

d&d 5e paladin guide

d&d 5e paladin guide offers an in-depth look into one of the most iconic and versatile classes in Dungeons & Dragons 5th Edition. This comprehensive article is designed to help players understand the fundamentals of creating and optimizing a paladin character, from choosing the right subclass to mastering spellcasting and combat tactics. Whether you are a newcomer or an experienced player, this guide provides valuable insights into the paladin's unique blend of martial prowess and divine magic. Key topics covered include paladin class features, oath options, ability score prioritization, equipment choices, and roleplaying tips. By exploring these elements, players can craft a paladin that excels in both frontline combat and party support. This d&d 5e paladin guide also delves into synergistic multiclassing options and effective use of paladin spells to maximize effectiveness in any campaign. The following table of contents outlines the main sections explored in this guide.

- Understanding the Paladin Class
- Choosing the Right Paladin Oath
- Ability Scores and Character Creation
- Equipment and Combat Strategies
- Spellcasting and Divine Magic
- Multiclassing and Synergies
- Roleplaying Your Paladin

Understanding the Paladin Class

The paladin in d&d 5e is a holy warrior who combines martial combat skills with divine magic granted by a sacred oath. This class is known for its durability, healing abilities, and powerful smiting attacks. Paladins serve as frontline protectors, capable of absorbing damage while supporting allies with buffs and restorative spells. Their unique blend of offense and defense makes them indispensable in many adventuring parties. Key features include Divine Sense, Lay on Hands, and Divine Smite, each contributing to the paladin's versatility. Understanding these features is essential to maximizing the class's potential throughout a campaign.

Core Class Features

Paladins gain several important abilities as they level up. Divine Sense allows detection of celestial, fiendish, or undead presences, proving useful in exploration and combat. Lay on Hands provides a pool of healing power that can be used flexibly to restore health or cure diseases and poisons. Divine Smite lets paladins expend spell slots to deal extra radiant damage on weapon attacks, significantly boosting their damage output. Additionally, paladins have access to Aura features, which grant protective benefits to themselves and nearby allies. These core mechanics define the paladin's role as both a damage dealer and a party guardian.

Class Progression and Hit Points

Paladins use a d10 hit die, making them among the most resilient classes in d&d 5e. This high hit point pool allows them to maintain frontline positions effectively. They gain proficiency in all armor types and shields, further enhancing their survivability. At higher levels, paladins unlock powerful abilities like Improved Divine Smite and additional auras that strengthen their defensive and offensive capabilities. Careful management of class features and resource expenditure is critical to maintaining effectiveness in prolonged encounters.

Choosing the Right Paladin Oath

Paladin oaths define the character's moral and ethical framework, shaping their abilities and roleplaying direction. Each oath grants unique features, spells, and channel divinity options that tailor the paladin's playstyle. Selecting an appropriate oath is crucial for aligning mechanical strengths with narrative themes. Common options include the Oath of Devotion, Oath of the Ancients, Oath of Vengeance, and several others introduced in supplemental sourcebooks. Understanding the differences between these oaths helps players optimize their paladin for combat, support, or utility roles.

Oath of Devotion

The Oath of Devotion emphasizes honor, courage, and righteousness. Paladins who swear this oath gain access to spells that enhance their combat abilities and protective auras. Their Channel Divinity options include Sacred Weapon, which adds charisma to attack rolls, and Turn the Unholy, which repels fiends and undead. This oath is ideal for players who want a classic "holy knight" archetype focused on valor and justice.

Oath of the Ancients

Paladins who take the Oath of the Ancients champion the light and natural world. Their abilities reflect a connection to life and preservation, with spells that provide healing and defensive buffs. Notable features include the ability to reduce damage from spells and resist magical effects. This oath is well-suited for players who prefer a nature-themed or protective paladin with strong survivability.

Oath of Vengeance

The Oath of Vengeance paladin is focused on punishing wrongdoers and delivering swift justice. Their abilities enhance mobility and offense, enabling them to pursue and eliminate targets efficiently. Channel Divinity options include Abjure Enemy to frighten foes and Vow of Enmity to gain advantage

on attack rolls against a chosen enemy. This oath benefits players who want a more aggressive and tactical paladin playstyle.

Ability Scores and Character Creation

Optimizing ability scores is vital for a powerful paladin in d&d 5e. Prioritizing certain attributes enhances combat effectiveness, spellcasting, and survivability. The paladin's primary ability scores are Strength or Dexterity, Charisma, and Constitution. Each contributes to different aspects of gameplay, from weapon attacks to spell save DCs and hit points. Proper allocation of ability points during character creation sets the foundation for a successful adventurer.

Primary Attributes

Strength is typically the most important attribute for paladins focusing on melee combat, improving attack and damage rolls with heavy weapons. Alternatively, Dexterity can be prioritized for paladins who prefer finesse or ranged weapons. Charisma is essential for spellcasting and many paladin class features, such as Divine Smite and aura effects. Constitution boosts hit points and overall durability, making it a key secondary attribute.

