

The Armor of God

(Ephesians 6:10-13)

Pre-Session Warm Up

What is Armor?

Do you know what armor is? [Teacher, print the word for the class to see. Give an opportunity for response. If possible, build on children's answers.]

Armor is a special kind of suit worn for protection.

- Deep-sea divers wear a kind of "armor."
- Spacesuits can be considered armor.
- Even football players wear a type of armor.

During the time the New Testament was written, Roman soldiers wore armor to protect themselves in battle.

In Ephesians 6, the pieces of a Roman soldier's armor are used as an object lesson to help you and me understand the protection God offers us in our battle against Satan.

Opening Prayer

Lord, we don't want to sin. We want to please You with all of our thoughts, with everything we say, and with everything we do. But we are sinners by nature. Help us to learn how to deal with our temptations to sin. Give us all good listening ears so that we might hear what You have to tell us this morning. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

"Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day..." (Ephesians 6:13)

Lesson

Where to Find Out About the Armor of God

As a Christian, your strength must come from the Lord's mighty power within you by putting on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand safe against all the strategies and tricks of Satan. Ephesians 6 tells us about it. Let's read verses 10 through 13 together:

Ephesians 6:10-13

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. (11) Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. (12) For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. (13) Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

Why Christians Need Armor

The devil is God's enemy, and ours! What do you know about him? [Teacher, use the following questions as a guide to help you discover the current understanding level of your students.] Discuss the following:

1. What are some of the names you know for the enemy of God? (Satan, the devil, dragon, angel of light, father of lies, serpent, Lucifer, the wicked [evil] one, tempter, god of this world [age], prince of the power of the air, prince of this world)
2. Where did Satan come from? (He was an angel of God's creation. He came from Heaven.)
3. Why didn't Satan (or the devil) stay in Heaven? (He was thrown out because he disobeyed God. He wanted to be as great as God.)

4. What is the name given to the angels who were thrown out with Satan and who serve him? (Demons or evil spirits)
5. Who is stronger — God or Satan? (God)
6. Where is Satan now? (At times on earth and at times between the earth and Heaven. He sometimes appears before God to accuse the children of God.)
7. What do Satan and his angels do? (They go against God and tell us to go against Him by doing bad things.)
8. What evil things does Satan try to do to people today? (He tries to keep people from believing in Jesus as Savior and to keep those who do believe in Jesus from telling others of the Savior. He also can put bad thoughts into our minds — He tempts us to do wrong things, think bad thoughts, say bad words.)
9. What are some of the bad thoughts Satan can put into your mind? (To read bad books, watch bad TV programs, go to bad movies, have friends who talk dirty)
10. How will God punish Satan and his angels (demons) in the end? (They will be thrown into the lake of fire where they will suffer forever and ever.)

Facts About Satan

- He's not eternal, like God is. That means he had a beginning just as man did. God had no beginning — He always was and always will be.
- He doesn't know everything, like God does, but he knows a lot!
- He can't be in more than one place at a time, like God does — but Satan has a whole army of demons, and they can be many places at many times. They are always active in fighting against God and His children.

- Satan is not as powerful as God — but he is a strong enemy. He is more powerful than you and I.

The only way we can defeat him is to fight God's way. We are soldiers in God's army — an army that isn't fighting against other soldiers — that's what it means in verse 12 when it says, "*we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies.*" We are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, rather, we fight against Satan and his armies. See what it says in the rest of verse 12, "*but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*" We are fighting against persons without bodies — the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world.

How does Satan and his demons attack us? They tempt us to do wrong things. They give us the idea to be naughty and to say bad things. We call this "*spiritual warfare*" because this battle takes place within our minds. We can think of these temptations that come from Satan as "*fiery darts*" or "*flaming arrows*" from the enemy. He shoots these thoughts into our minds.

It's not sinful to get the bad thoughts, but if we don't put them out of our minds immediately... if we let those ideas keep burning in our minds and start to act upon them, then we sin. For example, say you really wanted this cool thing at the store. Say it was something you've wanted for a really long time, but you just didn't have the money for it. And one day you were in the store, looking at it, and you got this idea in your head to just slip it into your pocket. You looked around and no one was watching you. And you just thought, "*Hey, no one will know!*" That's a temptation from Satan. The thought to do it isn't your fault. Satan gave you that idea. But, if you actually decide to do it, that's wrong. It's not the thought itself, but what you do with the thought that is sinful. And, if you pay attention to your thoughts, you'll begin to realize just how many of those "*fiery arrows*" come your way.

