The Sword of the Spirit
(Ephesians 6:17b)

Pre-Session Warm Up

If you were going hiking in a new place would it be important to take a guidebook with you that had some good maps in it? (Yes!) What other sorts of guidebooks do you need in life? [Teacher, help the children discuss different types of guides, such as road maps, travel brochures, auto repair manual, cook books, etc.] Can a guidebook ever be wrong? (Yes!) What if the guidebook told you to take the wrong hiking trail or forgot to mention that you need to put eggs in the cake mix. Would you ever use that book again? Would you ever recommend it to others?

This morning we are going to find out about a guidebook that you can always trust. It gives you all the information you will ever need for living a truly good life. Can anyone guess what guidebook I’m talking about? (The Bible)

Opening Prayer

Lord, we want to thank You for giving us the Bible. We call it the Word of God, because You, by the power of the Holy Spirit, inspired men to write down Your thoughts about how we should live our lives, holy and set apart for You. Give us a desire in our hearts to read and study Your word and to memorize it so that we might be able to use it out on the battle field with Satan and his demons. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen

Memory Verse

“And take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”
(Ephesians 6:17b)

Lesson

What sorts of weapons do soldiers use in war? [Teacher, let the children respond.] The past few weeks we’ve been studying the pieces of a Roman soldier’s armor and how they relate to our spiritual walk with Jesus. What sort of weapons did the Roman soldier use? How do you think that relates to the spiritual weapons God has given us to fight against Satan and his demons?

Today we are going to discover that the Bible is sharper than any two-edged sword.

Let’s begin by reading Ephesians 6:10-13

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
(Ephesians 6:10-13)

In battle, it was important for a Roman soldier to be properly dressed. He needed armor as a suit of protection. And, in the same way, God has provided every Christian with a suit of protection. Although you cannot see the armor God has given to protect you, we use the pieces of a Roman soldier’s armor to remind us of the weapons God has given us in our fight against Satan.

Let’s review the pieces of the spiritual armor that we’ve learned about so far and how we put them on.
Look at our soldier. So far we've learned about all the pieces of his armor that he puts on. But, what is he missing? A soldier, even when he has his protective armor on, is not ready for battle until he has his weapon. He must take his sword along. All the other pieces of the armor are what we call "defensive" weapons — used as protection from enemy attacks. The sword is an "offensive" weapon — used to attack the enemy.

Let's give him that today. We Christians call it the Sword of the Spirit.

Read Ephesians 6:17b,

“And take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

With our armor on, we're ready to pick up our swords and go into battle. Our sword isn't made out of sharp steel because we're not fighting against flesh and blood. We're fighting a spiritual battle — one that can only be won in God's power.

Our sword is the Word of God. This sword is different from metal swords. The more you use a steel sword, the duller it gets. But the more you use God's word in the battle of life, the sharper and more effective it becomes.

Hebrews 4:12 says,

“whatever God says to us is full of living power; it is sharper than the sharpest dagger, cutting swift and deep into our innermost thoughts and desires...exposing us for what we really are.” (TLB)

2 Timothy 3:16 says,

“The whole Bible was given to us...from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives...” (TLB)

We should be learning verses from God's word so the Holy Spirit can bring them back to our memory when we are tempted to do wrong. Each verse that you put into practice is a powerful weapon that God can use to attack Satan and put him on the run.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verse</th>
<th>Piece of Armor</th>
<th>How You Put it On</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 14    | Belt of Truth  | 1. By learning as much as we can of the Bible's truths  
 |       |                | 2. By always being truthful in everything we do       |
| 14    | Breastplate of Righteousness | By choosing to do the right things... things God approves of |
| 15    | Gospel of Peace Shoes | 1. By making peace with God by receiving His gift of salvation  
 |       |                | 2. By making peace with others by forgiving them as God has forgiven you |
| 16    | Shield of Faith | By believing and trusting in God's promises |
| 17    | Helmet of Salvation | By guarding the thoughts that come into your mind |

Remember that our battle with Satan takes place in our minds — in our thought lives. A Christian's warfare is against more than natural temptations. There are powers in the unseen world against which we are powerless except through the help of Jesus. Truth, Righteousness, Peace, Faith, and Salvation are the weapons that ward off the darts of the unseen enemy.

Do you see how remembering God's promises helps in our fight against Satan?
The Bible is the only guide that never fails.

Just as a Roman soldier would not venture away without his sword, so we ought not go anywhere without our "swords" so we're prepared to talk to others about Jesus. But just having a Bible along isn't enough. You need to learn how to use it and where to find things you might want to know.

[Teacher, show the children how to use the Table of Contents in the Bible and explain the chapter/verse numbering system. Then have some "sword drills." ]

The first one to find the following verses gets a piece of candy.
[Teacher, wait for all the children to find the verse, then read and discuss it.]

1. Ephesians 4:25 (Do not lie)
2. Hebrews 13:6 (Don’t be afraid)
3. Ephesians 6:1 (Obey your parents)
4. Romans 12:17 (Don’t repay evil for evil)
5. Ephesians 4:29 (Do not say dirty things)
6. Psalm 46:1 (Call on God in time of trouble)
7. 1 John 1:9 (Confess yours sins)
8. Ephesians 4:28 (Do not steal)
9. Hebrews 13:5 (Don’t feel lonely)

See how helpful the word of God is? Make it a habit to take your "sword" along with you wherever you go. You’re going to need it!

**Closing Prayer**

Lord, it’s great that You’ve given us all the pieces of the armor to protect our heads, our hearts, and our whole body. But, we want to especially thank You for also giving us Your word. You knew that we needed it so that we would know how to live a truly good life. Give us a desire in our hearts to read and study Your word and to memorize it so that we might be able to use it out on the battlefield with Satan and his demons. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.

**Learning Activities**

**Craft Corner**

Let the children make swords using the pattern that follows or send it home as a “take home” paper.

**Game Center**

Let the children work on the Sword of the Spirit word search, or send it home as a “take home” paper.

*Armor of God Bingo.* Make Bingo cards using the following words:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Armor</th>
<th>Be Ready</th>
<th>Belt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breastplate</td>
<td>Devil</td>
<td>Doubt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evil</td>
<td>Faith</td>
<td>Fiery Dart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gospel</td>
<td>Helmet</td>
<td>Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>Righteousness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvation</td>
<td>Satan</td>
<td>Shield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoes</td>
<td>Spirit</td>
<td>Spiritual Warfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stand</td>
<td>Sword</td>
<td>Temptation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Truth</th>
<th>Victory</th>
<th>Watch Out</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wickedness</td>
<td>Word of God</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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