Suggested Ability Score Distribution

- **Strength:** 15 or 16 (primary for melee builds)
- **Charisma:** 14 or higher (for spellcasting and class features)
- **Constitution:** 13 or higher (for hit points and resilience)
- **Dexterity:** 10 to 12 (depending on weapon choice)

- **Wisdom:** 8 to 12 (useful for perception and saves)
- **Intelligence:** 8 to 10 (least prioritized)

Equipment and Combat Strategies

Paladins benefit greatly from selecting the right equipment to enhance their combat capabilities and survivability. Their proficiency with all armor types and shields allows for a wide range of defensive options. Weapon choices depend on the build and preferred fighting style, with options ranging from greatswords to longswords and shields. Understanding how to synergize equipment with class features is key to maximizing battlefield effectiveness.

Armor and Weapons

Heavy armor is generally preferred for paladins due to its superior protection. Plate armor, when affordable, offers the best AC, while chain mail and splint armor are viable early-game alternatives. Shields add a +2 bonus to AC and are a staple for paladins focusing on defense. Weapon selection depends on whether the paladin emphasizes damage output or versatility. Popular choices include:

- Greatsword or maul for high-damage two-handed attacks
- Longsword or warhammer paired with a shield for balanced offense and defense
- Polearms for reach and opportunity attack control

Combat Tactics

Effective paladin combat strategies involve managing spell slots for Divine Smite, positioning to protect squishier party members, and using class features to control the battlefield. Prioritizing attacks that trigger Divine Smite can significantly increase damage, especially against undead or fiends. Utilizing auras and Channel Divinity abilities can turn the tide of battle by boosting allies and hindering enemies. Combining defensive stances with offensive bursts creates a balanced and resilient fighting style.

Spellcasting and Divine Magic

Divine magic is a defining aspect of the paladin class, granting access to a limited but potent spell list. Paladin spells focus on healing, buffing allies, and inflicting radiant damage. Spellcasting relies on Charisma, making this attribute crucial for maximizing spell effectiveness. Knowing when and which spells to cast enhances versatility and survivability during encounters.

Spell Slots and Preparation

Paladins have a limited number of spell slots and must prepare spells each day from the paladin spell list. The number of prepared spells equals the paladin's Charisma modifier plus half their paladin level. Choosing spells that complement the party's needs and the paladin's role is essential. Healing spells like Cure Wounds and buffs like Shield of Faith are commonly prepared. Offensive spells such as Wrathful Smite and Branding Smite augment weapon attacks.

Key Paladin Spells

- **Bless:** Grants attack and saving throw bonuses to allies.
- **Cure Wounds:** Provides essential healing during and after combat.

- **Shield of Faith:** Adds a +2 bonus to AC for up to 10 minutes.
- **Divine Favor:** Adds radiant damage to weapon attacks.
- **Wrathful Smite:** Deals psychic damage and can frighten enemies.

Multiclassing and Synergies

Multiclassing offers paladins opportunities to enhance their capabilities by combining class features from other classes. Choosing the right multiclass options can complement the paladin's strengths or cover weaknesses. Popular multiclass choices include sorcerer, warlock, and fighter, each providing unique benefits. Understanding how to integrate levels from other classes while maintaining paladin progression is vital for an effective build.

Common Multiclass Options

- **Sorcerer:** Enhances spellcasting with additional spell slots and metamagic, improving Divine Smite potential.
- **Warlock:** Offers invocations and spell slots that recharge on short rests, increasing smite frequency.
- **Fighter:** Grants additional attacks and fighting styles, boosting combat prowess.

Considerations for Multiclassing

When multiclassing, it is important to meet the ability score prerequisites, typically requiring at least 13 Strength or Dexterity and 13 Charisma for paladin. Balancing progression to retain core paladin features while gaining benefits from another class requires strategic planning. Multiclass paladins must also consider the impact on spell slot progression and access to high-level class features.

Roleplaying Your Paladin

Roleplaying a paladin involves embodying the ideals and tenets of their sacred oath. These characters often serve as moral compasses within the party, driven by a strong sense of justice, honor, or devotion. Incorporating the paladin's background, oath motivations, and personality traits enriches the gaming experience and deepens player engagement. Understanding the paladin's code and how it influences decisions and interactions is key to authentic roleplaying.

Oath and Alignment

Each paladin oath aligns with certain ethical and moral perspectives, influencing behavior and choices. For example, Oath of Devotion paladins typically embody lawful good principles, while Oath of Vengeance paladins may adopt a more flexible or even ruthless approach. Players should consider how their oath affects their character's worldview and relationships with other party members and NPCs.

Integrating Backstory and Personality

Developing a compelling backstory that explains the paladin's commitment to their oath adds depth to the character. Personality traits such as courage, compassion, or zealotry can guide roleplaying decisions. Emphasizing internal conflicts or growth arcs related to the oath can create engaging narratives and memorable moments during the campaign.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the best Paladin subclasses in D&D 5e for beginners?

For beginners, the Oath of Devotion and Oath of the Ancients are great choices. They provide straightforward abilities and strong thematic options that help new players understand Paladin mechanics and roleplaying.

How should I allocate ability scores for a Paladin in D&D 5e?