How can we ever protect ourselves against Satan and his armies? How can we win the battle? God, our Commander-in-Chief, tells us exactly what to do, and that is where the armor of God comes in. God has provided this "*suit of armor*" — wonderful protection to defend us and also as an offensive weapon which, if used correctly, will defeat Satan in every battle (v. 13).

So, we need to use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy whenever he attacks.

What to Do with the Armor

There's a command in verse 13. Can you find it? "*put on every piece of God's armor.*" God has provided the armor we need, but it's up to us to put it on and use it. You need to learn to put your armor on each day. Your quiet time with God is a good time to do it.

God makes us a promise: He says that if we will take up His armor we will "*be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil.*" When Satan attacks us with temptations, we will not give in and sin. We will be able to stand and not fall before the enemy.

What God's Armor is Like

If God gives us the command to take up His armor, we need to know what the armor is. Spiritual armor can't be seen with the human eye. So, to help us understand what this armor is like, the apostle Paul compared each piece of God's armor to a piece of the armor that a Roman soldier wore in his day. And, that's what we'll be learning about in the next 8 weeks.

Closing Prayer

Lord, You want us to face our temptations to sin with courage. Don't let us forget the tricks of our enemy, Satan. Please help us to remember to put on the whole armor of God so that we might be able to stand strong in You and in the power of Your might. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Use the picture of a Roman soldier (on page 5) as a coloring page.

Note: You can enlarge the soldier picture to poster size and use it as a visual aid throughout the lesson series. Get crazy and enlarge the soldier using an overhead projector – trace him on bulletin board paper and make him really big. Have the kids color him!

Memory Verse Swords: Enlarge the picture of the sword on page 6, and trace it onto cardstock. Have the children cut the swords out and cover the blade with silver foil and the handle with gold wrapping paper. Each week as the children arrive, if they have correctly memorized the verse for that day, award them a "jewel" to glue onto their sword. (You can purchase fake jewels at a craft store.)

