



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

The Bible helps us to fight temptation.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will commit to reading the Bible every day this week.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 4:1-13, The Temptation of Jesus

MEMORY VERSE:

"So put on all of God's armor. Evil days will come. But you will be able to stand up to anything. And after you have done everything you can, you will still be standing."
Ephesians 6:13 (NirV)

Try saying the verse several times as fast as you can. Then try to say it as sloooooow as possible.

SUMMARY:

Whether it's a sword or a bazooka, a soldier relies on his weapons to fight and win the battle. When we fill our minds and hearts with the Word of God – the sword of the Spirit – we can overcome any challenge or temptation.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the Bible.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



EASY AT HOME OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A video game controller

A book of video game cheat codes

How many of you go home after school and do battle using a controller like this one? This controller is your ticket to a world of challenges. Depending on the game, this controller gives you access to swords, arrows, guns, bombs, fireballs, and all sorts of firepower. It's the weapon of choice for the afternoon gamer who wants to blast alien ships or just stomp on a few mushrooms.

Now, how many of you have seen a book like this? This is a cheat book. It's filled with tips and codes that will help you skip your way through some of the toughest parts of video games. Yes, it's cheating to use these codes, but if your video game were a real-life battle, I think we can all agree these codes give us an advantage we'd all take.

The Bible is our cheat code book for battles of the spirit. The more we read the Bible, the more God fills our heart with his Spirit. The more we know, the better prepared we are to fight and win any battle we face.

Don't let your Bible sit on the shelf. Take it down and read it every day. It is the sword of the Spirit.



FAMILY GAME TIME

DUEL

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two identical Bibles

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose two players for this game. Give them each a Bible. In this game, you will have the players race to see who can find a Bible verse the fastest. When they find it, they must raise their hand and then read the verse. Best 3 out of 5 wins the game.

Suggested verses to use:

Hebrews 4:12

Psalm 119:105

Matthew 7:24

James 1:22

Isaiah 40:8

WHAT'S THE POINT?

The Bible is the sword of the Spirit.



FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

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INTRO:

Over the last couple of lessons, we've assembled an impressive suit of armor. We started with the belt of truth and added the breastplate of righteousness. We had our feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace, and we put on the helmet of salvation. We even have the shield of faith to give us one more measure of defense against the spiritual attacks Paul warns us about.

This is all well and good, but there's one thing missing from our soldier's armor, isn't there? You don't send soldiers into battle with helmets, boots, body armor, and shields. You have to give a soldier something to fight with, and the armor of God includes a very powerful weapon.

Paul tells us we need the sword of the Spirit by our side. He says the sword of the Spirit is actually the Word of God, and that makes the Bibles we have in our homes and our church pews the weapon of choice for God's people. Paul's not the only Bible writer to describe the Bible as a sword either. In Hebrews 4:12, we read this:

READ HEBREWS 4:12

The Bible is a powerful book and a powerful weapon. The Bible has all the offensive firepower we need to do battle with the enemy. When you are tempted, when you feel peer pressure to make the wrong choice, when your faith is challenged, the Bible can arm you with the right words to say to answer that challenge.

The Bible was Jesus' weapon of choice when he was tempted in the wilderness. Let's take a look at how Jesus used the Bible to defeat his enemy.

READ LUKE 4:1-13

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

MAIN POINT:

Three times the devil tempted Jesus. Three times the devil appealed to the human side of Jesus to try and get him to do something wrong. He appealed to Jesus' hunger. He appealed to his ego. He tried to persuade Jesus to turn against his father and follow him.

Three times Jesus struck back. He didn't strike with a real sword, but the sword of the Spirit. Jesus had an answer for each temptation. He knew the scriptures well enough to refute the devil's ploys. Jesus used the Bible to fight his enemy, and Jesus won.

The Bible is the ideal weapon to fight sin and temptation. It teaches us to choose God's way and say no to sin. Paul tells us to take up the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, so we can fight and defeat our enemy.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Having a sword is important if you're heading into battle. Without that sword by your side, you really have nothing to fight with. But having the sword is only part of the preparation for war. If you want to defeat your enemy, what should you be doing before you ever leave for the battle-field?

You need to practice with it!

Every great swordsman - from the knights of old, to the ninjas of the Far East, to the fictitious Jedi of the Star Wars movies - they all have one thing in common: they practice. They spar with their fellow warriors. They do drills and exercises that help them sharpen their skills with their weapon. No soldier can win a battle if the first time they touch their sword is the moment they are attacked. We must prepare to fight if we want to win.

The Bible is our sword, and it's a sword we must practice using. There's no better practice than sitting down, opening the book, and reading. The more we read, the more we are filled with God's wisdom and knowledge. That is how we prepare to use God's Word.

God's Word should be read every day. It should be studied alone and with friends. It should be memorized, which is why we do memory verses with all our lessons. The more we can fill our hearts and minds with these words, the better prepared we will be to face and defeat our enemies.

The Bible is the sword of the Spirit. Prepare yourself for battle by reading it every day!

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the Bible.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER:

If you had a lightsaber, what color would it be?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Luke 4:1-13

Who tried to tempt Jesus?

What temptations did he offer Jesus?

How did Jesus respond to his temptations?

What is the sword of the Spirit?

Can all of you take some time each day this week to read the Bible with your Mom or Dad?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to learn your Word and place it in our hearts.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



LESSON REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

The sword of the Spirit is the Bible.

TRUE

Jesus was tempted three times in the wilderness.

TRUE

Jesus defeated Satan with a real sword.

FALSE

Jesus defeated Satan with Bible verses.

TRUE

We don't need to study the Bible to use it well against temptation.

FALSE



CRAFT ACTIVITY

For this lesson, create a template for the sword that the kids will cut out for their soldier. Have the kids trace and cut out their sword and write “spirit” on them. Let them color and decorate the sword as they see it. You can also use the included template.



ARMOR OF GOD

