is the Jesus that Paul is preaching about." Seven sons of Sceva were doing this. Sceva was a Jewish chief priest. One day the evil spirit answered them in return and said, "I know Jesus. And I know about Paul. But who are you?" Then the fellow who had the evil spirit jumped on Sceva's sons. He overpowered them all. He beat them up! They ran out of the house naked and bleeding.' (Acts 19:12-16)

On It:

What a great story here. Paul touches handkerchiefs and sick people who touch them get healed and have demons kicked out of them. Seven brothers try that 'trick' and get the snot kicked out of them by other demons! Demons know who Jesus is, and they have heard of Paul, but they know that these brothers are pretenders, so the demons don't have to obey them! But they go even further than that and bash up the brothers as well. There's a great lesson for us. When you are going to take on a demon, you need to make sure you are fighting with God's power and not just pretending you have Him with you by using the right words. Let's make sure we hide in Jesus when we fight demons.

Live It:

Do you know what, we are a real army. Soldier Anthony Castle says that, "If we are a metaphorical army in a metaphorical war, then we are not an army, and this is not a war." Basically, that means that we don't just call ourselves soldiers because it's a fun name. That would be like the seven sons from the story above.

Do It:

See if you can get a copy of *Just For Kids* for each of your classmates (maybe you could pay for it out of your pocket money).



In It:

God, please help all Salvation Army Soldiers to understand Your mission for us.

Eat It: Acts 26:17b-18

'I am sending you.' This is a very important verse. Jesus is sending Paul on his mission in life. Very few people knew about Jesus at this point. So, Jesus is laying the foundation of the Gospel, of Christianity, and this is how He sent Paul.

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read Zephaniah 1-3 & John 9



Jehovah Rocks:

I want to give everything I am to You, not because I have to but because I want to. You are worthy, Yahweh. (Psalm 54:6)

See It:

'Jesus saw that a crowd was running over to see what was happening. Then He made the evil spirit to leave the boy. "You spirit that makes him unable to hear and speak!" He said. "I command you, come out of him. Never enter him again." (Mark 9:25)

On It:

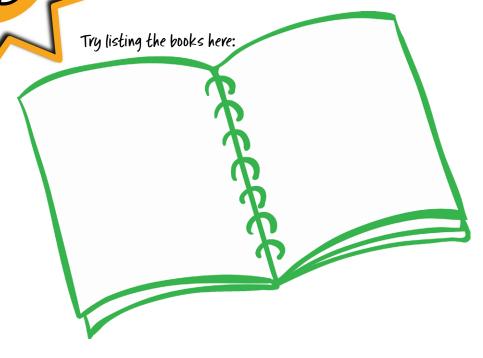
Now, we don't want you to go around shouting at demons behind every bush. However, there are demons in a lot of places. Let's not be unaware of them. Let's listen to God and ask Him for guidance. And then, as God leads, confront the evil spirits like Jesus did. He used His authority to rebuke the evil spirit. We should use HIS authority to do it, too. So, use His name, not yours. His has the power. You don't. Do it in Jesus' name. Then He commanded the evil spirit to leave the person and never enter him again. We can do the same. We can command evil spirits in Jesus' name to leave people and never come back again! Hallelujah.

Live It: Test for Self-Examination

Now, some more on the self-examination stuff. Remember to keep talking with God about our answers. Q7: Am I keeping the promises I have made to God?

Do It:

Can you memorize the first 20 books of the Old Testament?



In It:

Help me to hear Your voice today.

Eat It: Acts 26:17b-18

'Open their eyes.' The god of this age – satan – has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that cannot see the light of the Gospel. We need to open their eyes so that they can see.

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read Jeremiah 1-2 & John 10



There is so much happiness and peace for the people who have been forgiven. I want to be cleared of my guilt and then I don't want to add any more sins! (Psalm 32:2)

See It:

'The 72 returned with joy. They said, "Lord, even the demons obey us when we speak in your name." Jesus replied, "I saw satan fall like lightning from Heaven. I have given you the authority to walk over snakes and scorpions. You will have the power to destroy all the enemy. Nothing will harm you. But do not be happy when the evil spirits obey you. Instead, be glad that your names are written in Heaven." At that time Jesus was full of joy through the Holy Spirit. He said, "I praise You, Father. You are Lord of Heaven and earth. You have hidden these things from the wise and educated. But You have shown them to little children. Yes, Father. This is what You wanted.' (Luke 10:17-21)

On It:

Jesus gets a kick out of watching His people defeat demons. He sees satan crash down. He rejoices greatly in Holy Spirit. And the warriors get a kick out of it, too. The seventy disciples returned with joy. They had Jesus' authority. Demons had to obey them in Jesus' name. And it is true today, as well. Jesus has given us to treat on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy. All of it! Hallelujah! Let's use it for His glory today!

Live It: Test for Self-Examination

Q8: Do I do and say things at school that would let people know I am a Christian?



Ask teachers at school if they would like you to pray for them each day during your prayer time at home.



In It:

Please help me to not be afraid of satan and to know how much more powerful You are!

Eat It: Acts 26:17b-18

'Turn them.' Remember that turning is repentance. They need to turn from darkness to light and from the power of satan to God.

