

# The Sword of the Spirit

## Summer Key Passage:

"Therefore put on the full armor of God,  
so that when the day of evil comes,  
you may be able to stand your ground,  
and after you have done everything, to stand."

Ephesians 6:13 (NIV)

## 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"

Ephesians 6:17b (NIV)

## 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 TIME:

- 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.

The Power of Words NO PREP	Cut Through the Lies EASY PREP
<p><b>SAY</b> • Words can make us strong, or they can make us weak. 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 hurt, slump down or get close to the floor. If it makes you feel good and strong, stand tall and flex your muscles.</p> <p><i>Read the following words to the group:</i> Hate, beautiful, love, anger, ugly, important, worthless, special, friend, stupid, smart.</p> <p><b>SAY</b> • 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, <b>God's Word gives us strength.</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>

## 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.

### TRANSITION TO THE STORY:

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible story time, flip off the lights or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Ask all children to sit down on the rug and remind them to listen quietly during the Bible story.

### BIBLE STORY:

#### **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.**

### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- What is the piece of armor we are talking about today? *The sword of the Spirit*
- What is the Sword of the Spirit? *The Word of God, the Bible*
- Why is it important to read the Bible? *To learn about God and to grow closer to Him*
- When do you read your Bible?
- How do you feel after you read your Bible?
- Teachers can share their personal experience or habits in reading the Bible. Encourage kids to read God's Word so they can have strength to live for God.

### SUMMER KEY PASSAGE:

Read the key passage aloud. Invite a few volunteers to stand, face the group and say the key passage from memory to their friends. Offer help as needed and praise a child's efforts.

### CLOSING PRAYER:

Gather kids in a circle on the floor. Ask them to think of a time or instance when they need God's strength.

**SAY** • Let's take time to talk to God and tell Him how much we appreciate His Word and ask Him to help us use the sword of the Spirit, the bible, when we need strength ( allow children to each pray



## REVIEW ACTIVITY

God's Word is My Sword EASY PREP	The Armor of God Review NO PREP
Give each child a copy of the "God's Word is My Sword" handout. Set out Bibles, pens, aluminum foil and glue sticks for kids to use.	<b>SAY</b> • The sword of the Spirit is the final piece of our Armor, so let's review all the pieces of armor; what they are and how we can use them to stand strong and protected as we live for Jesus.

<p>Allow children to cut or tear foil and glue it over the blade to make it look like metal. Then have kids each look up and write a favorite Bible verse on the handle of their swords. Tell kids to choose a verse that will help them have strength in a difficult situation.</p> <p><b>SAY</b> • Remember what we talked about in the first activity today? Words have strength and power - and the most powerful words of all are the words found in the Bible. <b>The Bible, God's Word, gives us strength.</b> When you need strength, you can find it in God's word.</p>	<p><i>Pass out a review sheet to each kid. Have kids draw a line from each element of the Armor of God to the correct part of the body where it is worn. As they are doing this, briefly review each element and what each piece of armor is.</i></p>
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## TRANSITION AND DISMISSAL:

Preschoolers may play until their parents come to pick them up. If they start getting restless, organize a group game to help manage the classroom.

### CHECKOUT PROCEDURE:

- 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 loudly for the child to come.
- While you wait for the child to come, tell the parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the service and distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.
- Before you let the child leave the classroom, look to see that the parent and child security codes match and remove the sticker from the child's shirt as they leave.

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 sticker.

### 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.