

# The Sword of the Spirit

**Summer Key Passage:** "Put on the full armor of God... so that you can stand strong." Ephesians 6:13 (paraphrased)

**Today's Story Point:** God's Word gives us strength.

**Today's Bible Passage:** "Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" Eph. 6:17b (NIV)

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## BEFORE THE SERVICE:

- Be sure the music is playing as kids arrive.
- Set out today's Coloring Page and some crayons at the tables.
- Review the activities to make sure you're prepared for the day.

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## LEADER PREP:

*The old saying "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me" has been proved wrong time and again. Words are powerful. They can hurt, heal, dampen spirits, or encourage the heart.*

*God's Word is powerful as well. According to 1 Timothy 3:16, the Bible has the power to teach, rebuke, correct, and train in righteousness. God's Word has so much strength that it's referred to as a sword. This journey helps children realize the strength that can be found in the Word of God. When children hide this Word in their hearts, they're defending themselves against attacks and strengthening their faith.*

## WELCOME:

- Greet kids at the door, take their temperature, and then add their names to the Check-in Sheet.
- Have a few bins of toys out for kids to play as they enter the room
- Feel free to play music on the TV as kids are playing if you'd like.

Coloring page NO PREP	The Power of Words NO PREP
<p>Give each child a copy of the "God's Word is my Sword" handout. Allow children to color the sword picture. While they're coloring, talk to them about swords, what they are used for, and how they are constructed. Be sure to read below to tie the sword into today's story.</p> <p><b>SAY</b> • The Bible says that today's armor, the sword of the Spirit, is the Word of God, the Bible. Maybe that's because a sword is sharp and strong. That certainly</p>	<p><b>SAY</b> • Words can make us happy, or they can make us sad. I am going to read a list of words to you. As I say each word, think of how it makes you feel, or how it would make you feel if someone called you this word. If it makes you feel weak or sad, slump down or get close to the floor. If it makes you feel happy and strong, stand tall and flex your muscles.</p> <p><i>Read the following words to the group:</i> Happy, sad, beautiful, angry, hurt, love, smart</p>

describes God's Word! Today we will learn that **God's Word gives us strength.**

**SAY** • Words have power to tear us down or build us up. But the most important words of ALL the words are the ones God gave us in the Bible. The Bible is like a letter from God to us. The words of the Bible are powerful, and they're not meant to discourage us or hurt us. Instead, **God's Word gives us strength.**

## LARGE GROUP TIME

### WORSHIP TIME:

Choose 2-3 songs to play on the TV. Invite the kids to stand and sing, and if you know the motions you can do them with the kids. When worship is done, have them sit back down on their circle dot.

### TELL THE STORY:

*Tell the children to sit cross-legged and listen quietly as you read today's story.*

Say the Bible is God's words. Open your Bible and tell the story.

**SAY** • The sword of the Spirit is a weapon. it is the Bible, the Word of God! The Bible is an important, true book and it is God's actual words. We need to learn and study it so we can learn more about Him. Today we will hear the story of Peter and John before the Sanhedrin to see how the sword of the Spirit gave them strength to speak the right words.

### **Standing Before the Sanhedrin**

Acts 4:1-20

Our story today begins with two men who just did something incredible! John and Peter had just healed a crippled man outside the temple. All they had to do was to speak in Jesus' name and the man was healed! Those were some words of strength! They told everyone who saw what happened that it wasn't their own power that had healed the man; it was the power of Jesus working through them. The Holy Spirit gave them power. Everyone who saw it was amazed, and many people started to believe in Jesus as a result.

Well, that didn't sit too well with the rulers. The rulers did not like them teaching about Jesus, so Paul and John were put in prison until the next day. The next day they were taken to the Sanhedrin, which was like a court. They were asked to explain how they healed the crippled man and when they did, the rulers ordered them to never, ever speak of Jesus again.

But Peter and John could not obey the rulers. They said, "Should we listen to you? Or should we listen to God? We have to speak about the things we've seen and heard!!!"

Peter and John knew that it was through the power of Jesus that they had healed the crippled man. They may have been scared when they were arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin. But they told about Jesus boldly and with strength. The Bible tells us that they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and that's why they were able to be so brave and bold. They used the sword of the Spirit to defend themselves in court, and the Holy Spirit gave them the words to say and the courage to say them. **God's word gives us strength too.**

## REPEAT THE MEMORY PASSAGE:

If you would like, create simple hand motions for words of the summer key passage. Invite the children to repeat the motions as you say the key passage.

## PRAYER:

**SAY** • Let's close our eyes to pray. Why do we pray? *(Answer: To open our hearts to God and talk to Him!)* Remind the children that we can talk to God anytime and anywhere because He cares for us. Invite them to take turns talking to God. Ask the children to close their eyes, fold their hands and bow their heads and then lead your group in prayer.



## ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to do with the class for the rest of the service.

<b>My Sword</b> EASY PREP	<b>Cut Through the Lies</b> EASY PREP
<p>Give each child a copy of the sword of the Spirit printed on cardstock. Instruct the children to wrap or glue pieces of aluminum foil on the sword of the Spirit to make it look like a real sword.</p> <p><b>SAY</b> • Words have strength and power. The most powerful and important are the words in the Bible. <b>When you need the strength you can find it in God's word.</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this activity is for children to see that we can use God's Word to "cut through" the lies and see the Truth. To prepare, you will need a stick of some sort (a bat, a stick, a pool noodle, or rolled up newspaper). The stick represents the sword, the Bible. There will also be some cups with lies written on them (Such as, "God won't forgive you for that," "you won't really get in trouble for stealing," etc.) Place the "truths" underneath the upside down cups (do your best to not let the kids see you do this).</p> <p>Taking turns, kids will swing at the paper cups. When they knock over each cup, the truth will be revealed underneath. Have them read the truth out loud to the entire group.</p> <p><b>SAY</b> • The sword of the Spirit is the Word of God, the Bible. This is not a piece of armor that we put on and wear, but is one that we must keep sharp and use in the battle against Satan and his lies.</p>

## DISMISSAL

- As parents begin to arrive, open the door and have one leader stand just inside the classroom door with the attendance sheet.
- Take the parent's security sticker and call for their child to be brought to the door.
- Check to make sure the security codes match and remove the sticker from the child's back.
- Carefully hand the child to their parent, along with their diaper bags if they brought one, and thank them for coming to Loop Kids today!

Note: If a parent lost their security sticker, send them to the check-in desk for approval. Never allow a child to go to a parent unless they have the security stickers.

## LOOP KIDS LEADER CLEANING GUIDELINES

Immediately after each service, please do the following:

- Please spray and wipe down the following areas.
  - Door knobs (both sides), Light switches, Hand Sanitizer Dispenser, Remote Controls,
  - Tables and Chairs (spray and let air dry)
  - Large Stationary items like Play Structures, Train Tables, Baby Swings or Changing Tables (spray and let air dry)
  - Any other surfaces touched during the service.
- Please put all toys that were used in your service in the same bin that you got them from (9am service toys back in 9am service bins, etc). If you noticed a child with a toy in their mouth during the service, please place it in the dirty bin for extra cleaning.