LESSON 3: THE SHOES OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

Key Concept: A harmonized relationship with God gives the believer a firm foundation.

Nothing is more important than having a right relationship with God! But, because of sin, every human is alienated from God. And that’s why “the gospel of peace” is so life-changing—it presents the good news of reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ. It also gives the believer a solid foundation to stand on, just as Ephesians 6 commands us—twice! This lesson covers all these fascinating nuances about being shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, plus where to get it and what follows it.

AT-A-GLANCE LESSON OUTLINE {LESSON 3}

1) The soldier’s shoes.
   - A soldier needs appropriate shoes.
   - The Roman soldier’s shoes supported him well and gave him a solid foundation under his feet.

2) The preparation of the gospel of peace.
   - “Preparation” has the idea of “firm footing.”
   - “Peace” has to do with relationships.
   - Put under your feet this firm footing: the good news about peace with God.

3) The gospel of peace.
   - The good news of peace is about making peace with God.
   - The results of the gospel of peace are peace with God and peace with others.
Review & Introduction

Review of Lesson 2: The Breastplate of Righteousness

- In the last lesson, we learned about an essential piece of God’s armor. What is that piece of armor?
- Why is righteousness so crucial?
- What is the only way to get righteousness?

Be shod with the gospel of peace.

- In this lesson, we’re going to look at that message of peace—the message that we can be right with God—and the results of that message.
- Interestingly, the Bible talks about putting on that message of peace as if it were a pair of shoes!
- So let’s look first at what the Roman soldier put on his feet.

1) The soldier’s shoes

A soldier needs appropriate shoes.

- You couldn’t fight a battle wearing flip-flops or high heels!
- Flip-flops are perfect for going to the pool. But they weren’t designed for wearing into battle.
- A soldier needs shoes that are appropriate for his activities.

A Roman soldier’s shoes supported him well and gave him a firm foundation under his feet.

- Show a picture of a Roman soldier in full armor and point out the soldier’s shoes. If you have a laminated picture, you can use a dry-erase marker to circle the shoes.
- See how thick the soles of the soldier’s shoes were? Sometimes soldiers even put big metal cleats in the bottom of their shoes!
- The soldier’s shoes weren’t flat and unsupportive, like flip flops. Instead, they...
were designed to support him well.

- The soldier’s shoes weren’t wobbly, like high heels. They were designed to give the soldier a solid, firm foundation under his feet.

2) The preparation of the gospel of peace

- In the same way, the Bible talks about putting on shoes that will support us well and give us a solid foundation.

  - Read Ephesians 6:11-17
  - “Shod” just means to put underneath. And “gospel” means “good news.”
  - So the Bible is saying to put the preparation of the good news of peace under your feet.

“Preparation” has the idea of “firm footing.”

- But what does that mean? First, let’s understand what it means by preparation.

  - The original Greek word used for “preparation” can just mean “readiness.” But it also has the idea of “firm footing.” Since we’re talking about shoes here, that is super interesting!
  - So “preparation” is about having something stable and unmoving to stand on.

  - Hold up a printout that reads “Preparation = Firm Footing” and ask the kids to say or read it along with you.

“Peace” has to do with relationships.

- So the Bible is saying to put the firm footing of the good news of peace under your feet. But what is that good news of peace?

  - The original Greek word used for “peace” has to do with harmonized relationships.

  - Hold up a printout that reads “Peace = Harmonized Relationship” and ask the kids to say or read it along with you.

  - In this case, “peace” means a harmonized relationship with God. Or, in other words, this “good news of peace” is about making peace with God—or being
right with God!

**Put under your feet this firm footing: the good news about peace with God.**

- So when the Bible says to be “shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace,” it means to “put this firm footing under your feet: the good news about peace with God.”

- *Use motions to help the kids remember each concept. Go through the motions several times as you say together, “Shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.”*
  - Make a motion like you’re putting on shoes for “shod.”
  - Stomp on the ground for “preparation.”
  - Cup your hands around your mouth like you’re speaking into a megaphone for “gospel.”
  - Wrap your hands around yourself in a self-hugging motion for “peace.”

- The gospel of peace gives us a strong base that will keep us from wobbling or falling. And it gives us solid footing for activity—like battling the enemy!

**3) The gospel of peace**

**The good news of peace is about making peace with God.**

- So we’re supposed to put the firm foundation of the gospel of peace under our feet, like shoes. But what is the gospel of peace?

- There are two main parts to the gospel of peace.

- First, there’s the bad news: all people are estranged or alienated from God because of sin.
  - Read Ephesians 2:12.

- But remember that “gospel” means “good news.” The good news of peace is that God came up with a way for us to make peace with Him through Jesus Christ.
  - Read Ephesians 2:13-17 & Romans 5:1.
• Because of Jesus Christ, we can get God’s righteousness and be made right with Him. Or, in other words, we can make peace with Him because of Jesus.

**The gospel of peace results in peace with God and peace with others.**

• When we accept the gospel, we experience peace with God—forgiveness of sin and a right relationship with Him. But that’s not all!

• *Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.*

• After we believe the gospel of peace, we also have the opportunity to share the gospel of peace with others, too.
WAIT! THERE’S MORE!!

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