



Zoom & In Person Community Group Lessons – June 15 & 26, 2022

Armor of God – The Sword of the Spirit

Main Point

- The last piece of armor is the word of the spirit. The sword is the word of God, the Bible. This is not a piece of armor we put on and wear, but one we must keep sharp and use daily. We must be “expert swordsmen!”

Scripture

- Ephesians 6:17
 - Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
- Hebrews 4:12
 - The word of God is alive and active. It is sharper than any sword that has two edges. It cuts deep enough to separate soul from spirit. It can separate bones from joints. It judges the thoughts and purposes of the heart.
- Matthew 6:33
 - But put God’s kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you.
- Matthew 4:1-11
 - Paraphrased below.

Prayer Time

- Spend a couple of minutes in praise and prayer to God.

Praise and Worship

- 10,000 Reasons - Matt Redman
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE_IRIOE
- Here I am to Worship – Chris Tomlin
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FaUTv1pXRyU>

Bible Verse Memorization


- Ephesians 6:11
 - “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”

Review of Last Week

- Last week, we learned about the helmet of salvation. As the helmet protects the head, our hope in salvation protects our minds from satan’s lies. We have to think about and be confident in the hope He gives us.

- Salvation is represented as a helmet because it protects our thinking. We are confident that we will spend forever in heaven because God has saved us through Jesus Christ. Sometimes when we sin, satan tries to convince us that God will no longer love us and that we are no longer saved. When satan tries to make us feel like we have lost, we need to remember that no matter what we do, after we put on the helmet of salvation, we are winners through Christ! Because with Jesus, we can WIN AGAINST SIN!
- Last week, did you talk to someone about Jesus being your forever friend? Is He already your forever friend and did you remember to thank Him this week and ask Him to help you to remember to obey Him?

Lesson

- Today, we will discuss the last piece of armor. So far, we have put on truth like a belt, righteousness like a breastplate, readiness like shoes, faith like a shield, and salvation like a helmet. What is the last piece of armor? – that’s right, the sword.
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- Who can tell me how a sword is different from the other pieces of armor we have been learning about? – A sword is not a piece of armor that we can put on and wear. A sword is a weapon that we use in battle against satan. What does the Bible say the sword is? Let’s look at Ephesians 6:17. This verse shows us that the sword we use is the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. What is the word of God? – the word of God is the Bible!
 - Why do you think Paul uses a sword to represent the Bible? Let’s read a Bible verse to find out.



- Hebrews 4:12 says, “For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.” A sharp sword can cut through just about anything. When we use the Bible as a sword, we are able to “cut through” the things the world tells us and get to the truth.
- Sometimes, TV shows, music, billboards, and people can tell us things that may sound really good, but when we compare it with the Bible, these things aren’t really any good at all! For example, sometimes we hear the message that the best thing in life is having lots of things and money. Satan tries to convince us that we need to work hard to get lots of money, but the Bible says, “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” (Matt 6:33).

- These verses show us that the most important thing in the world isn't money or stuff, but following God. Did you know that even Jesus used the word of God as a sword against Satan? Can anybody remember when?
- It's found in Matthew 4:1-11.



- After Jesus was baptized, he went out into the desert to pray. He stayed there a long time and got very hungry. He had not eaten anything because He was trying to listen to God and do what he said. I'm sure that his tummy must have been rumbling from hunger!

- Suddenly, the devil came along and said to Jesus, "There is no reason for you to be hungry. If you are the Son of God, you

could take one of these stones and turn it into bread." Jesus was hungry, it must have been tempting, but he did not listen to the devil. He knew that the devil was trying to get Him to do something wrong. Instead, Jesus answered the devil with Scripture. He said, "It is written: 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

- Next, the devil took Jesus to the holy city up to the highest part of the temple. "If you are the Son of God, jump off of here and God will send his angels to save you." Jesus knew that it was wrong to test God, so he answered the devil saying, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
- Finally, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain. He showed Jesus all the world below. "All of this can be yours. I will give it to you if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus answered, "Go away from me Satan! It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"
- Three times the devil tempted Jesus and tried to get him to sin. Did He? NO! Jesus did the right thing each time. He remembered what the Scriptures said and it helped him to resist the devil's temptation.
- Whenever Satan tempted Jesus to sin, Jesus fought back by quoting from the word of God.
- Jesus is the perfect example of a good swordsman. A good swordsman spends time practicing with His sword every day. He takes care to be sure His sword is always sharp.

