

The Toby logo is a red oval with a white border containing the word "Toby" in a white, rounded, sans-serif font.

Toby

The title "OPERATION FLASHLIGHT" is written in large, bright green, 3D block letters with a black outline. The letters are slightly slanted and have a glowing effect. The background behind the text is dark with silhouettes of bats and a large, jagged, toothy mouth.

# OPERATION FLASHLIGHT

A cartoon character, a young boy with large eyes, wearing a blue jumpsuit with green accents, orange goggles, and a utility belt. He is holding a green and orange flashlight-like device that is emitting a beam of light. The background is dark with silhouettes of bats and a large, jagged, toothy mouth.

A movie event kit for kids aged 4 - 12

# INTRODUCTION

## OCTOBER...

This time of year is notorious for its association with darkness, but Jesus says we are the light of the world! So, let's get out there and shine with *Operation Flashlight!*

What's it all about?

Operation Flashlight is about helping kids overcome their fears and encouraging them to demonstrate God's goodness and kindness in their neighborhood. So while most kids are terrorizing the community demanding candy, this event planner gives you all the tools you'll need to lead a group of children to give selflessly and have loads of fun doing it!

This program is presented as a military operation with the code name *Flashlight*. From here on, you are the General, your assistants are Commanders and the kids in your care are Troops in a Platoon preparing for night ops!

Standby for great games; dressing up; a battle chant; Truth Lasers and more.  
Prepare for *Operation Flashlight!*

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"...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds  
and glorify your Father in heaven." Jesus - Matthew 5:16

# WHAT WE'LL DO TODAY

This page will help you manage the order of events for the evening. Click on the numbers for a detailed debriefing. (Feel free to adjust the times and activities to suite the age of your group.)

## 1 Ice breaker!

Choose from two awesome imaginative games to help break the ice. Port and Starboard-, and Prisoner's Base. They are both lots of fun and will quickly get the shy ones out of their shells.

## 3 Assemble Platoons

Breaks troops into groups. Assign each Platoon Commander. The Troops choose a Platoon name.

## 5 Battle Chant

Every great army has a good battle cry. This one will intimidate any monster.



## 8

### Power up

Prayer time. Here we express our dependence on God and wait for Him to guide us to those He wants to touch through us.

## 6 Ammunition : The word of God

Time to open the scriptures and search for ammo!



## 9 Flashlight!

Armed with the Word of God, Truth Lasers, a Battle Chant, and backpacks loaded with gifts, the troops are ready to move out!

3:30

4:00

4:15

4:30

5:15

5:30

6:00

6:30

7:00

## 2

### Watch Monsters and Me

Toby's been watching a scary movie and now he thinks there are monsters in his room. Let's see how Jesus helps Toby overcome his fears in the short film "Monsters and Me".



## 4

### Make a Truth Lazer

Commanders help their troops to make their own Truth Lasers with built-in flashlights.



## 7

### Build a Backpack

How to make awesome bags for the troops to carry their supplies in.



**GENERAL'S CHECK LIST**



# ICE BREAKER



# 1



Try one of these fun games to warm things up...

## PORT AND STARBOARD

The children imagine themselves on a ship or submarine. The Captain gives out orders to his crew. They respond with physical actions as follows...

1. 'Captain's coming' – salute, legs together.
2. 'At ease' - hands behind back, legs apart.
3. 'All hands on deck' - kneeling position, hands flat on the floor.
4. 'Hit the deck' - lying face down on the floor.
5. 'Submarine' - lying on back, one leg up in the air.
6. 'Port' - run to the left side, touch the wall and return.
7. 'Starboard' - run to the right side, touch the wall and return.

The last one to obey the captain's orders correctly is out. (These are just a few examples of actions they could do. Feel free to add some of your own.)

## PRISONER'S BASE

There are 2 teams, each with their own home base. Mark out a Prison using tape or a garden hose. The more kids you have, the bigger the prison will need to be. One team will chase while the other team tries to escape. The members of each team link hands, stretching out from their home bases. The last person in the chain (the one farthest from the base) breaks away and runs into the field. Then the last link on the opposite team's chain breaks away and chases them. While that chase goes on, the players continue to break from their team's chain, pairing off with a member of the opposite team. In this way, each 'chaser' has a particular 'escaper' they must tag.

When a player is tagged, they go to prison and their captor stands guard. The prisoner can be released only if a member of their own team runs through the prison and tags them. If several players of the same team are in prison, they can call out "ELECTRICITY!" and join hands, stretching a chain beyond the prison boundaries. A teammate may touch the last person in the chain and release all the prisoners. The game is over when everyone has been captured.

