

## **Soldiers of Christ Arise Worksheet**

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### *Verse 1*

Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armor on,  
Strong in the strength which God supplies through His  
eternal Son  
Strong in the Lord of hosts, and in His mighty power,  
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than  
conqueror.

### *Verse 2*

Stand then in His great might, with all His strength  
endued,  
But take to arm you for the fight the panoply of God;  
That having all things done, and all your conflicts  
passed,  
Ye may overcome through Christ alone and stand  
entire at last.

### *Verse 3*

Stand then against your foes, in close and firm array;  
Legions of wily fiends oppose throughout the evil day;  
But meet the sons of night, and mock their vain  
design,  
Armed in the arms of heavenly light, of righteousness  
divine.

### *Verse 4*

Leave no unguarded place, no weakness of the soul,  
Take every virtue, every grace, and fortify the whole;  
Indissolubly joined, to battle all proceed;  
But arm yourselves with all the mind that was in  
Christ, your Head.

### *Verse 5*

Pray without ceasing, pray, (your Captain gives the  
word)  
His summons cheerfully obey and call upon the Lord;  
To God your every want in instant prayer display,  
Pray always, pray and never faint, pray, without  
ceasing, pray.

### *Verse 6*

From strength to strength go on, wrestle and fight and  
pray,  
Tread all the powers of darkness down and win the  
well fought day.  
Still let the Spirit cry in all His soldiers, "Come!"  
Till Christ the Lord descends from high and takes the  
conquerors home.

**Vocabulary** In one or two words define the following terms from the poem.

*Verse 1:* hosts, eternal, conqueror

*Verse 2:* endued, panoply

*Verse 3:* foes, array, legions, wily, fiends, mock, divine

*Verse 4:* virtue, fortify, Indissolubly

*Verse 5:* summons

*Verse 6:* tread, descends

**Word Pictures** Word pictures is another way of saying *imagery*. *Imagery* or *figurative language* helps us form a picture of what the author is trying to present. Discuss what these word pictures mean and, without making an image of God, draw your idea of the *imagery* or *figurative language* the author uses!

*Verse 1:* Soldiers of Christ arise; put your armor on

*Verse 2:* overcome ... stand entire at last

*Verse 3:* Stand then against your foes in close and firm array; meet the sons of night and mock their vain design

*Verse 4:* Leave no unguarded place; to battle all proceed;

*Verse 5:* cheerfully obey

*Verse 6:* From strength to strength go on; Tread all the powers of darkness down and win the well fought day

**Mechanics** are the nuts and bolts of a poem. Verbally discuss.

***Who is the speaker?*** (Does the speaker have a specific personality or has the author remained in the background so the message of the poem will be more clear?)

***What does the poem reveal about the speaker's character?*** (Sometimes, poems reveal nothing about the speaker's personal thoughts, feelings, or attitudes. Yet, the poem may demonstrate those character traits that are important to the author like courage, loyalty, perseverance, etc.)

***Is the speaker addressing someone in particular or is it to anyone?*** (Sometimes poems are not directed to anyone in particular, but to anyone that may read it.)

***Does the poem have a setting?*** (Does the author tell where the poem occurs? Is the poem about a specific event?)

***Is the poem about a particular event?*** (Is the event past or present? If it is about a past event, does the remembrance of the event have a particular meaning to the speaker?)

***Is the theme of the poem stated directly or indirectly?*** (Some poems are straightforward and are meant to be taken literally. In songs, the theme may be presented in the refrain or in the last few lines. Sometimes the theme is a little bit more difficult to discern as it is made with figurative language or symbols.)

***What point of view or perspective is the speaker?*** (What meaning do you think the poem has for the author?)

***How did you respond to the poem when you read it the first time?*** (Did your thoughts and feelings change after you took time to study it?)

**Comprehension Questions** Verbally discuss

***Verse 1:*** Who are soldiers of Christ? What does the author tell them to do? What are these soldiers strong in? Explain and discuss: "Who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror."

***Verse 2:*** How is the soldier to stand? How is the soldier to arm? What is meant by the "panoply of God"? Did you notice the author used the term "ye"? What does it mean and why do you think the author used this term? Explain and discuss: "Ye may overcome through Christ alone and stand entire at last."

***Verse 3:*** How are the soldiers stand with respect to their foes? What are the soldiers to oppose? Explain and discuss: "mock their vain design." How is the soldier armed? Discuss: "Armed in the arms of heavenly light, of righteousness divine."

