**Week 6: Sword of the Spirit**

**Memory Verse:** No Memory Verse

**Lessons for the week:**
Monday: No Lesson – Back to School Night  
Tuesday: Sword of the Spirit  
Wednesday: Temptation of Jesus – Matthew  
Thursday: No Lesson – Reward Field Trip

**Tuesday and Wednesday Schedule**

10am – Big Assembly (led by interns)

10:30-11:45 – Reading Class (taught by reading teachers)

11:45-12:30 – Lunch

12:30-12:45 – Large Group Bible Lesson *(led by youth groups!)*

12:45-1:00 – Small Group Review Time (led by interns)

1:00-2:00 - Rotations *(led by youth groups!)*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Red, Purple, and Green Rotation Schedule (K, 1st, and 2nd grade)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00-1:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory Verse 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orange, Blue, and Yellow Rotation Schedule (3rd, 4th, and 5th grade)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00-1:20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craft 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Game 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memory Verse 2</td>
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</tbody>
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2:00 – Ticket Time
Monday, July 25th

Back to School Night! – This is a night wherein two area churches take all of our children back-to-school shopping. It is a great blessing, and a day the kids look forward to all summer. In the past, we have had a regular day of VBS starting at 10am, then watched a movie in the afternoon, and then gone shopping. It has been an exhausting day for our children, interns, and staff.

So we are trying something new this year! We will pick up the children around 2pm on our normal routes, have an activity or field trip in the afternoon, and then go school-supply shopping at 6pm. So there will be no regular VBS on this day.

As the summer approaches we will give you more information about what to expect this day.
Tuesday, July 26th

Major Point: The sword of the spirit is the word of God – it is the only offensive weapon God has given us. God’s Word is a SWORD and that when we read it we often CUT through our hearts and that is what makes us CHANGE and live the way GOD wants us to live.

Large Group Bible Lesson (15 minutes): Spend 15 minutes teaching the children about the faith. You can do a skit, act, show a video, etc. You only have to tell the story once, so go all-out here and be creative! Below are some ideas to get you started:

- Skit idea from http://www.street.ns.ca/armor7.htm: The cook comes out to tell the king about the wonderful cookies he is going to prepare. He then brings out a dictionary he is going to use to learn to make them. The king informs him that a dictionary will not help him. He then goes out and comes out with a phone book; then an encyclopedia and a story book. Each of these the king rejects as being useless to help you make cookies. All books have a function and to cook you need a cook book. The cook then brings out his cook book. He reads the recipe once and then tosses it aside to go off and bake the cookies. The king stops him and asks him if he is forgetting his cook book. He informs the king that he read it once and that is enough and goes off to bake the cookies. He comes back in the room with a plate of really gross looking cookies. The king samples the cookies and starts to choke and cough and carry on about how awful the cookies are. (Allow a child to sample the terrible cookies.) The king asks if he is sure he followed the recipe. He stutters about and says that he thought he did, but, well, maybe he forgot something. They get the cook book out and review what was put in the cookies only to discover he forgot the sugar. The king can explain that we have cook books to guide us while we cook. Looking at a recipe once isn’t usually enough to know the recipe. We need to memorize the recipe before we try to make it without looking.

That can remind the king of how the Bible is our guide. We need to memorize it and hide it in our hearts. Some people think it is enough just to read the bible once. We may not always have a bible handy so it helps if we memorize God’s word. We can use God’s word to defeat Satan when he attacks us. The king calls for the court jester to come and tell a story about using God’s word as a weapon against Satan.

Rotations:

Craft (20 minutes): You can do the same craft in both craft room 1 and craft room 2 or have a different, more ag- appropriate craft in each room. Below are some ideas:

- Print this template (https://craftingthewordofgod.files.wordpress.com/2013/06/real-sword-of-the-spirit.pdf) on card stock. Then have the children cut out and decorate their sword.
**Game (20 minutes):** You can do the same game in both game 1 and game 2 or have a different, more age-appropriate game in each room. Below are some ideas:

- Split the children into 2 teams and give each child a pool noodle to be their sword. Spread out balloons all over the room. When you say “go,” the children use their noodle (they can’t touch the balloon with their hands or feet – only the pool noodle) to try to get the balloons on the other team’s side. Whoever ends up with the most balloons on their side wins.