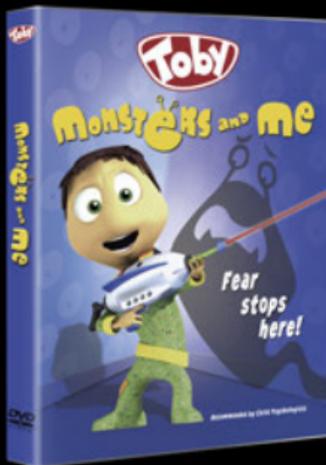




## WATCH MONSTERS AND ME

2

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31 v6)



## MONSTERS and me

*Fear stops here!*

Toby needs Jesus to help him face his fears.

**Download the movie from...**



# ASSEMBLE PLATOONS

3

Line up the troops. Divide them into Platoons of between 5 and 7 and assign each Platoon a Commander. The Commanders will take these groups out into the neighborhood later so make sure young kids are paired with older ones.

NOTE: If you have less than ten kids, one big group will be best.

Order the troops to choose a Platoon name.  
If they need inspiration, here are some ideas:

## SOME IDEAS FOR PLATOON NAMES

The Light Bearers  
Mighty Warriors  
Army of Truth  
Truth Tribe  
Kingdom Knights  
Dragon Slayers  
The Conquerors  
The Lightning Squad  
The Battle Blazers

The Peace Police  
Hearts on Fire  
Freedom Fighters  
Eagle Squad  
Solid Rock Soldiers  
Sons of Thunder



# MAKE A TRUTH LAZER

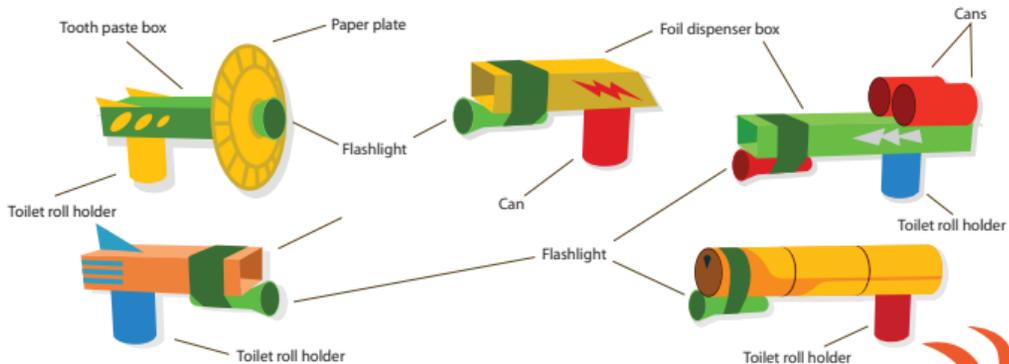
4

Encourage your troops to make their own Truth Lasers using the materials you've collected. While they're working, talk about the film and discuss the different things they fear. This might extend beyond monsters to more abstract issues like being alone, rejection, divorce and death – so prepare prayerfully.

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED

empty foil boxes  
cardboard boxes (Various sizes)  
toilet roll holders  
cool drink cans  
different colour paint and brushes  
coloured paper

paper plates  
plastic bottles  
thick packaging tape  
scissors, craft glue  
decoration (stars, glitter, foil)



Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me." - John 14:6

# BATTLE CHANT

5

'...I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.' John 14:20



## GOD IS IN ME!

**Leader:** God is in me, this I know (Group repeats)

**Leader:** For the Bible tells me so (Group repeats)

**Leader:** I do not need to be scared (Group repeats)

**Leader:** God is in my heart and head (Group repeats)

### Chorus

That's right. That's right.  
He's with me everyday.  
We talk at night,  
and all through the day

A black circle with a red musical note and the text 'MP3' in red, with a black arrow pointing to the text 'Download the song here' below it.

MP3

Download the song here





# AMMUNITION

# 6



Now that your troops are armed with Truth Lasers it's time to LOAD THEM UP! Open the scriptures with the children and help them to find short verses for ammunition (just as Jesus does for Toby in *Monsters and Me*). Encourage them to write them out and stick them to the sides of their Truth Lasers. Switch off the lights and let them say their verses as they shine the flashlights attached to their Truth Lasers. This is a great way to get kids excited about memorizing Scripture.

Tip for younger groups...

Prepare and print short bible verses on colored paper. Get the troops to cut them out as you read them aloud, then let them choose the ones they relate to and glue them to their Truth Lasers.