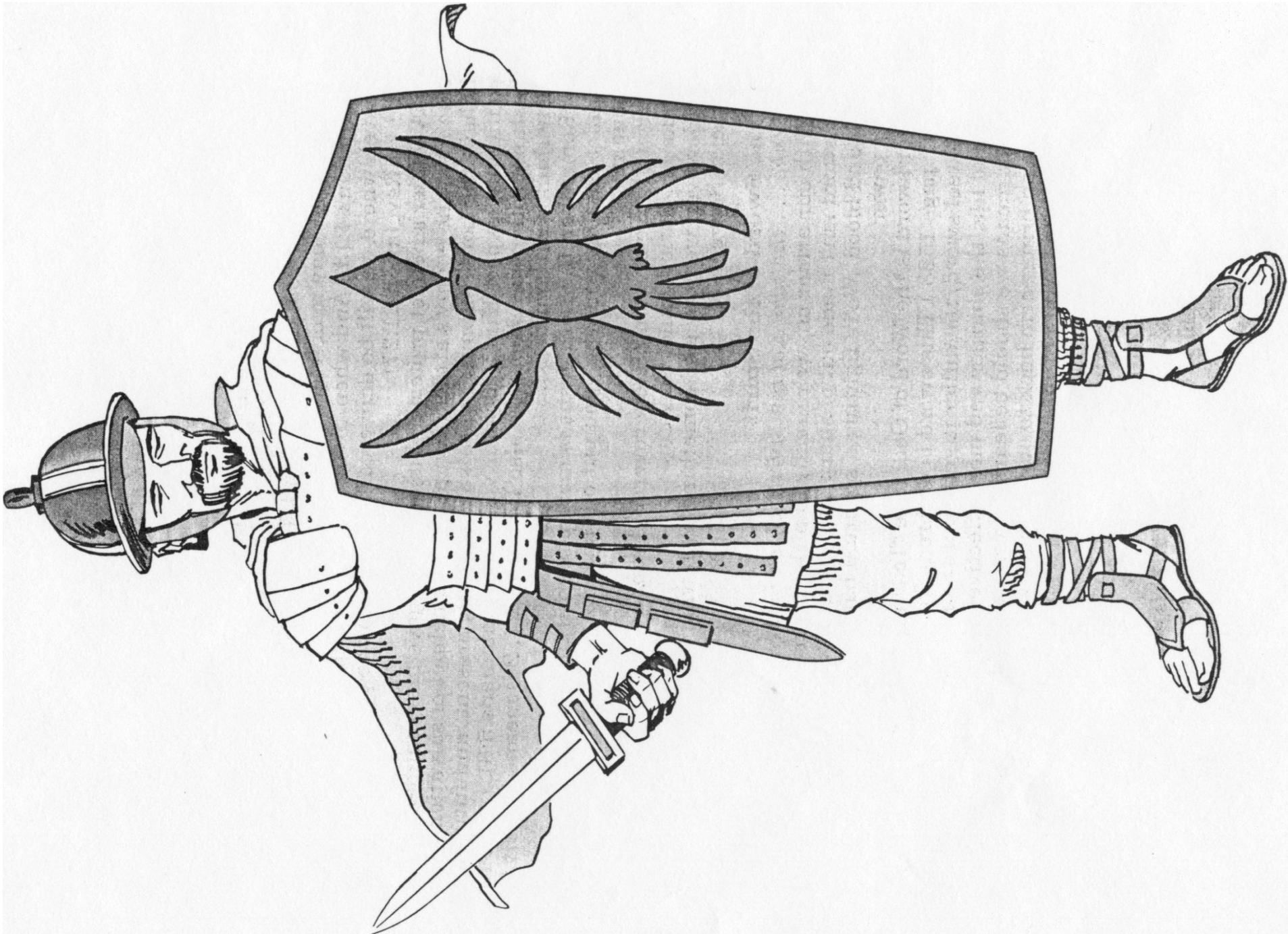
Game Center

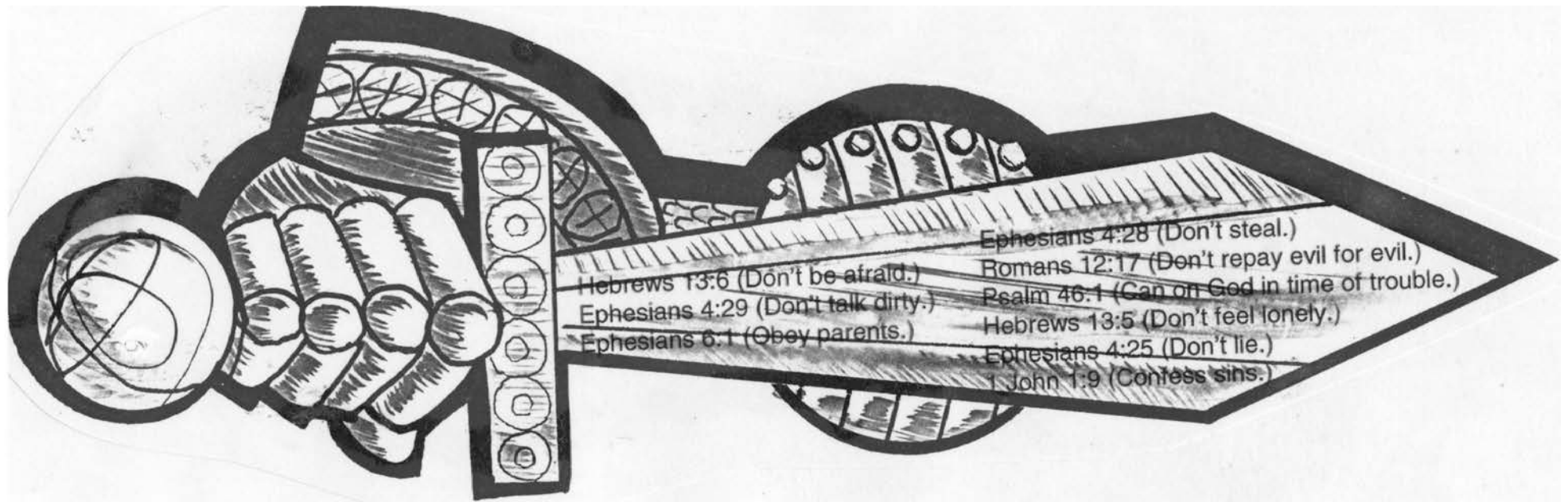
Use the following questions in a game of your choice:

