



*Written by
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“One Choice, One Nightmare”

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 for a you group. Each of the six following weeks could be an exposition and an application of one piece of the Armor of God.

Dramatic Category: Monologue in a 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 “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 a promising college senior whose life is dramatically altered when he chooses “worldly pleasures” over spiritual 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

(wears a white vest put on him by the Pastor)

Man #2: The Sword of the Spirit

(holds the Bible given to him by the Pastor)

Man #3: The Helmet of Salvation

(wears a cap with a cross on it, placed on his head by the Pastor)

Man #4: The Belt of Truth

(wears a belt placed around his waist by the Pastor)

Man #5: The Shield of Faith

(holds an open umbrella, popped open by the Pastor, in front of himself like a shield.)

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

(The Pastor drapes a pair of running shoes over his shoulder)

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 also 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 full-ride scholarship, the most beautiful girl on campus, passing grades, and I even had a car that ran. What else could a man want?

Nothing, 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 guys can tell you the precise day and time their lives hit bottom. But I can.

It started out as the perfect date. Spring Banquet, you know the drill: corsage, bow-tie, the whole nine yards. When I saw Jenny, I couldn't believe my eyes. Her satin dress clung to her perfect body like she was shrink-wrapped.

I should have counted my blessings, been satisfied. But I wasn't. I wanted more. How could I want to feel better than I did with her standing by my side? I had to push the envelope; I had to cross the line. Why? Maybe because I had to "be a man" and prove that I could; or, maybe I did it just because I'm stupid; or, maybe both.

The banquet was all right, everybody dressed up like store mannequins; nobody looks like that in real life. It had been Jenny's 21st birthday that week, so why not take her out for a little "night-cap." She got carded at the bar; I didn't. I guess I look like I have it all together, but looks can be deceiving.

She started to giggle after her first glass of champagne. It sounded like music to me, and it mingled with the music from the band as we slid across the dance floor. I lost track of how much we drank, but I knew it was enough when the walls began to dance with us.

I took her home; I mean, I started to. We got as far as what I thought was the freeway on-ramp; but it turned out to be the off-ramp. I never saw the car that hit us; all I could see was Jenny. Her twisted body unfolded into the waiting hands of the paramedics while I stood by like a statue. I could do nothing to help her, but I had done everything to hurt her.

(Chris stands directly in front of the six men who have their backs to the audience. On the words "hurt her" 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:

I loved Jenny; I knew better than to take her clubbing!

(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 one another,” not destroy one another. 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:

A beautiful woman at my side, is not a substitute for God at my side. 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 been true to my own convictions, I would never have put on the “worldly-wise” act. I didn’t have the courage to tell her that I was drunk. I’m a 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 in my relationship with Jenny, 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:

Maybe we should have done something else after the Spring Banquet. I've never been so sorry to set foot in the wrong place in my whole life.

(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; Jenny lost it all; it didn't have to be that way.

Directions for the Sermon**Pastor's entrance Cue:**

"I had it all; Jenny 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 “having a beautiful woman by his side was not a substitute for having God by his side” 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, “I didn’t have the courage to tell her I was drunk?” 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 what Chris said, “I’ve never been so sorry to set foot in the wrong place in my whole life.” 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 about “kingdom work,” because the world so easily sends up in the wrong directions.*

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.