

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

God's Word is My Sword EASY PREP	The Power of Words NO PREP
<p>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.</p> <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>SAY • 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. The Bible, God's Word, gives us strength. When you need the strength, you can find it in God's word.</p>	<p>SAY • 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>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.</p> <p><i>Have kids form pairs, and give each pair a Bible. Have them read Ephesians 6:17 together.</i></p> <p>ASK THE GROUP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the sword of the Spirit? • Why do you think the bible calls the Word of God a sword? <p>SAY • The Bible says the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. Maybe that's because a sword is sharp and strong. That certainly describes the Word of God!</p>

LARGE GROUP TIME

WORSHIP:

Choose 3 to 4 songs to sing today. Encourage leaders to participate by doing the hand motions!

SUMMER KEY PASSAGE:

Show the summer key passage and read it aloud it with the kids. Remind them that they have the entire summer to learn this verse, and that if it doesn't make sense now, to keep coming back to learn what the armor of God is all about!



SUMMER MEMORY VERSE

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)

BIBLE STORY:

Standing before the Sanhedrin

Kids will act out the story of Peter and John before the Sanhedrin to see how the sword of the Spirit gave them strength. Have kids pair up or get in small groups with a Bible. Have them turn to Acts 4:1-20.

SAY • Alright, so we are jumping into a story in the middle of the action, so let me set you up to know what is going on. Right before the action in this story takes place, John and Peter had just healed a crippled man outside the temple. All they had to do was speak 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. They arrested John and Peter and brought them before the Sanhedrin, which was kind of like a court. Let's find out what happened!

"You Said It" Script

Give kids several minutes to read the Bible passage in their pairs so they know what happens in the story. Then choose children to be John, Peter, and the healed man. Have the rest of the class be members of the Sanhedrin. Give each person or group a copy of the "You Said It!" script and let kids read over their lines. Explain that members of each group will speak their lines in unison, then act out their part of the story. So for example, all members of the Sanhedrin will say their lines together, then act out their part of the story.

Say that since the script is like a rap, you'll need a beat to go with the words. Explain that as each group speaks its lines, members of the other groups should quietly make percussion noises to accompany their words. Kids can slap their thighs, clap their hands, and make drum noises with their mouths. Go quickly through the script once to give kids an idea of how to act out their part of the story and how to make percussion noises while other groups speak. Then have kids perform the script the best they can.

After the performance, lead kids in a round of applause for everyone's participation.

ASK THE GROUP:

- Why do you think the Sanhedrin wanted Peter and John to be quiet?
- Why were their words considered so dangerous by the Sanhedrin?
- Why do you think Peter and John were able to be so bold before the Sanhedrin?

SAY • 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.** We will dig into this a bit deeper in our small groups, but let's close to pray first.

Close in prayer.

REVIEW ACTIVITY & PRAYER

Strong Swords EASY PREP	The Armor of God Review NO PREP
<p>Have children pair up and get a Bible. Assign each pair one of the verses from below, and have the partners read the verse together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Psalms 119:105 - Hebrews 4:12 - James 1:22-25 - Deuteronomy 8:3 - Jeremiah 23:29 <p><i>After pairs have read their verses, hand each pair a hunk of modeling clay.</i></p> <p>SAY • Now use your modeling clay to make an object to represent what your verse says about God’s Word.</p> <p><i>Allow children a few minutes to work together with their dough. Then have each pair tell what object they made and how this represents God’s Word.</i></p> <p>ASK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How does this item you created give us strength? ● How does this item you created help us? ● From these examples, what can we learn from God’s Word? <p>SAY • God’s Word gives us strength. The powerful words God gives us in the Bible help us make good decisions, they help us get closer to God, and they help us know how to treat others. They can encourage us and even be like food to us because they give us strength.</p>	<p>SAY • 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> <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>

CHECKOUT PROCEDURE:

- As parents begin to arrive, open the door and have one leader stand just outside 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 Service Lead to receive a temporary sticker; never allow a child to go to a parent unless they have the security sticker.

LOOP KIDS LEADER CLEANING GUIDELINES

Immediately after each service, clean the classrooms according to the posted cleaning guidelines.