Review questions:

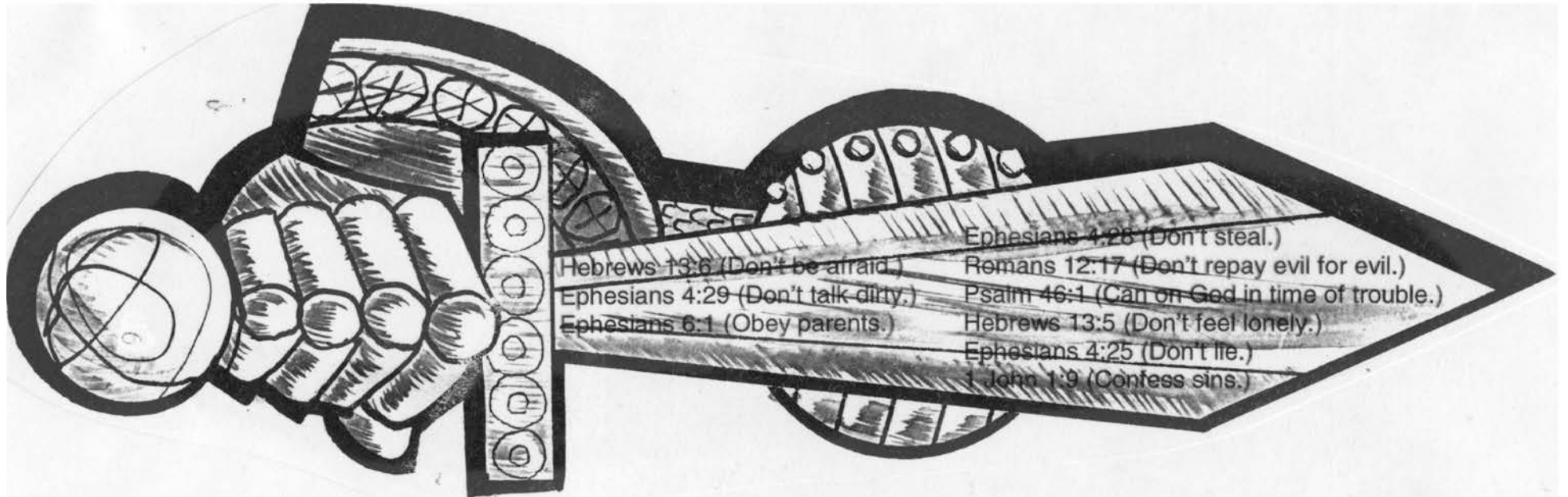
1. Are you in an army? (Yes! We are soldiers in God's army.)
2. Who are you fighting against? (Satan and his demons)
3. What sort of warfare does Satan rage against us? (Spiritual warfare. He tempts us to do wrong things, think bad thoughts, say bad words.)
4. What is a "*fiery dart*" or "*arrow*?" (Temptations to do wrong)
5. Is it sinful to get a temptation or an idea in your head to do a wrong thing? (No!)

6. What does God give us to stand against the tricks of the devil (A suit of armor)
7. What is the command in verse 13? ("*put on every piece of God's armor* — put it on and use it!)
8. Who is the armor of God for? (For every Christian)
9. What's the promise God gives us if we put on His armor? (We will *be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil* — when Satan attacks us with temptations, we will not give in and sin.)





Hebrews 13:6 (Don't be afraid.)
Ephesians 4:29 (Don't talk dirty.)
Ephesians 6:1 (Obey parents.)
Ephesians 4:28 (Don't steal.)
Romans 12:17 (Don't repay evil for evil.)
Psalm 46:1 (Can on God in time of trouble.)
Hebrews 13:5 (Don't feel lonely.)
Ephesians 4:25 (Don't lie.)
1 John 1:9 (Confess sins.)



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