I love to play American football—you know, with all the touchdowns, passing, punting, and tackling each other. It's fun! One thing is for sure. I always wear my football gear, and I'm very glad I do.

Last week, I was running with the ball as fast as I could, hoping to make a touchdown. One problem. There were a bunch of players from the other team who did not want me to make a touchdown. They came at me from every direction. And they were big!

One boy—his name is Herbie—looks like an eighteen-wheel truck and, believe me, when he tackles you, you know you've been tackled. Nothing can stop this guy!

So, here I am, running like my pants are on fire, and out of the corner of my eye, I see Herbie. He's coming in from the side as
fast as he can run—which is pretty fast considering he’s about the same size as a Toyota.

I know I have two choices: I can slow down so that when Herbie and I slam into each other, it won’t hurt as much. Or, I can speed up so that when Herbie and I meet, it might shake me up a little, but I’ll be closer to the goal line so my team won’t have so far to go to make a touchdown. Decisions, decisions.

Then I remember what I’m wearing. I’ve got on shoulder pads, knee pads, shin pads, waist pads, neck pad, mouth guard, and thick helmet complete with face guard. I’m totally protected. As long as I don’t go any faster than running speed, and as long as nothing larger than Herbie runs into me, I’ll be OK. So, I speed up.

Blam! Herbie—and several of his friends—bump into me at full speed. One moment I’m running downfield. The next moment I’m buried under a pile of huffing and puffing football players. But I’m just fine. I’ve moved my team closer to the goal and survived yet another midfield meeting with Herbie and friends.

We all get up and stumble back to our huddles, eager to start the next play.

Protection. Did you know that every Christian wears some? That’s right. You and I—when we head out for school or play—put on some important protection gear. Why? Because we’re not going to run into Herbie out there in the world. We’re going to run right into Satan—and Satan makes Herbie look like a puppy dog.

Look up Ephesians 6:14–16 in the LIBRARY and fill in the missing words below. This is our Christian uniform. This is what will keep us from being hurt by Satan.

“So stand strong, with the _______ of _______ tied around your waist. And on your chest wear the _______ of _______. And on your feet wear the _______ _______ to help you stand strong. And also use the _______ of _______. With that you can stop all the burning arrows of the Evil One.”

The war between us and Satan is called “the great controversy.” Controversy means “dispute” or “fight.” Satan is certainly fighting against God, and he is certainly against the love that God wants to share with everyone on this earth.

When did this war begin and how will it end? Let’s find out.

Look up the text in the LIBRARY and then circle the correct word to answer the question.

What happened in heaven even before this world was created by God? There was (an earthquake) (a flood) (a war) (a fire) —Revelation 12:7

Who tricked Eve into eating the forbidden fruit and brought selfishness and sin into this earth? (lion) (snake) (horse) (Adam) —Genesis 3:13

Who was controlling the animal you chose above? (God) (Adam) (Eve) (Satan) —Revelation 12:9

What came into the Garden of Eden? We’re fighting it to this day. (terrorists) (people) (evil) (wild animals) —Ephesians 6:12, 13

Who died so that the entire universe would see how evil Satan is and choose to follow God instead? (Jesus) (Adam) (Noah) (Peter) —Romans 3:25

Thank You, Jesus, for helping me fight Satan and for dying on the cross so that everyone can know how evil he is. I choose to live my life with the protection You offer me so that I can fight against Satan too. Amen.