



ARMOR OF GOD

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT: THE WORD OF GOD

Family Study Guides

Armor of God: Sword of the Spirit

Family Study Guide

So far, in our lessons on the Armor of God, we have talked about defensive armor, the armor that protects us against Satan's attacks.

Ephesians 6:10-11 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. But now we are given a piece of armor that enables us to attack and defeat the enemy!
Ephesians 6:17 take... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...

With the *Sword of Spirit*, God gives us ability to **defeat Satan!**

- *Revelation 12:11 (CEV)* Our people defeated Satan...
- *1 John 2:14 (GNT)* ...you have defeated the Evil One.

What is this sword that enables us to defeat Satan? How can we use this sword to overcome obstacles, trials and problems that are too big for us to handle?

All of us have needed help from experts, from people with experience or from those with the power to get things done. We hire people to do things for us that we are not good at, and rely on their "written guarantee" that it will be done right.

Say: Think of a time that your parent or teacher assigned you something new to do and said, "I want you to do this task, but I promise that if you get stuck, I will be there for you to help you get it done."

The Sword of the Spirit is something like that.

What is the "Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God?"

The sword used by the Romans at the time of Christ was a small, close contact weapon for one-to-one fighting. It was a *Gladius* sword from which the term *Gladiator* comes. Knowing that can help understand why the "sword of the spirit is the word of God."

The word "word" here in Greek is *rhema*. It can be defined this way:

- "...the individual scripture which the Spirit brings to our remembrance for use in a time of need" (Vines Expository Dictionary)
- It is referring to specific statements, principles, revelations and promises contained in the Scriptures.
- Involves applying specific Bible principles to specific circumstances in life.

The entire Bible could be defined by another word for word, *Logos*, which is the Word of God (John 1), the Truth. That would be likened to the Belt of Truth, where the Armor of God lessons began.

The Sword of the Spirit must be taken from the Belt of Truth—that is, specific *words* taken from the Bible.

The Holy Spirit enables us to apply specific statements or promises in the Word of God to accomplish God's will for us. In this Guide we ask, do you really *believe* and *trust* what God's word says and have faith in the power of God's promises?

Jesus shows us and tells us how to use the Sword of the Spirit—which is the Word of God!

Matthew 4:3-4 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word (rhema) that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”

{This Guide was written in early 2020 during the COVID-19 crisis. In the early stages of the crisis, people did not understand what was happening. There was a lot of fear and anxiety about what would happen and what to do. These times of concern make many wonder about how we can be saved from worse problems that are prophesied to come in the future.}

Family Discussion

Discuss with your family difficult or scary situations that have happened, are happening now or will happen in the future. What concerns you most? What fears do you have? How does it affect your family?

Discuss how well you are prepared (and what are you doing) to cope with these things?

When reviewing Bible prophecies regarding the times before the return of Christ, it is clear there is little we can do to “save ourselves” from what is to come.

Revelation 12:12 ...Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.

Satan is out to destroy us—so how can we live if Satan wants us dead? (Matthew 4:4)

Let's use the Word of God to show how to use the Sword of the Spirit to win the battle against Satan.

Romans 10:1 Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel *to be saved*.

Romans 10:8-9 (NET) But what does it say? “The *word* [rhema] is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we preach), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Bottom line: How much do you believe the word of God in your heart and apply it?

Bible Story Review

Review the following Bible stories with your family, understanding that the principles in them show us how we will win the battle against Satan! They were written down in the word of God for us!

1 Corinthians 10:11 (NLT) These things happened to them as examples for us. They were writ-

ten down to warn us who live at the end of the age.

- *1 Cor. 10:11 (CJB)* These things happened to them as prefigurative historical events...
- *1 Cor. 10:11 (Phillips)* Now these things which happened to our ancestors are illustrations of the way in which God works...

Most of you will know the following stories well. Have your children recall them from memory, or look them up. Then let's see how we can apply God's Word as lessons to us today.

1. God promises to deliver Israel from the Egyptians

Hebrews 11:28 By faith [Moses] kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

The Israelites could not escape slavery in Egypt on their own.

Ask: How did they escape? What words did God tell Moses that the people must believe in order to be saved from the death of their firstborn? It was not their skill or their own power that saved them. Listening to God's word and doing what He said delivered them.

Hebrews 11:29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

When Israelites came up against the sea on one side and the Egyptian army on the other, they were trapped, sure to be destroyed.

