



## Lesson 6: The Sword of the Spirit

**Main Idea:** God's Word, the Bible, serves as our offensive weapon against the enemy, guiding us through life's difficulties.

**Scriptures:** Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12, John 20:1-18

**Gospel Connection:** The Sword of the Spirit, God's Word, teaches us about Jesus' life, deepens our understanding of His love, and equips us to face life's challenges with His teachings.

**Bible focus:** Hebrews 4:12- "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

### Welcome and Icebreaker (5 -10 min)

*Bible Sword drill-In this game, players hold their Bibles closed on their heads. When the leader calls out a book, chapter, and verse, the leader yells "Go!" and players race to flip through their Bibles and find the passage first. The first person to locate the verse stands up and reads it out loud. [1]*

Good morning, It's been an incredible journey learning about the Armour of God, and today, we are diving into our final piece – But first lets recap. OK so we have learned about the **belt of truth** that helps us identify lies, the **breastplate of righteousness**, that protects our heart from sin, the **boots of of the gospel of peace-** that helps us to be ready to share the good news, about Jesus, **the shield of faith**, where our faith in Jesus acts as a shield, protecting us from fear and doubt, and The **Helmet of Salvation**, which protects our minds and thoughts reminding us that we belong to Jesus. This week we will be adding a piece of armour to our set. Can I have a drumroll please..... The Sword of the Spirit. This isn't just any sword; it's the very Word of God that we can use to face any challenges that come our way.

But before we get into that we are going to play: Bible Sword drill-In this game, players hold their Bibles closed on their heads. When the leader calls out a book, chapter, and verse, the leader yells "Go!" and players race to flip through their Bibles and find the passage first. The first person to locate the verse stands up and reads it out loud.

\*The whole group can play.  
Search the following verses:  
Ephesians 6:17  
Matthew 4:3  
Hebrews 4:12  
Isaiah 40:8

John 20:1  
2 Timothy 3: 16-17

\*The person who finds it first the most, can get a prize.

**Debrief:** I have a question for you that we are going to use later on in the lesson. I want everyone to write their answer on a post it for later in the lesson: 'Why is it important to read your bible?'

## Open in Prayer (2-3 min)

*Ad lib. Thank God for who He is and welcome Him to your time together. Thank Him for giving us armour and helping us to stand strong. Ask Him to open your hearts as you read and study His word.*

## OBJECT LESSON: God's word has power

### Bible Story (Hebrews 4:12)

**ONE80 MC:** Today, we are going to focus on a couple of scriptures to help us wrap up this series.

**ONE80 MC:** Ephesians 6:13-17, "Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"

This is our last piece of armour, but actually it isn't armour, is it? It's a **weapon!** Armor is all about defence, it's protecting you from something. Football players wear pads and helmets to protect their bodies during the game. But a sword? A sword doesn't protect, it attacks! It's a weapon! And what exactly is the sword of the spirit? It says it in verse 17: "the word of God". Which is what? The Bible! God's Word!

Earlier on we asked a questions: "Why is it important to read your Bible?". Let's go over some of your answers (review their written answers). The Bible is an important, true book and it's God's actual words. We need to learn and study it, so we can learn more about Him.

We read these verses in our ice-breaker this morning but I'm going to quickly go over it.

**Read: 2 Timothy 3: 16-17:** “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

The Bible can do it all: teach, correct, and train so we can be ready for everything. This is our “how-to” to be a Christian. It helps us to care for others, how to love them and even tell them about Jesus.

**Read Hebrews 4:12,** “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” The Bible is one serious weapon! I wouldn’t want to have a sword like that pointed at me. This verse says the Bible is, “living and active”. This is the remarkable thing about the bible: it is as helpful and can be applied to my life today as it was when it was written. And it will be helpful and applicable 100 years from now, even thousands of years from now. And it has the power the change hearts.

**Read Isaiah 40:8** “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.” Why wouldn’t we want to learn all about a book that will be around forever?!

We need God’s word every day. Remember the story In Matthew 4, that we learnt about a few weeks ago- Jesus is out in the desert being tempted by satan? He hadn’t eaten for 40 days or nights. That’s a really long time to go without food. Most of you are dying for something to eat after 4 hours, but 40 days!? You won’t believe how satan tempts him.

**Read in Matthew 4:3,** “And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4 But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”” Jesus was not going to be tempted by satan no matter how hungry He was, but pay attention to what Jesus says at the end “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God”. Obviously we need food to survive, but Jesus is saying we need God’s word, the Bible as well. We need to read the Bible, study it, focus on it, in order to live—to live as a follower of God.

The sword of the spirit is an important weapon for life. It helps us be fully prepared for the battle we face everyday against sin. Even if we are fully dressed in the armour of God, but we forget our sword, we’ll be running away from the fight fast! We have to know God’s word and how to use it. Let’s pray and head to small groups so we can talk more about using the sword of the spirit.

PRAY

## Snack Time

Something YUM

# Small Group Discussion

(Split into 2 groups- preferably boys and girls if numbers allow, and find a quiet space where you can be real) Remember to pass an object around and give each member an opportunity to talk.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. After our study, why do you think that you should read the bible -personally.
2. If the bible is a sword, and you can use it as a weapon, what kind of situations could you use it to fight.
3. What can you do to use this 'sword' effectively i.e how can you get to know the word of God better- what can you put in place this week.
4. Having learnt about the armour of God, which piece of armour would you most like to focus on applying in your daily life and why?

## **Prayer Requests:**

\*Allow time for children to share- and jot down their requests. Make sure each child's request is prayed for. Ask kids if there is someone they know that doesn't know about Jesus that we can pray for. As a volunteer you can lead this prayer time by asking specific children to pray for specific requests, break into pairs and pray for each other or you can pray corporately- however you feel led.

## **Let's pray together.**

Dear Lord, we thank you for giving us your Word, the Sword of the Spirit, to guide us and protect us. We ask for your help in understanding and applying your teachings in our everyday lives. Please hear our prayer requests and guide us according to your will. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.

## **Reflection Time (5min)**

Ask children to find a space where they can be alone and focus on Jesus. Use the reflection sheets to spend time praying and reflecting. The facilitator will let you know when time is up.

## **Wrap up and take home challenge**

For this series we will be adding to the memory verse each week. Each week you can remember it, you will receive a prize.

### **Challenge:**

Memory verse scramble:

Ephesians 6:10-17 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armour 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. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

\*Prizes in the tote for those that can correctly unscramble it