

As I continue the series about teaching a preschooler to put on God's armor, I come to the covering of the feet. Paul says, "...and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace." Ephesians 6:15.

Before we can help a child with this part of his armor, we must understand what is meant by the "gospel of peace." As Jesus was preparing his disciples for the end of his earthly ministry, he talked about peace. He said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27. To me, the gospel of peace is that God loves me; therefore, I do not have to be afraid or troubled.

Your preschooler needs a tangible object to wear as the gospel of peace. Do you remember "spats"? They were worn over the top of the shoe and fastened under the arch. Purchased or crafted spats would serve well to fit the feet with the gospel of peace.

Have your child memorize John 14:27. If the entire verse is too long for her to memorize at one time, begin with the last part: "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27b. Explain to her that Jesus loves her and will help her face difficult times. Talk to her about some of the kinds of things that might make her afraid. Going to a new school, meeting new friends and trying something hard can make us afraid. If our feet are wearing the gospel of peace, it will be easier to be brave. We will be ready to meet any hard things that come our way.

As your child grows older, she will have the John 14:27 assurance from Christ that he has given her his peace and that she should not be afraid. Even if that verse is still associated with an outgrown pair of spats, it will be comforting to her. Imagine an eighteen-year-old at a major university who has these concepts written on her heart. Whether it is the monster of homesickness, the demons of peer pressure or the enemy called fear, she will be equipped with the words of her Lord: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." John 14:27a.

Another piece of God's armor is finding its place in your child's heart. She is getting ready to face the challenges ahead. Next week, we will add a shield—the shield of faith.