Ask: What could they do to save themselves? What did God tell them to do? What did God do to save them?

2. Gideon's Army

The Israelites were in trouble because the Midianites were taking all their food and destroying their crops.

Judges 6:5-10 (GNT) They came and devastated the land, and Israel was helpless against them.



The light shines in the
darkness, and the darkness
has not overcome it.

- John 1:5

Breastplate photo: Shutterstock; Design: Sonny Wiseman

When they cried out to the Lord because of Midian, the Lord sent a prophet to the Israelites. He said, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of slavery in Egypt. I rescued you from the Egyptians and from all who oppressed you. I drove out your enemies and gave you their land. I told you, ‘I am the Lord your God...

How did God save Israel in their helplessness?

He had Gideon reduce his army from thousands to only 300 men.

Judges 7:7 (GNT) The Lord said to Gideon, “I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites with the three hundred men who lapped the water. Tell everyone else to go home.”

What weapons did God tell them to use to win this battle?

Judges 7:20 [So Gideon and men who were with him]... blew the trumpets and broke the jars. They held in their left hands the torches, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow. And they cried out, “The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!”

Judges 7:22 When the 300 Israelites blew their rams’ horns, the Lord caused the warriors in the camp to fight against each other with their swords.

Family Discussion

Discuss: Have your children discuss how effective these things would be if they tried to use them on their own against an army.

Say: To win the battle, they blew horns, broke pots, held lights and shouted. They trusted God’s word not self!

Parents may want to have younger children reenact the story with appropriate “weapons” of horns, lamps, jars, etc. and shouting “The Sword of the Lord and of Gideon!”

3. Jehoshaphat

The story below may not be as familiar to your family as the previous two. Here is the situation:

2 Chronicles 20:2 (NLT) Messengers came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army from Edom is marching against you from beyond the Dead Sea....

Vs. 3 Jehoshaphat was terrified by this news and begged the Lord for guidance...

Vs. 6 Jehoshaphat prayed, “O Lord, God of our ancestors, you alone are the God who is in heaven. You are ruler of all the kingdoms of the earth. You are powerful and mighty; no one can stand against you!

Vs. 9 They said, ‘Whenever we are faced with any calamity such as war, plague, or famine, we can come to stand in your presence before this Temple where your name is honored. We can cry out to you to save us, and you will hear us and rescue us.’

Vs. 12 O our God, won’t you stop them? We are powerless against this mighty army that is about to attack us. We do not know what to do, but we are looking to you for help.”

Parents: Discuss what God told them to do about this hopeless situation.

2 Chronicles 20:14 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel...

Vs. 15 And he said, “Listen, all you... Thus says the Lord to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, **for the battle is not yours, but God’s.**

Vs. 17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you.”

Vs. 20 Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper.”

The stories above show how to use the Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God to deliver those who put their faith in Him and trust Him to deliver us.

Ask: How can these examples help prepare us for times now or in the future when “we are helpless... We do not know what to do, but we look to you for help (2 Chronicles 20:12 GNT)?

God is preparing us now to trust Him in ALL of our times of trial!

Using the Sword of the Spirit helps us defeat Satan!

The Armor of God is given to us to help us in our battle against the Devil. This final piece of armor is our belief in God’s word and His power to save us and to defeat Satan.

Revelation 12:10-11 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. Our people defeated Satan because of the blood of the Lamb and the message of God. They were willing to give up their lives (Verse 11 in CEV).

1 John 2:14 (TLB) And so I say to you fathers who know the eternal God, and to you young men who are strong with God’s Word in your hearts, and have won your struggle against Satan: The GNT of this verse reads “you have defeated the Evil One.”

Additional resources and activities

Sing “O God, We Have Heard” from page 26 in the United Church of God Hymnal (or read Psalm 44) and discuss how this relates to the Sword of the Spirit.

Listen to the UCG sermon, “Trust Your Sword” from Randy Schreiber which goes hand in hand with this specific family study guide. This sermon contains visual illustrations.

Possible Class Discussions and Activities

Sword Bible Bookmark Assembly

Have students create a sword-shaped bookmark. Provide a few key scriptures, such as the Ten Commandments or the Holy Days or let them brainstorm a couple of powerful scriptures as a group. Students can record a couple of these on their swords and use them in their Bibles.

Take a few moments to discuss and write down at least two real-life situations in which they can use the Sword of the Spirit in their own lives. Teachers or parents of younger students can brainstorm practical applications of the principles discussed and associated with knowing the Bible, which is God's word and instructions for us.

