



Written by
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“Shady Business”

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-18
The Armor of God Description

NOTE: This “Skermion” makes an excellent introduction to a series on the Armor of God. Each of the six following weeks could be an exposition and an application of one piece of the Armor of God.

Dramatic Category: Monologue skit (*This is also a "Skermion" and a "Dream Skit."*)

NOTE: The Pastor steps up to deliver the sermon as he puts a representative symbol of the "Armor of God" on each one of the alter-egos of the character who delivers the monologue.

Topic: Wearing the full Armor of God diverts calamity.

Performance time: 6 minutes + 15 minute sermon

Number of Players: 7 men + the pastor

Objective:

This “ Monologue and Skermion” shows what happens when we choose not to wear the full Armor of God. It reinforces, through strong visuals, that the parts of the Armor of God are given to us so that we may live the Christian life victoriously.

Synopsis:

This is a monologue delivered by “Chris.” He is an ambitious man who puts greed over integrity. Two minutes into his monologue, he strikes a pose, and six men turn in a single-file line and stand behind him. They are all dressed in black, as is Chris. These six men represent the six parts of the Armor of God that he failed to wear in the story he relates. They move across the stage with him as he continues to tell his story. At certain points in the story, they hit a pose on the stage and freeze; eventually, all six of Chris’ alter-egos are positioned across the stage, and Chris sits hopelessly at the center. This is when the pastor approaches the frozen men and drapes a part of the Armor of God onto them. This is a very

effective illustration that drives home the fact that we all make choices to wear the Armor of God each day.

Cast:	Chris:	The man who delivers the monologue
	Man #1:	Vest of Righteousness <i>(wears a white vest put on him by the Pastor)</i>
	Man #2:	The Sword of the Spirit <i>(holds the Bible given to him by the Pastor)</i>
	Man #3:	The Helmet of Salvation <i>(wears a cap with a cross on it, placed on his head by the Pastor)</i>
	Man #4:	The Belt of Truth <i>(wears a belt placed around his waist by the Pastor)</i>
	Man #5:	The Shield of Faith <i>(holds an open umbrella, popped open by the Pastor, in front of himself like a shield.)</i>
	Man #6:	Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel <i>(The Pastor drapes a pair of running shoes over his shoulder)</i>

Costumes:

Be sure Chris is dressed in black slacks, a black long-sleeved shirt, and black socks and shoes. All six men, as his alter-egos, must be dressed exactly the same as Chris is dressed.

Props:

A large bag carried onto the stage by the pastor after the players have hit their frozen “tableau” positions. The bag contains representative emblems of the Armor of God. They are presented in this order:

Vest of Righteousness:	a white vest
The Sword of the Spirit:	the Bible
The Helmet of Salvation:	a cap with a cross on it
The Belt of Truth:	a belt
The Shield of Faith	an umbrella
Feet Shod with the Gospel:	a pair of running shoes

STAGING NOTE:

Decide where each of the six men will freeze and mark the stage with taped numbers 1-6. This is to signal Chris in his monologue to move the line in the proper direction and in the sermon order for the parts of the Armor of God.

The Monologue:

(The six men who represent the six parts of the Armor of God stand on the stage in a single-file line from the front of the stage to the back...not across the stage. The audience sees only the first man, all the others are hidden behind him. They have their backs to the audience. Chris begins his monologue at downstage left. He walks the stage during this monologue)

Chris: I had it all. God gave me a beautiful wife, a house, a job, two kids, a dog, bottled water and a newspaper. What else could a man want? What else I ask you? Plenty!

But I lost it all. It's my own fault. Nobody to blame but me. I can tell you exactly when it all went sour. Pretty good huh? No too many men can tell you the precise day and time their lives hit bottom. But I can.

I should have counted my blessings, been satisfied. But I wasn't. I wanted more. So I went after more. More money.

If I could get the promotion, I'd get a raise, and a corner office, closer to the coffee machine. I was second in line. Get that? Second! Mark Perkins was the favorite.

Why? Because he had a great plan for International sales, that's why. He showed it to me one night after work. He asked me to trouble shoot his proposal for the next day's board meeting. He gave me his password. Big mistake, Mark.

I did some trouble shooting all right. I came back after hours; logged on to his proposal and shot some serious trouble. Mark was devastated. His proposal made no sense at the meeting, and I got the promotion. What did Mark get? He got killed. He was so depressed that he walked all night. At 3:00 AM, he got some money out of the ATM on 6th. Five minutes later, he was mugged. Killed for 40 dollars of quick cash.

(Chris stands directly in front of the six men who have their backs to the audience. On the word "cash" they all turn around and begin to shadow Chris, remaining in a straight line from the front of the stage to back--not across the stage. This means the men face front, but step sideways as Chris moves across the stage. They mimic his every hand gesture. This needs careful practice. When we see Chris, we see him seven men deep.)

Chris: Mark was my friend. I double crossed my friend! It wasn't right. I knew better.

(Chris puts his hands up shoulder-height on the word "better." All the men copy this move and do it at the same time, but Man #1 freezes in that position while the other five continue to follow Chris. Man #1 reminds the audience of the fact that Chris "double-crossed his friend," and did not wear the "Breastplate of Righteousness.")