- This game has many variations. The purpose is for children to see that we use God’s Word to “cut through” the lies and see the Truth. To play, you will need a stick of some sort (or a few, depending on how many kids you have.) The stick could be a bat, a stick, a pool noodle, or rolled-up newspaper. The stick represents the sword, the Bible. Kids will swing at objects that have lies written on them. When they knock over the object, the truth will be revealed. For example: set up a number of cereal boxes with lies written on them. (For example, “God won’t forgive you for that,” “you won’t really get in trouble for stealing,” etc.) Inside the box, have a card with a Biblical truth that refutes that lie. You could also write lies on balloons and have the truth inside. Kids pop the balloons to find the truths. Or you could make piñatas out of paper lunch bags. Use your imagination and the supplies you have on hand for this game. To make this harder, have some truths mixed in with the lies, and the kids have to decide which is which. They knock down only the boxes with lies.

**Memory Verse/ Snack (20 minutes):**

- In order for the children to go on the Reward Field Trip on Thursday, they must be able to recite the 6 memory verses at once to a Director or Children’s Minister. Spend this time practicing all 6 verses with the children. Break up into small groups and have the children practice with their big buddies. You may need a quiet game or activity for the children who have already recited all 6 verses.
  - “It is better to be honest and poor than dishonest and rich” Proverbs 16:8 CEV
  - “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” Matthew 5:6
  - “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” Romans 10:15
  - “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” Hebrews 11:1
  - “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” John 3:16
  - “Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” – Ephesians 6: 14-17

- Snack: Pretzel Rod with a lifesaver gummy on the end to look like a sword
**Wednesday, July 27th**

**Major Point:** Jesus was able to fight off temptation from the devil because He used the sword of the Spirit (the Bible). He was tempted but He did not sin.

**Large Group Bible Lesson (15 minutes):** Start with a narrator carrying in a large beautifully wrapped box. Inside the box, place something worthless like a brick, rock, piece of wood, or nothing at all. Tell the children that the contents of the package are really special and valuable, and have the children try to guess the contents. Open the package and reveal the worthless contents. Explain to the children that today they are going to learn that this is what Satan does. He offers us something that looks really beautiful. He even lies about the contents, but once the paper is taken off, what he has offered is revealed to be completely worthless. He is a liar through and through. Next, have your teens reenact the scenes of Matthew 4:1-4. Help the children understand that Jesus was tempted, but he did not sin. He used the sword of the Spirit to resist temptation. We can use scripture we have learned this summer to resist the devil in our own lives.

**Rotations:**

**Craft (20 minutes):** You can do the same craft in both craft room 1 and craft room 2 or have a different, more age appropriate craft in each room. Below are some ideas:

- Use the template in the link below. Have the students drizzle some glue on the bear. Then use your cotton ball to evenly spread a thin coat of glue all over the bear only. Now pour 1/4 cup or so of sand over the glue. Then lift up paper over a bin to shake off the extra sand to save for another child. ([http://www.123homeschool4me.com/2015/06/jesus-tempted-in-desert.html](http://www.123homeschool4me.com/2015/06/jesus-tempted-in-desert.html))

  Template: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Byr_Cmyf5_RyeDdweGh1b1FFODA/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Byr_Cmyf5_RyeDdweGh1b1FFODA/view)

- Have the children cut out a red heart (you may want to pre-cut for the younger groups) then glue a Bible with pages in the middle of the heart (see picture). The children can write the memory verses they have learned this year in the Bible and write Psalm 19:11 on the outside. ([https://auntiesbiblelessons.wordpress.com/2011/08/25/temptation-of-christ/](https://auntiesbiblelessons.wordpress.com/2011/08/25/temptation-of-christ/))

**Game (20 minutes):** You can do the same game in both game 1 and game 2 or have a different, more age-appropriate game in each room. Below are some ideas:
• Use tape to draw 5 lines on the floor, each about 1 foot apart. Play a few jumping games. For example: While keeping their feet together have each child try to jump over the lines without touching them, next see how far each child can jump, then let the children try to hop over the lines on one foot. Say: “The last way that Satan tempted Jesus was by telling Him to jump off of a building and let the angels catch Him to prove that He is God’s son. Jesus could have done it, but He didn’t because he knew that it is wrong to tempt God. We jumped for fun, but Jesus had to make a big decision and He chose not to sin.”
• Play “Make Me Laugh.” One person is chosen to sit down and try not to laugh. Everyone else does silly things to try to get the person to laugh. No one can touch the person. If the person starts laughing, let someone else try. When you are ready to end the game, ask the students if it was difficult not to laugh when they really wanted to. Remind students that it is difficult to resist temptation, but with God’s help, we can do it.

Memory Verse/Snack (20 minutes):

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  o Snack: Donuts (The devil told Jesus to make bread out of rocks)
Thursday, July 28th

Reward All Day Field Trip – No VBS