
BELT OF TRUTH

LIBRARIAN SHEET

Book #1 in the Armor of God series

CHAPTER 1

1. George's father is a scribe. Do you know what a scribe is? How long do you think it would take to copy a chapter book by hand?

A medieval scribe used a quill pen and an inkwell, and he wrote on parchment paper. Scribes copied books and documents by hand. During medieval times, this was the only way to make a copy of a book or document.

2. Do you know what invention made it possible to copy books and documents quickly?

*The printing press! It was invented in Germany around 1440 by Johannes Gutenberg. **Fun fact:** the first book ever printed was the Bible!*

3. George really wants to become a knight when he grows up. What do you know about medieval knights?

In medieval times, training for knighthood began from childhood. Pages learned horsemanship, hunting, and how to use weapons. They became Squires at age 14 and then learned firsthand from a Knight. Courage and loyalty were very important, along with other virtues. Knights defended lands, settled disagreements, and helped maintain order. They also took part in tournaments and contests.

While men could become Knights, women could become Dames, learning similar skills. Some Dames participated in tournaments, but they did not usually take part in battles. Saint Joan of Arc is one exception. Guided by heaven, this saint led the French army to victory at Orleans, France, and to other victories too, during the Hundred Years' War.

4. **Activity:** In this story, children are tested to see who qualifies for *Knight School for Boys and Girls*. They are tested on reading, writing, counting, and logic questions. Look up logic puzzles or brain teasers in your library!

Brother Coll's Catechism Lesson: Everything we have is a gift from God, including our interests and talents. Name one way you can show God that you love Him in return!

CHAPTER 2

1. Several activities take place in this chapter that are not practiced as often nowadays. George's mother is making bread in this chapter. George and Erik are playing a game of chess. Does anyone in your family know how to make bread? Do you know how to play chess? What games do you like to play? Do you think activities today are easier or harder to learn than activities from the past?
2. When George's Mother won't let George visit his friend, what is the first poor choice George makes?

Disobedience is his first mistake. Rather than practice patience, George decides to disobey and sneak outside to see his friend. When the accident happens, and fire damages the tapestry, George makes a second mistake by lying.

3. Why is it sometimes hard to tell the truth?
4. **Activity:** find books that teach you how to make bread and/or play chess!

CHAPTER 3

1. George is thinking about how to solve his problem: how to pay for knight school now that the money will be used to fix the tapestry. What idea does George come up with?
2. How did people get goods and services before money was invented? *In medieval times, people often exchanged goods and services, instead of using money. This was called bartering.* Do you think people still barter today? Can you think of pros and cons for using the Barter System?

Pros: if you don't have any money, you can trade something you no longer want for something you do want.

Cons: someone might have something you want, but if you don't have anything they want for trade, you won't be able to barter with them. Plus, you might not agree about the value of goods.

3. Erik is one of the youngest students at Knight School for Boys and Girls. What activity does Erik enjoy that helps him to learn many things, maybe much more than other children his age? *Hint: see page 21.* Why does this activity help him so much?

4. The word “critical” has several meanings. How does Erik explain the meaning of it? Can you use that word in a new sentence?

Brother Coll’s Catechism Lesson: What guide did Jesus leave us so we could know the right path to follow in life?

CHAPTER 4

1. Why did George think Robyn was a wild animal at first? What was Robyn doing?
2. Robyn knows a lot about plants and collects them for her mother, who is a healer. The plant called hyssop has a lovely purple flower and when used as a tea, it is good for coughs and chest congestion. It also has a hint of licorice flavor. Do you know of other useful plants?
3. George thinks it would be okay to take a wild animal or two from the kings’ woods, especially since they were now pages, but Robyn says that would be poaching. Can you explain what poaching means? *See page 30.* Do you agree with George or Robyn? Why?
4. **Activity:** find books about herbs and useful plants!

CHAPTER 5

1. George, Robyn, and Erik are excited about the first day of school. Can you find one action from the chapter that shows they are excited? *(They run across the field to get to the school.)* How did you feel on the first day of school? *(Sad that summer ended, happy to see friends, nervous about the new experience, etc)*
2. This chapter contains many setting details. A story setting has to do with the time, place, and surroundings. Name some setting details from the story. *(Knight School details on page 33, classroom details on pages 34-35)*
3. Why are setting details important in a story? *They help readers picture the scene. They can provide clues to what might happen next.*

4. What does Sir Lucian say is the most important thing they will learn at Knight School? *The most important thing they will learn is inner strength. Why is this important? Inner strength helps one to make strong choices even in difficult situations.*

Brother Coll's Catechism Lesson: How does the Sacrament of Penance help us gain inner strength?