Chris: God knows, I knew better. The Bible says love your neighbor, don't destroy him. I read that somewhere.

(Chris and his shadows have moved to another part of the stage; he puts his right hand up shoulder-height on the word "somewhere." All the men copy this move and do it at the same time, but Man #2 freezes in that position while the other four continue to follow Chris. Man #2 reminds the audience of the fact that "the Bible says 'love your neighbor'" and Chris did not heed the "Sword of the Spirit.")

Chris:

I guess I forgot that Jesus had already given me a promotion. One I could never have earned. I was a child of God! Did I forget that? I guess I did.

(Chris and his shadows have moved to another part of the stage; he puts his hands on his hips on the word, "God." All the men copy this move and do it at the same time, but Man #3 freezes in that position while the other three continue to follow Chris. Man #3 reminds the audience that Chris knew "I was a child of God" yet he did not wear the "Helmet of Salvation.")

Chris:

If I had told the truth, I could have saved Mark's career; but did I have the courage to admit my lie? No. I'm a coward...a greedy coward.

(Chris and his shadows have moved to another part of the stage; he hits his stomach with his fist on the word "Coward." All the men copy this move and do it at the same time, but Man #4 freezes in that position while the other two continue to follow Chris. Man #4 reminds the audience of Chris' cowardice when he asks, "Did I have the courage to admit my lie?" Chris did not wear the "Belt of Truth.")

Chris:

I could have trusted God to run my career, but that would have taken faith...faith in God, not faith in my own plans.

(Chris and his shadows have moved to another part of the stage; he extends his right hand slightly on the word "plans." All the men copy this move and do it at the same time, but Man #5 freezes in that position while the one remaining continues to follow Chris. Man #5 reminds the audience that Chris took his life into his own hands and did not trust God, "that would have taken faith." Chris did not protect himself with the "Shield of Faith.")

Chris:

When Mark shared his proposal with me, I should have shared Jesus with him.

(Chris and his one remaining shadow have moved to another part of the stage; he points his right hand out to the audience on the word "Jesus." The one remaining man copies this move and does it at the same time, but Man #6 freezes in that position, leaving Chris alone to finish his monologue. Man #6 reminds the audience of that Chris should have "shared Jesus with him." Chris did not have "Feet shod with the Preparation of the Gospel.")

Chris: *(Walks to center stage and sits down, dejected and sad.)*

I had it all; Mark lost it all; it didn't have to be that way.

Directions for the Sermon

Pastor's entrance Cue:

"I had it all; Mark lost it all; it didn't have to be that way."

Sermon Introduction:

--Point out that Chris is an example of "everyman" who falls prey to the temptations of life. Chris will remain frozen in "tableau" and not respond back. Introduce the series that will follow for the next six weeks if you choose to preach on the Armor of God.

--Carry the bag of props onto the stage with you as you move from statue to statue, dressing them in the Armor of God.

Sermon points:

#1: The Breastplate of Righteousness

- Approach Man #1.
Remind the audience that Chris "double-crossed his friend," and did not wear the "Breastplate of Righteousness."
- Put the VEST (Breastplate of righteousness) on Man #1.
He will have to break his freeze only slightly and cooperate, but he remains frozen and does not respond to you.
- Remind the audience that when we wear the Breastplate of Righteousness, we make the choice to do the right thing.

#2: The Sword of the Spirit

- Approach Man #2.
Remind the audience that "the Bible says 'love your neighbor'" and Chris did not heed the "Sword of the Spirit."
- Put the BIBLE in the outstretched hand of Man #2.
Remind the audience that when we study God's word, the Sword of the Spirit, we will come to know the will of God for our lives.

#3: The Helmet of Salvation

- Approach Man #3.
Remind the audience that Chris knew "I was a child of God" yet he did not wear the "Helmet of Salvation."
- Put the CAP (Helmet of salvation) on his head.
Remind the audience that we must remember whose children we are as Christians. This gives us an identity and a purpose.

#4: The Belt of Truth

- *Approach Man #4.
Remind the audience of Chris' cowardice when he asks, "Did I have the courage to admit my lie?" Explain the horrible results when Chris did not wear the "Belt of Truth."*
- *Put the BELT (Belt of truth) around the waist.
Remind the audience that we must never lie or deceive.*

#5: The Shield of Faith

- *Approach Man #5.
Remind the audience of Chris' decision to take his life into his own hands and his remorse for not giving God control, "that would have taken faith." Chris did not protect himself with the "Shield of Faith."*
- *Put the OPEN UMBRELLA (Shield of faith) into the cupped hand.
Remind the audience that faith is the ability to trust God for that which you cannot see.*

#6: The Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel

- *Approach Man #6.
Remind the audience of that Chris should have "shared Jesus with him." Chris did not have "Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel."*
- *Hang the tied TENNIS SHOES (Shoes shod with the preparation of the Gospel) over the shoulder. Remind the audience to always be ready to share the good news with neighbors.*

Cue the frozen men to leave the stage:

"The statues of failure in your past do not have to haunt you. The forgiveness of Christ washes them away."

Continue the sermon as you will.

Closing option:

You may choose to have Chris sing a song of repentance and dedication, or you may have him leave the stage with the statues.