- How do we keep our sword of the Spirit sharp? – by reading the Bible every day, and memorizing Scripture. With the help of Jesus, we can become expert swordsmen and we can WIN AGAINST SIN!



- We all face temptations, don't we? What are examples of some of the temptations you face? Here are a few ways I thought of that we may be tempted followed by a Bible verse that will help us resist that temptation.
 - Spreading gossip about someone you work with. (You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. Exodus 20:16)
 - Disobeying your parents. (Honor your father and mother. Exodus 20:12)
 - Taking something that does not belong to you. (You shall not steal. Exodus 20:15)
 - Eating too many sweets or too much junk food. (Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:19)
- Remember, when Jesus was tempted, he turned to Scripture to help him resist Satan. You and I should do the same thing.
- Let's practice keeping our swords sharp by saying our memory verse.
 - Ephesians 6:11 - Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Application and Group Discussion

- As Bible memorization is so important, what scripture have you already memorized?
 - John 3:16 – 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.
 - Ephesians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
 - 1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
 - Deuteronomy 6:5 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

- If you have time, grab your Bible and find the scriptures and match the lie to the truth.

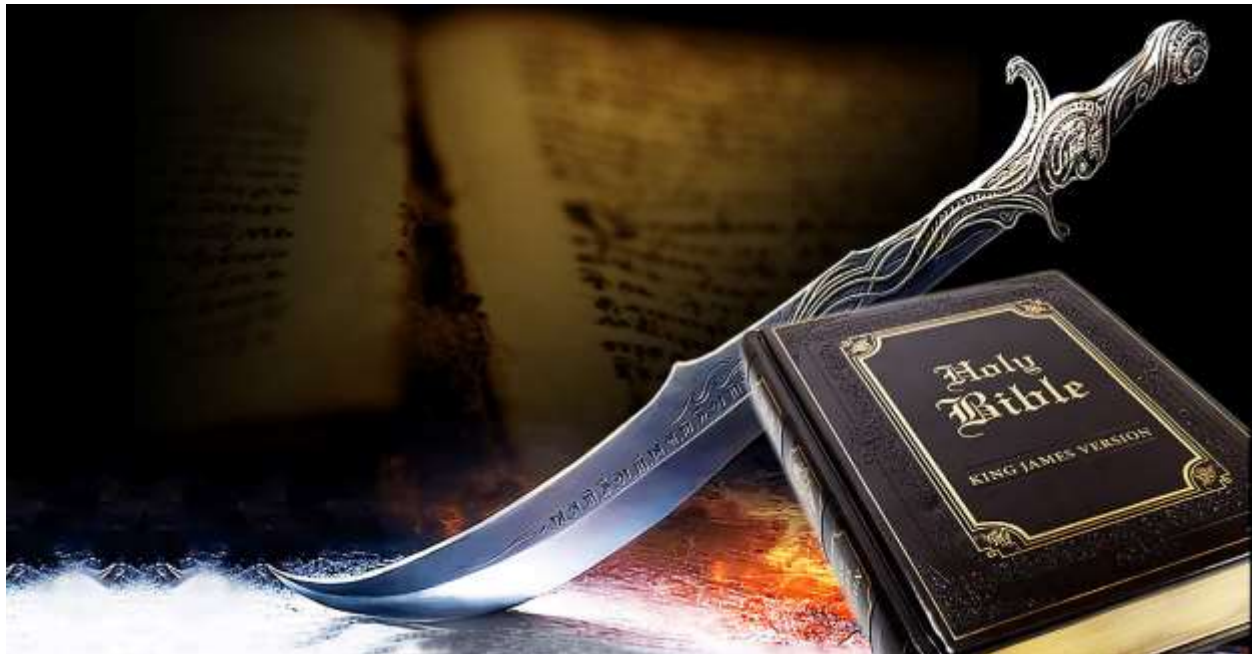
God won't forgive me	Exodus 20:15
I won't get into trouble for stealing	Isaiah 41:10
Everything I touch turns out bad	Romans 8:32
God won't help me	John 3:16
God doesn't love me	1 John 1:9
Nobody cares about me	Psalms 133:1
I don't matter	Philippians 4:13
I always want to be right	Isaiah 54:10

Live it out Challenge

- This week, if you haven't already, memorize the Bible verse, Ephesians 6:11. If you have, find another favourite verse to memorize.