CHAPTERS 6 & 7

1. This series was inspired by the armor of God Saint Paul wrote about in the Bible. *Read Ephesians 6: 13-17 (in front of book).* Why do you think the virtue of truthfulness is mentioned first, before all the other virtues in the armor of God?
2. Have you read the parable of the boy who cried wolf? What effect does lying have on others? *One point: they stop believing you; they can't trust you.*
3. Which character in Chapter 6 is better at listening to their teacher, Sir Lucian? Why is "listening" a good skill to have?
4. In Chapter 7, why doesn't George want anyone to overhear him tell Henry and Otho about his plan? Do you think George knows the knights might not approve of his idea?
5. Try to explain the saying: You may know a man by the company he keeps.

Brother Coll's Catechism Lesson: What three things are needed to make a worthy Confession? (1. Examine your conscience. 2. Be sorry. 3. Make up your mind not to sin again.)

CHAPTERS 8 & 9

1. Every person has an inner voice that guides them about the rightness or wrongness of things. We call that one's conscience. Find clues on page 51 that show George's conscience is bothering him. *From the story: "Unsettled inside, George paced the floor." "Why should George feel reluctant to go?"*

2. Does George make a good choice when he sneaks out his bedroom window to meet Henry and Otho? Why or why not? Was he listening to his conscience?
3. Henry, Otho, and George made a net out of vines. Do you think that would be easy to do?
4. What do you think the boys found in the woods? Describe the strange rock and guess what it might be. The answer comes later in the series.
5. George tells another lie in Chapter 9. Can you find it? *George says the turkey is from a classmate.* Why does one lie often lead to more lies?

Brother Coll's Catechism Lesson: How many times will Jesus forgive us for the same mistakes? What is needed for Him to forgive us?

CHAPTERS 10 & 11

1. George told Robyn and Erik that they wouldn't be late for school if they went with him to look at the strange rock. Why did George lie again? *He lied because he really wanted to share his discovery with them. He wanted to investigate the rock further. And he didn't think it mattered if they were a little late. He made the thing he wanted more important than the truth.*
2. How does Robyn try to get George to do the right thing? *She suggests they look at George's discovery after school.*
3. What happened because of George's poor choice? *George arrived late at school. And his younger brother did not make it to school at all.*
4. George has made many poor choices. What should George do at this point in the story?

CHAPTER 12

1. A true friend will encourage another friend to do the right thing. What advice does Robyn have for George? *Robyn encourages George to tell the truth to Sir Lucian.*

2. George is worried about his little brother, Erik, but he's also worried about telling the complete truth. Why do you think he is worried about telling the truth? *George might be afraid he won't earn the Belt of Truth, that he will be thrown out of knight school, or that his parents will find out about his poor choices and he'll get in even more trouble.*
3. What does he learn at the end of Chapter 12 that probably makes him even more worried? *His mother has come up to the school.*

Brother Coll's Catechism Lesson: What advice would Brother Coll have for George in this situation?

CHAPTER 13

1. What descriptions show that George is nervous? *George's heart beat faster, his palms sweat, he keeps blinking. He is thinking over many questions and wishing that he had listened to Erik and Robyn. There are other clues as the chapter unfolds.*
2. In the head knight's office, George is asked to explain what happened on the way to school. He starts to lie again, saying that Erik went back to get his report. What advice from Sir Lucian does he think about? *At all times speak the truth. Virtue is proved when tested.* What does "virtue is proved when tested" mean?
3. In addition to remembering that advice from Sir Lucian, what important thing does George do before he explains what happened? Why is this important. *George prays. Praying is important because strength and virtue come from God. The more we ask for help, the more help we will receive.*
4. What does George learn about telling lies? Why does he think of them as a net? *See page 83.*
5. How do you think George feels about himself after telling the truth?

CHAPTER 14

1. In addition to telling the truth, what other important things does George do at the beginning of this chapter? *George tells his mother that he's sorry, and he helps search for Erik.*
2. George also plans to take another important step in making things right again. What is that step? *George plans to make a good Confession.*
3. Where do they find Erik and what is he doing? *They find Erik at home. When he finally found his way home, he decided to wait for his mother, and he got himself something to eat.*

CHAPTER 15

1. Did you think George would earn the Belt of Truth?
2. Why does Sir Lucian decide that George earned it? *The knight said he knows a student has mastered a virtue when he is able to practice it in a difficult situation. George told the truth even though he thought he would get into trouble.*
3. Why do you think Saint Paul used the image of a belt for the virtue of truth? How do we wear a belt? *A belt is worn close to the body, wrapped around one's waist; just as we ought to keep the truth close to us, wrapping it around ourselves.*

Also, the belt was very important to a Roman soldier because he carried other weapons on it. The Belt of Truth is important to a Christian because other virtues (that is, spiritual weapons and armor) depend upon it.

To be a good Soldier of Christ, we must seek the truth at all times and cling to it!

4. Don't forget to check out the Code of Chivalry in the back of the book! How many of these virtues do you practice already? Which ones do you need to work harder at?

“A TRUTHFUL KNIGHT IS A TRUSTED KNIGHT.” —SIR LUCIAN