(Option 2: not relating each piece of protective motorcycle clothing to each protective piece Paul references in Ephesians)

 **ARMOR OF GOD FIRESIDE**

 **Presented By the TRA**

**Setting up an Armor of God Presentation:**

Invite as many TRA members as possible. More bikes the better.

Meet at a pre-determined staging area close to the church.

Ride together to the church where the fireside is to held.

Have the youth outside waiting for the bikes to make a "grand entrance" and then park in a pre-designated area.

Let the youth (and leaders) view the bikes, ask questions, and if ok with the owner, let them sit on the bikes for photos.

After about 15 minutes go inside for the presentation. (The youth usually will hold their own opening exercises first then turn the time over to the TRA.)

We have done the Armor of God presentation both in the chapel and cultural hall.

KEEP PRESENTATION 30 MINUTES OR LESS.

There are 4 parts to the presentation followed by QA - History, Dressing for the Temple, Put on the Armor, Testimony

**HISTORY:**  (from the TRA website)

In the spring of 1987 while at a Salt Lake City motorcycle shop, Frank Reese (TRA Founder) stood beside Betty Session, who ordered a part for a Honda Gold Wing. He asked if she belonged to the Gold Wing Road Riders Association? (GWRRA) and she responded, "No, we don't like to ride on Sundays" Having similar views about riding on Sunday, they continued to chat while they picked up their orders and agreed to get together with their spouses and plan a "weekday" motorcycle ride.

As both couples were members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and temple recommend holders, they decided to combine a visit to two LDS Temples with their motorcycle ride.

Shortly thereafter Frank and Catherine Reese and Betty and Boyd Sessions left on a Friday morning and rode to the Ogden Utah Temple. After the temple session they rode through Ogden Canyon to Huntsville and over the panoramic Monte Cristo Highway to Bear Lake, Idaho, where they stayed in a cabin owned by friends of the Reese's. On Saturday morning they traveled through scenic Logan Canyon to the Logan Utah Temple. After the temple session they rode back to their homes in Salt Lake City. Little did they know at that time what would happen in the future because of that first "Temple Ride".

This was such a rewarding experience that Frank and Catherine began to look for others who might enjoy weekday scenic rides to LDS temples.

By the spring of 1988 the group of prospective "Temple Riders" had grown to the point that it was decided to create an official organization.

The first TRA bulletin (invitation) was sent on April 4, 1988 to 11 prospective member. Six couples attended and in May became the "Charter Members" of the TRA.

By February 1989 there were 51 names on the membership roster, mostly couples. Today, the TRA membership is between 400 and 500 with chapters and riding groups throughout the U.S. and many other countries.

Individual members have performed ordinances in over 80 different temples by way of motorcycle travel. As a whole, we have probably attended over 100 temples in different locations throughout the world.

We number among our membership; Bishops, Stake Presidents, temple workers, Relief Society Presidents, YM & YW leaders, missionary couples, and those serving in just about any other church calling. We have members from all walks of life who ride just about any make of motorcycle.

We don't require members to have a temple recommend, or even be a member of the LDS faith. The only two requirements are to own a motorcycle and to keep church standards on our rides and when participating in activities. Which in turn, has given us many missionary opportunities.

**DRESSING FOR THE TEMPLE:**

 Brothers can easily ride to the temple in dress slacks, shirt, tie and jacket (if needed). Sisters need to wear pants for safety and modesty while riding to the temple.

On arriving in the parking lot (or in a changing vestibule in some temples) they will need to change into skirts, dressier shoes, fix their helmet hair ("Hair by Harley" or "Hair by Honda") and touch up make up if desired.

Some sisters wear a wrinkle resistant skirt bunched around their waist while riding, then letting it down and modestly remove their riding pants. Others carry a regular skirt on their bikes and put it over their pants then slip the pants off. Shoes can be easily changed. Motorcycles have small mirrors that are used to freshen up makeup and hair.

The sister doing this part does an actual demonstration which is generally fun for the youth.

**PUTTING ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD (EPHESIANS 6:11-18)**

(In past experiences it seems to be difficult and confusing for some presenters to try to relate each piece of protective motorcycle clothing to each protective piece Paul references in Ephesians. However, it is a key part of the AOG presentation to have the youth understand that to stay protected against any unforseen dangers, they need to make sure they do all they can to have the Whole Armor in place at all times.)

Read the verses in Ephesians, emphasizing the key protections mentioned. Then have one young man and one young woman (pre-selected) come up to help. Each should be assisted by a TRA brother and sister.

Tell those at the fireside that before we start riding anywhere, we always have a prayer asking for Heavenly Father's protection. In addition, we put on certain pieces of protective clothing, or "armor". Then with the help of the TRA brother and sister put the articles on as they are described by the presenter, on the pre-selected youth.

Explain the boots are to protect and support our feet and ankles and make it easier to get a non-slip grip on the road to support the bike when stopped. Chaps are to keep knees, hips, hips, and legs protected from bug hits, cold wind and road rash if there was an accident. Vests might be used as an extra layer of insulation from cold weather or additional padding. Leather or armored jackets provide safety and warmth for the upper body and vital organs. The helmet protects not only our good looks (smile), but our most vulnerable and important part - the brain. Gloves are to keep hands from being hurt by bugs or flipped up rocks. Emphasize again that we hope we will never need to use this armor, but if we need it all of a sudden, it will be too late to back and have a "do over".

Now read Ephesians again, putting more emphasis on the spiritual protections and blessings we are promised from putting on the Whole Armor of God. Emphasize again that when we start each day, we never know what will happen, and what kind of temptations and dangers the Devil will have waiting to snare us with at any moment. When that happens, as it surely will, it may not be possible to back and ask for a "do over" either. We need to b prepared ahead of time for whatever may be in store. If we aren't ready we may have things bruised, broken, scraped and scratched that are of much more eternal importance than our physical being.

**TESTIMONY:**

Have one of the TRA member (or a spiritual youth leader if TRA members are few) bear their testimony of an experience relating to being protected by keeping the counsel given by Paul in Ephesians.

**Question and Answer Period:**

Take a few minutes to answer questions from any of the youth or leaders. Keep it on a positive note.

We hope the youth and leaders feel that it is possible to have a good time doing good things with good people, and still stay true to gospel principles.