Additional Learning

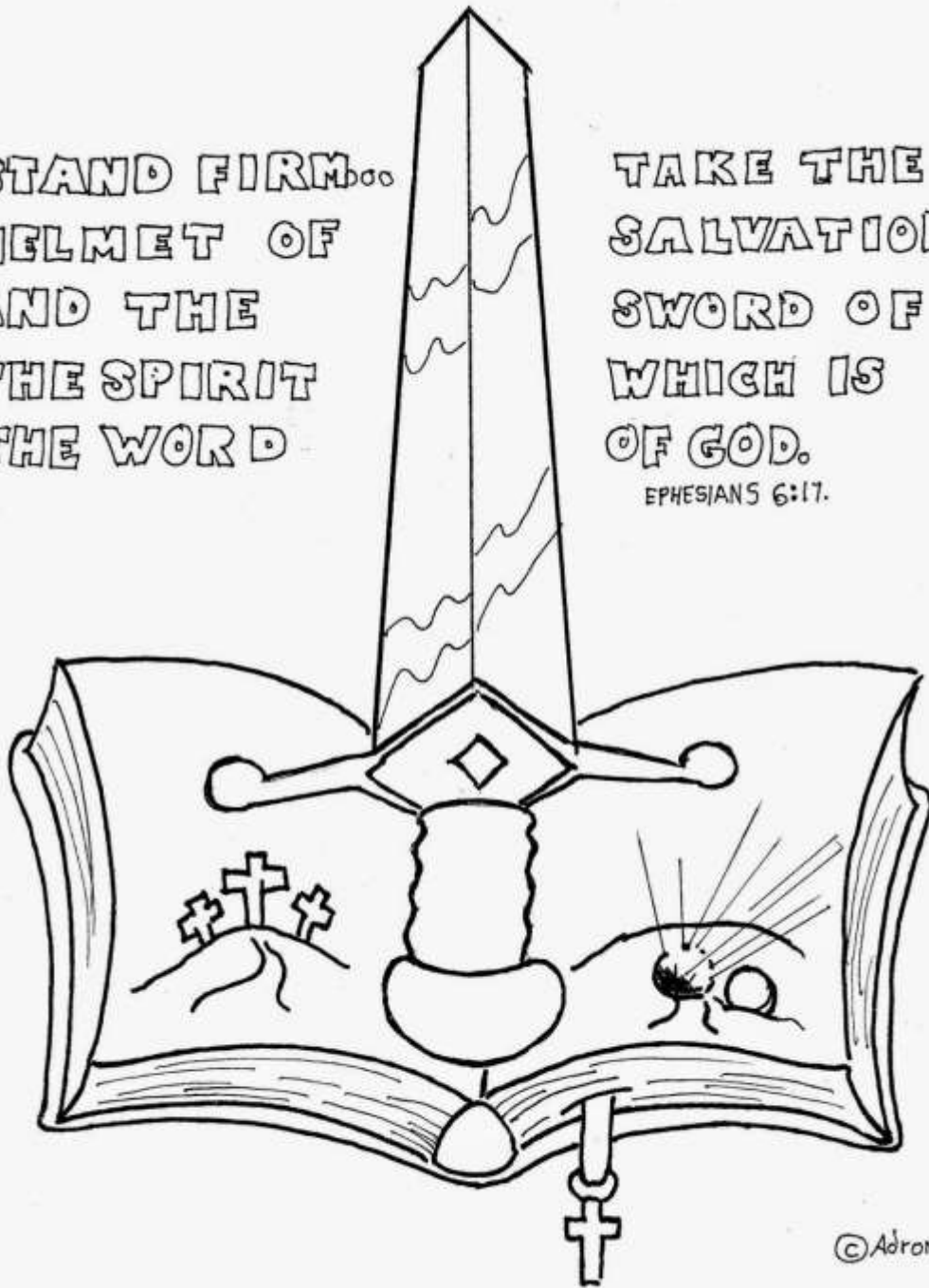
- Below is a word puzzle and a colouring page. Enjoy as you reflect on what you just read about the Sword of the Spirit and thank our Heavenly Father that He has given us a Bible-ful of verses to use when we need them.



STAND FIRM...
HELMET OF
AND THE
THE SPIRIT
THE WORD

TAKE THE
SALVATION
SWORD OF
WHICH IS
OF GOD.

EPHESIANS 6:17.



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Sword of God's Word Maze

Find your way to the center of the maze and claim the sword.

START