Prioritize Strength for melee attacks and Charisma for spellcasting and class features. Constitution is also important for survivability. A common spread is high Strength and Charisma, moderate Constitution, and lower Dexterity, Intelligence, and Wisdom.

What are the key spells a Paladin should focus on in 5e?

Important Paladin spells include Bless, Shield of Faith, Cure Wounds, Wrathful Smite, and Divine Smite (a class feature that uses spell slots). These spells enhance combat effectiveness and party support.

How does Divine Smite work for Paladins in 5e?

Divine Smite allows Paladins to expend a spell slot to deal extra radiant damage on a melee weapon hit. The damage increases with the level of the spell slot used, making it a powerful burst damage option.

What role does a Paladin typically play in a D&D 5e party?

Paladins often serve as frontline tanks and damage dealers, while also providing healing and support through spells and auras. They excel at protecting allies and controlling the battlefield.

Which feats complement a Paladin build in D&D 5e?

Great Weapon Master, Shield Master, and War Caster are popular feats for Paladins. Great Weapon Master boosts damage with heavy weapons, Shield Master improves defense and control, and War Caster helps maintain concentration on spells.

How does the Paladin's Aura feature benefit the party?

Starting at 6th level, Paladins emit auras that grant bonuses to nearby allies, such as resistance to damage, saving throw bonuses, or improved healing. These auras significantly enhance party survivability.

What are the best weapons and armor choices for a Paladin in 5e?

Paladins typically use heavy armor like plate for maximum AC and wield martial weapons such as longswords, greatswords, or warhammers. A shield is also commonly used for added defense.

How important is Charisma for a Paladin in D&D 5e?

Charisma is very important as it affects spellcasting, the saving throw DC of Paladin spells and abilities, and class features like Divine Smite and auras. High Charisma enhances both combat and support capabilities.

What are some effective roleplaying tips for a Paladin character?

Emphasize your Paladin's oath and moral code, creating strong motivations and conflicts. Showcase their dedication to justice, honor, or their deity, and use their abilities to protect and inspire allies, making for a compelling character.

Additional Resources

1. *The Paladin's Path: Mastering the Oath in D&D 5e*

This comprehensive guide dives deep into the various paladin oaths available in Dungeons & Dragons

5th Edition. It covers role-playing tips, combat strategies, and spell selections to help players create a truly heroic character. Whether you want to be a beacon of justice or a relentless avenger, this book has you covered.

2. Divine Might: Building a Powerful Paladin in D&D 5e

Explore the mechanics behind the paladin class with detailed explanations of abilities, feats, and multiclassing options. The book provides optimized builds for different playstyles, from tanky protectors to damage-dealing crusaders. It also includes advice on how to maximize your paladin's divine smite and aura benefits.

3. Oaths and Honor: Roleplaying the Paladin in D&D 5e

Focusing on the narrative aspect, this guide helps players immerse themselves in the paladin's code of conduct and moral dilemmas. It offers character background ideas, oath-specific roleplaying hooks, and suggestions for interacting with party members and NPCs. Ideal for players who want their paladin to shine in story-driven campaigns.

4. The Paladin's Spellbook: Essential Magic for D&D 5e

This book breaks down the best spells available to paladins, explaining their tactical uses and synergy with class features. From healing and protection to offensive magic, it helps players decide which spells fit their character's theme and combat role. It includes sample spell loadouts for different paladin archetypes.

5. Shield of Faith: Defensive Tactics for D&D 5e Paladins

Learn how to be the ultimate frontline defender with strategies focused on positioning, tanking, and protecting allies. The guide covers equipment choices, defensive spells, and teamwork techniques to keep your party safe. It also addresses common challenges paladins face in combat and how to overcome them.

6. Smite and Strike: Combat Techniques for D&D 5e Paladins

This book emphasizes offensive combat tactics, detailing how to maximize damage output through smites, critical hits, and weapon choices. It includes advice on fighting styles, multiclass synergies, and

enemy-specific strategies. Perfect for paladins who want to lead the charge with devastating attacks.

7. Divine Auras: Leveraging Paladin Support Abilities in D&D 5e

Discover how to use your paladin's auras and supportive abilities to enhance your party's effectiveness in and out of combat. The book explains the mechanics behind each aura and offers tips on positioning and timing. It also discusses how to combine aura effects with other class features and spells.

8. Sacred Symbols: Crafting a Paladin's Identity in D&D 5e

This guide helps players create compelling paladin characters by exploring their faith, symbols, and personal codes. It includes advice on selecting a deity or philosophy, designing unique heraldry, and integrating backstory with the game world. Ideal for players who want to deepen their character's thematic resonance.

9. The Paladin's Journey: Campaign and Adventure Ideas for D&D 5e

Packed with story hooks, quest ideas, and campaign frameworks centered around paladins, this book is perfect for both players and Dungeon Masters. It offers scenarios that challenge a paladin's beliefs and test their resolve, providing rich opportunities for character growth. Great for inspiring memorable adventures focused on honor and valor.

D D 5e Paladin Guide

D D 5e Paladin Guide

Related Articles

- [d&d dungeons master guide](#)
- [cycle science lower hutt](#)
- [d2d meaning in business](#)

[Back to Home](#)