***Verse 4:*** What does the author tell the soldier to do in the first line? Why? How is the soldier to fortify (or strengthen) their stance? How are the soldiers to be joined? Where should the soldier proceed? Explain and discuss: "arm yourselves with all the mind that was in Christ, your Head."

*Verse 5:* What is the soldier to do unceasingly? Who gave this order? How is this command or summons to be obeyed? Who is the soldier to call upon? Explain and discuss: “To God your every want in instant prayer display, Pray always, pray and never faint, pray, without ceasing, pray.”

*Verse 6:* Explain and discuss: “From strength to strength go on, wrestle and fight and pray.” What is to be tread down? Explain: “win the well fought day.” Who are “the conquerors”? Explain and discuss: “Still let the Spirit cry in all His soldiers, ‘Come!’ Till Christ the Lord descends from high and takes the conquerors home.”

Did this historical event or message become more real to you after reading this poem? Why?

After reading this poem, what character traits did you think of? What does the Bible have to say about these character traits?

### ***What Does the Bible Say?***

Find Scripture proofs for each of the assertions or statements made for each of the six verses.

Discuss this poem in light of the ...

***Cultural Mandate*** (what God said to Adam and Eve) ... And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. (Genesis 1:28)

***Dominion Mandate*** (what God said to Noah after the Flood) ... And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. (Genesis 9:1)

***Great Commission*** (Jesus' command that reaffirmed the Cultural and Dominion Mandates) ... And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 18:18-20)

What does the Bible have to say about education? instruction? knowledge? Remember, thoughts have consequences. We act on what we think. When we read an exciting story, for example, we must intellectually process what is going on so that we know what emotions are required (e.g., sad, glad, mad or scared).

For more help, check out the Bible and Education web page at <http://www.lovetolearnplace.com/Bible%26Education.html>

### ***The Author/Poet***

Based on what you have studied about this poem so far, would you guess that the author was a Christian or a humanist? How did you arrive at your decision?

The author's name for this poem or lyric is Charles Wesley (1707-1788). He was born on 28 December 1707 in Epworth, Lincolnshire, England. He died on 29 March 1788, London, England, and was buried at Marylebone Parish Church, London. It is estimated that he wrote over 6000 Christian songs or hymns in his lifetime (possibly more).

## Geography

Locate Bethlehem, London, and England on a globe, map and atlas.

*Challenge* Can you find Epworth or Lincolnshire on a map or in an atlas?

Compare/contrast the weather from England with your own for one week.

Make a meal from England for your family.

## Activities

1) Make your own book! Without making an image of Christ, draw pictures representing each verse. (Note: that will be six different illustrations). With construction paper and other items readily available at home, make a title page with the name of the song and the author's name which will be your book's cover. You may want to illustrate your cover and include this poem in your book.

2) Make your own play! Re-enact with your siblings or friends the event and message discussed in this poem. Keep it lively, simple, and short. You may want to end your play with singing a rousing chorus of this poem or reading Scripture verses. Videotape your creation.

3) Radio Drama! With a handheld tape recorder, create your own radio show dramatizing the historical event and message of this poem.

4) Be a Reporter! Either with your family camcorder or with a handheld tape recorder, "interview" various individuals connected with this poem (e.g., older testament prophets, heads of nations either current or past, the serpent, Christian students, Christian entertainers like Eleanor Powell, repentant sinner, etc.). In order to have the fast paced style of a reporter, watch and/or listen to the news with your parents' permission. Keep the interviews lively, quick, and to the point.

Remain objective! Being objective means just reporting the facts and not giving your opinion of the situation.

5) What is one of the things you most enjoy? Is it literature? math? science? sports? cooking? Take that area of interest and relate that to this poem. If you enjoy dance, for example, develop a dance routine that physically expresses the sentiments of this poem. If you enjoy shop, create something out of wood that helps to clarify this poem. Do you enjoy creating stories? Write a story based on any time period you desire that expresses the sentiments of this poem. Do you enjoy creating things in the kitchen? Make an ancient meal from this time or develop your own meal that symbolizes the many different points this poem makes.

6) Poster. Create a poster illustrating the the author's view of the impact of *Soldiers of Christ Arise!*

7) Scavenger Hunt. Go to the library to learn what you can about Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and share it with your family. If possible, discover the story behind this poem.