#### Do not fear:

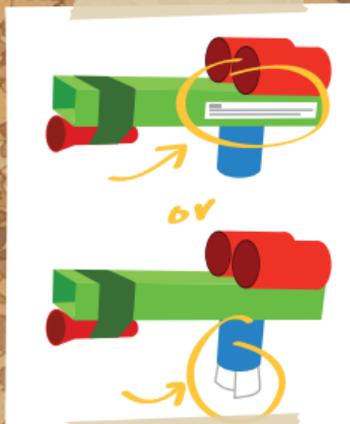
Psalms 27v1-3  
Psalm 56v3  
Psalm 118v6  
Jeremiah 1v8  
2 Chronicles 32v7  
Deuteronomy 31v6

#### God is in you:

Galatians 4v6  
Revelation 3v20  
Psalm 139v7

#### God can do anything:

Job 42v2  
Jeremiah 32v17  
Philippians 4v13



# BUILD A BACKPACK

7

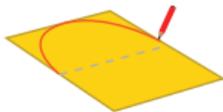


## YOU WILL NEED



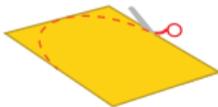
Scissors  
Colored paper bags  
Colored card paper  
Ribbon  
Stapler  
Glue sticks  
and craft glue

Making a paper backpack is super fast and really easy, which means your troops can spend more time on decorating their bags than building them! Each team can come up with a fun emblem for their group and glue them onto their bags. Get whatever decorating material you can find for them to work with. (gold and silver stars look great!)



①

Fold the colored paper in half and draw a half circle on the one side as indicated above.



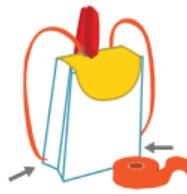
②

Now cut around on the line you've drawn to create the lid of the bag.



③

Glue the colored paper onto the top the paper bag to make a lid.



④

Using your stapler, staple the ribbon onto the bag to create straps. Your Backpack is complete!

Now your troops can load their backpacks with the gifts they've brought.



# POWER UP

8

'You are the light of the world'. Matthew 5v14



This is a time for prayer and will work best if each Platoon is led to a quiet place by their Commander.

## COMMANDERS...

Begin by thanking God for each child and for their unique talents. As you lead them through the prayer time below, be gentle but serious. Express how important this is to you. Make the children aware that God wants to shine His light through them! Try to instill in them a sense of expectation and encourage them to trust God to lead them.

Next, let them take turns offering Jesus their fears and expressing their dependence on Him. Finally, pray for the surrounding neighbors. Give each child a turn, if they are uncomfortable praying aloud, encourage them to pray inwardly. Remind them that God knows our thoughts. Make a mental note of prayers for specific individuals. These will be 'target' sites for *Flashlight!*





# FLASHLIGHT!

9



## BRIEF THE COMMANDERS:

Remind them to keep their troops together at all times. Encourage them to use their authority in a playful way – in keeping with the military theme. Agree on a rendezvous point and time.

## RALLY THE TROOPS:

Get them to collect their Truth Lasers, put on their backpacks and FALL IN behind their Commanders. Explain that it's time to go out and shine. Remind them of Jesus' words in Matthew 5:

*"...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*

### **Suggest ways of presenting the gifts to the neighbors. Here's an example:**

Line them up outside the door before you knock. When the door opens bring them to attention and have them salute. The troop with the gift steps forward and simply says,

'Here is a gift for you from our platoon.'

**OR**

'God sent us to bring this gift to you.'

**OR**

'We have come on a mission to remind you that God loves you.'

You can discuss these and hear their suggestions as you walk together.

**Do the battle chant and lead the troops out into the dark!**



**TIP:**  
PREPARE SOME TREATS  
FOR THE BRAVE (AND TIRED)  
SOLDIERS AND GIVE THEM A  
WARM WELCOME HOME!

# GENERAL'S CHECK LIST:

Below is a list of all the things you'll need for the operation.



## Invitations...

Send these out at least 2 weeks in advance.  
Find email and Printable templates here.



## Juice and snacks

Provide refreshments during the program and prepare some treats for the welcome home party.

## Dress the part...

'Military' gear should be worn by all. Helmets, Berets, caps and anything camouflage.  
If you're stuck for ideas, look at Toby's outfit for inspiration.

## Optional extras...

If you have the time and resources, go ahead and decorate your hall as a military training camp.

## Kids must bring...

- a cheap, light-weight flashlight with fresh batteries (to attach to their Truth Lasers.)
- 3 delicious treats to give away to neighbors. These should be inexpensive gifts an adult would enjoy. (Home-baked cookies or chocolates are a good idea.)

## Craft Materials...

- Paper bags
- Lots of small cardboard boxes and toilet roll tubes (toothpaste and foil boxes work well).
- Paper plates
- Plastic bottles and cool drink cans
- Ribbon
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Colored paper and paints
- Packaging tape
- Decorations (Gold and silver stars, foil and glitter)
- Stapler and staples

A white rectangular note pinned to a corkboard with a red pushpin. The note has a hand-drawn smiley face with a red pushpin on its forehead. The text on the note reads: 'HAPPY SHINING!' in large, bold, black letters, followed by 'GO WITH GOD.' in smaller, black letters, underlined. A red and black pencil is drawn at the bottom right corner of the note.

HAPPY SHINING!  
GO WITH GOD.

THE ADVENTURES OF TOBY TEAM.