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read Jeremiah 3-4 & John 11

Jehovah Rocks:

There is so much joy and happiness for the people who have their hope in Yahweh. Their whole nation is happier. (Psalm 33:12)

See It:

'The Pharisees heard this. So, they said, "This person drives out demons by the power of Beelzebub, the prince of demons." Jesus knew what they were thinking about. So He said to them, "Every kingdom that fights against itself will be destroyed. Every city or family that is divided will not stand. If satan drives out satan, he fights against himself. Then how can his kingdom stand? You are saying that I drive out demons by the power of Beelzebub. Then by whose power do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But suppose I drive out demons by the Spirit of God. Then God's kingdom has come to you. "Or think about this. How can you enter a strong man's house and just take what the fellow owns? You must first tie him up. Then you can rob his house.' (Matthew 12:24-29)

On It:

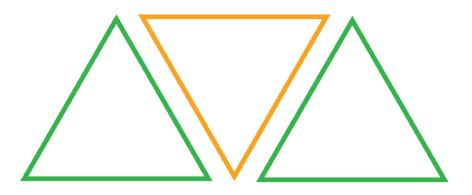
Jesus is teaching them some basic spiritual warfare here. The key is that you must enter the strong person's house and bind him, and to do that you have to be a stronger person. Jesus is the strongest, so if you have Jesus controlling your life, it's like having big muscles and you can then bind the evil spirit in someone's life so that they can repent and believe and find freedom. Then Jesus teaches them another spiritual warfare basic lesson. If you fight against yourself, you lose. This goes for your own life and for your community of believers (family, Junior Soldier Brigade, Corps, etc.). Finally, Jesus shows us that if He kicks demons out by Holy Spirit, then we are witnessing the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God has arrived when demons are kicked out of people's lives. And you can do it. You need to use the authority Jesus has given to you and command that demon to leave and not come back.

Live It: Test for Self-Examination

Q9: Are there times where I think I am better than I really am? Do I brag about stuff I can do to make myself look better to other kids?

Do It:

Complete three chores around your house without being asked.



In It:

Help me put on all Your armour: the helmet of salvation, the sword of Your Spirit, the shield of faith, breastplate of righteousness, the belt of truth, and the boots of the Gospel of peace.

Eat It: Acts 26:17b-18

'Forgiveness of sins.' Salvation. Jesus wants us to see people saved.

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read Jeremiah 5-6 & John 12

Jehovah Rocks:

Thank You, Yahweh. You are just and You want what's fair for Your children. I will praise You! (Psalm 7:17)

See It:

'Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" Then Jesus asked the demon, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied. "There are many of us."... A large herd of pigs was feeding on a hillside close by. The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs. Let us go into them." Jesus let them. The evil spirits came out of the fellow and went into the pigs. There were about 2,000 pigs in the herd. The whole herd rushed down the steep bank. They ran into the lake and drowned.' (Mark 5: 8-13)

On It:

In Matthew 8:28-29, demons recognize Jesus' divinity. In Mark 5:6-7, demons fall before Jesus and cry out. If Jesus is God, and He is stronger, why are the demons commanding Jesus? The reason is this: They knew that they'd taken charge over the earth after the whole bit with Adam and Eve. They knew the divine Jesus was coming eventually, but figured He was too soon, and didn't have the right to interfere with their work of doing nasty things to humans. What they didn't know is that Jesus was totally human. The demons thought that Jesus wasn't playing by the rules because He was God. And God didn't make the mistake that allowed the demons to be boss of the earth, a human did. Which means only a human had the right to stop them from being boss. And they knew Jesus was God. But you know what? Jesus was human too! That is why He had the right to intervene. A human gave the authority over to satan, and a Human had come to take it back! Yeah, Jesus! (from James Garlow, THE COVENANT). [And while the demons thought they were getting their way; Jesus had a bigger plan that they didn't know.]

Live It: Test for Self-Examination Q10: Do I dress so that I can look as cool as I can, or am I happy with whatever I am wearing?

Do It:

Try to bless ten people by encouraging and complimenting them today.



In It:

'Our foe may be mighty and brave, And the fighting be hard and severe; But the King is the mighty to save, And in conflict He always is near.' (from the songbook)

Eat It: Acts 26:17b-18

'Place among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.' The mission is not only to get them all saved. It is to get them all sanctified. That's the mission. Read it again if you don't believe us (while you are memorizing the verse).

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read Jeremiah 7-9 & John 13



Jehovah Rocks:

You are the one who protects me and keeps me safe. You give me strength and I trust You. You always help me and I am so thankful. (Psalm 28:7)

See It:

'Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene (the one He had cast out seven demons from).' (Mark 16:9)

On It:

After you get a present or a great report card who is the first person you tell? Your mom? Your best friend? It tells a lot about the person - that you tell them first. It means they are a special person. Jesus dies on the cross for our sins. He defeated sin and death and the devil and rose back to life! Wow. This is better than a good report card. This is the very biggest event in the history of the world! And who is the first person that Jesus tells? Mary Magadalene. She is SPECIAL! And what is it that Mark highlights? She used to have SEVEN demons, but she doesn't anymore! Jesus kicked seven demons out of her! A lot of people are demonized – teased and picked on and chained up by demons. It is not the end of the world. You can be set free. And it doesn't have to ruin things for you forever. Mary M was demonized. Then she was delivered from the demons by Jesus. And finally, she was the very first person who saw Jesus after He came back to life! It isn't something to be ashamed of. Get free. Get sanctified. And get back out there fighting.

Live It: Test for Self-Examination

Final question! Q11: Do I want to be rich and have lots of lovely things, or am I happy living with just what I need to be safe and comfortable?

Do It:

Recite five memory verses to someone in your family.

In It:

Thank You that You set us free and protect us from all evil. I cling tight to You, Father, and know that You love me. Thank You!

Eat It:

'I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' (Acts 26:17b-18) Memorize this verse and then obey it for the rest of your life.

Read It:

One-year Bible Plan: Read Jeremiah 10-12 & John 14