

The Winter at Valley Forge

Faith Supplement



Endurance and Faith
at Valley Forge



Memory Verse

Strength and Renewal (Isaiah 40:31)

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

- This verse highlights the promise of renewed strength and endurance when we place our hope in the Lord.

Relevant Scripture

Perseverance Through Suffering (Romans 5:3-4)

- Historical Context: The soldiers at Valley Forge faced immense suffering, including harsh winter conditions, lack of food, and inadequate shelter. Despite these hardships, their perseverance helped them become a stronger and more united fighting force.
- Faith Application: Just as the soldiers endured and grew stronger, we can grow in our faith and character through our own trials.
- Activity: Have students write down a personal challenge they are facing and discuss how persevering through it can build their character and hope.
- Discussion: Relate the soldiers' experience to how God uses our suffering to develop perseverance and character, leading to hope.

Joy in Trials (James 1:2-4)

- Historical Context: The soldiers at Valley Forge had to find ways to maintain morale and support each other despite the difficult circumstances. Their camaraderie and determination helped see them through the bleak winter.
- Faith Application: We can find joy in our trials because they test and strengthen our faith, making us mature and complete.

Relevant Scripture

Joy in Trials (James 1:2-4) Continued

- *Activity: Create a "Joy Jar" where students write down positive things they learn from their challenges and share them with the class.*
- *Discussion: Discuss how finding joy in trials helps us grow and trust in God, just as the soldiers found strength in their unity and purpose.*

Strength Through Christ (Philippians 4:13)

- **Historical Context:** General Washington and his soldiers relied on their faith and inner strength to get through the winter at Valley Forge. Their reliance on a higher purpose and each other gave them the fortitude to continue fighting.
- **Faith Application:** We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength, just as the soldiers drew strength from their faith and leadership.
- **Activity:** Have students create a "Strength Shield" with symbols or words representing how Christ gives them strength in their daily lives.
- **Discussion:** Reflect on how we can rely on Jesus for strength in difficult times, paralleling the soldiers' reliance on faith and each other at Valley Forge.

Instructional Goals

- Students will understand the historical significance of the winter at Valley Forge.
- Students will explore how faith and perseverance were crucial for the Continental Army.
- Students will relate the struggles of the soldiers to biblical principles of endurance and trust in God.
- Students will apply the lesson of faith and perseverance to their own lives.

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Objective:

Students will be able to identify and apply biblical principles of faith and perseverance, as demonstrated by the soldiers at Valley Forge, to their own lives by reflecting on relevant Bible verses and creating a physical representation of their "shelters of faith."

Materials Needed:

- Craft sticks
- Glue
- Small pieces of cloth (to represent blankets)
- Construction paper
- Markers and crayons
- Bibles

Introduction:

- Begin by briefly discussing the historical context of Valley Forge and the hardships faced by George Washington and his soldiers.
- Highlight the importance of faith and perseverance during these difficult times.

Discussion:

- Read the memory verse and relevant Bible verses together.
- Discuss how these verses relate to the experiences of the soldiers at Valley Forge.
- Ask students how they think faith helped the soldiers endure their hardships.

Building Activity:

- Divide students into small groups and give each group materials to build a small model of a cabin.
- As they build, ask them to think about how they can build their own "shelters of faith" in their lives. These can be physical representations of spiritual truths.

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Building Activity:

- Encourage them to write or draw on construction paper ways they can show faith and perseverance in their own lives and attach these to their cabin models.

Sharing:

- Once the cabins are built, have each group share their model and explain how it represents faith and perseverance.
- Allow students to read aloud the Bible verses they think best relate to their cabin and explain why.

Reflection:

- Gather students together and ask them to reflect on what they learned.
- How can they apply the lesson of faith and perseverance from Valley Forge to their daily challenges?

Closing Prayer:

Close with a prayer, asking God to help the students build their faith and persevere through their own "winters" just as the soldiers did at Valley Forge. Ask for strength, courage, and trust in God's plan.