

This week the part of the armor that I will be considering is the helmet. As Paul continues his description of the armor of God, he says, “Take the helmet of salvation...” Ephesians 6:17a. I have been writing about God’s armor, as we equip a preschooler for his entry into a larger world. Some might think that the subject of salvation is too advanced for a child of four or five. Children usually surprise adults with the concepts they can grasp if those concepts are taken to their level.

John Trent, Rick Osborne and Kurt Bruner are general editors of an excellent book, *Parents’ Guide to the Spiritual Growth of Children*. One of the concepts that they feel a child should learn by age four is stated in the following passage from their book: “Everyone, even you, does some wrong things. These wrong things are sin and make God sad. But God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus died for us so that we could be forgiven and could be God’s children. Just as you need to tell me you’re sorry when you’ve done something wrong, you need to tell God you’re sorry for doing wrong things and ask Him to forgive you because of what Jesus did. He will. From then on, you are God’s child. And if you do anything wrong after that, you can ask God to forgive you and help you do better—and He will.” Use this story, told in your own words, to help your child understand God’s gift.

Along with the story told above, memorize with your child the verse, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16.

Whether you have created a helmet or bought one, it is time to associate the helmet with the concept of salvation. Tell your child that we use our heads to think. He can think about God’s wonderful gift—Jesus—when he wears his helmet. The helmet will remind him that Jesus is with him to help him do right. He should always ask God to forgive him when he does something wrong.

It is so important to begin preparing his mind and heart for the day when he will accept Christ as his Savior. The hands-on prop of a helmet is just one of many ways to begin that preparation. We are doing our part to make sure he will spend eternity with us before God’s throne.