Discuss another Bible example of someone who used the word of God to win a spiritual battle. What happened?

Write or Journal

Have students take a few moments to think and reflect on these questions. What laws of God do you find yourself most likely to compromise? Once you identify your weaker areas, resolve to keep from compromising in them. Pick one area at a time to pay special attention to: When you do compromise, what prompts it? Is it because of certain conditions, environments, company, etc.? Use this information to decrease your chances of being tempted to compromise, starting today! Ask God every day to help you.

God said it, they did it, God delivered them

As a family, brainstorm examples of situations from your own family or from the Bible where a decision had to be made and God's word needed to be applied. How was the sword of the Spirit used? How did God deliver in this situation? You can create a chart like the one below to help you record your thoughts. Use it as a reminder to trust your sword.

Situation	God said it... (What did God say? Where is it written?)	They did it... (What decision was made? How was discernment used?)	God delivered them... (What was the result? What is the lesson or takeaway?)

The Sword

The Roman Soldier

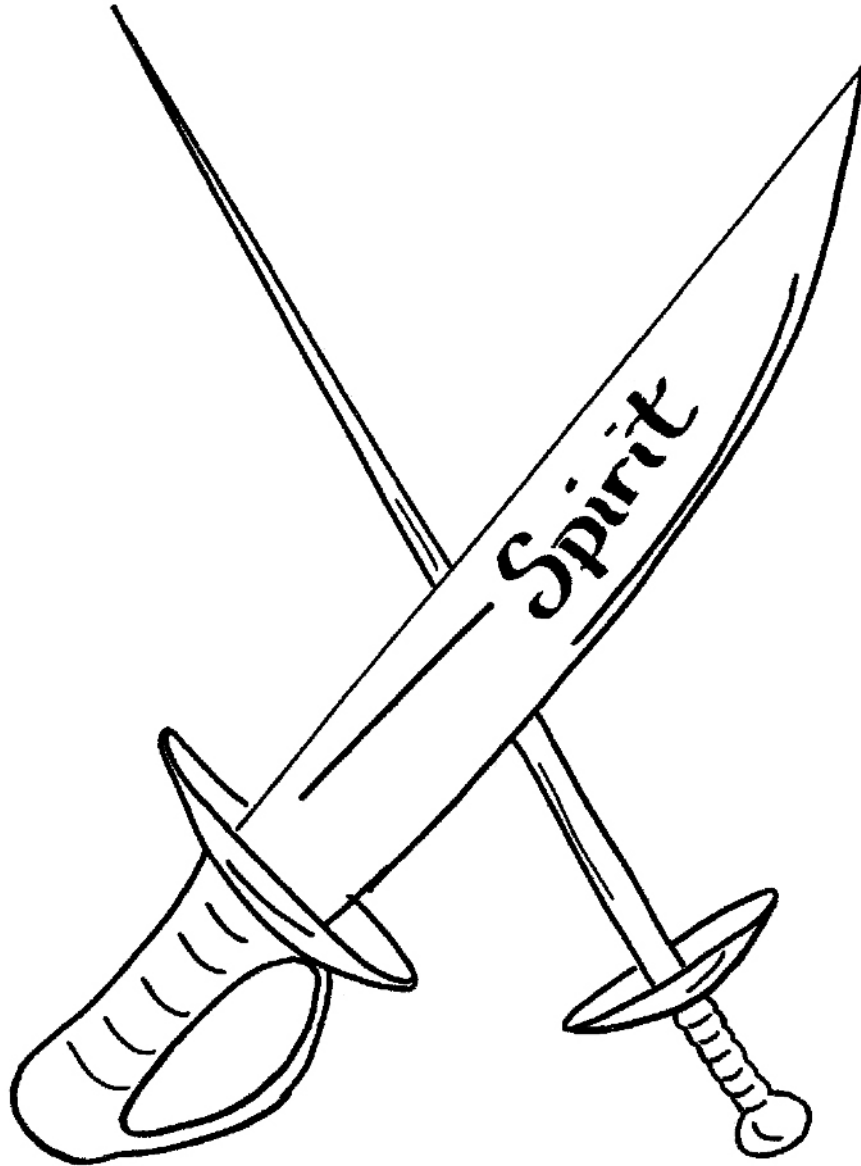
God's Armor

Key Scriptures

Spiritual Lessons

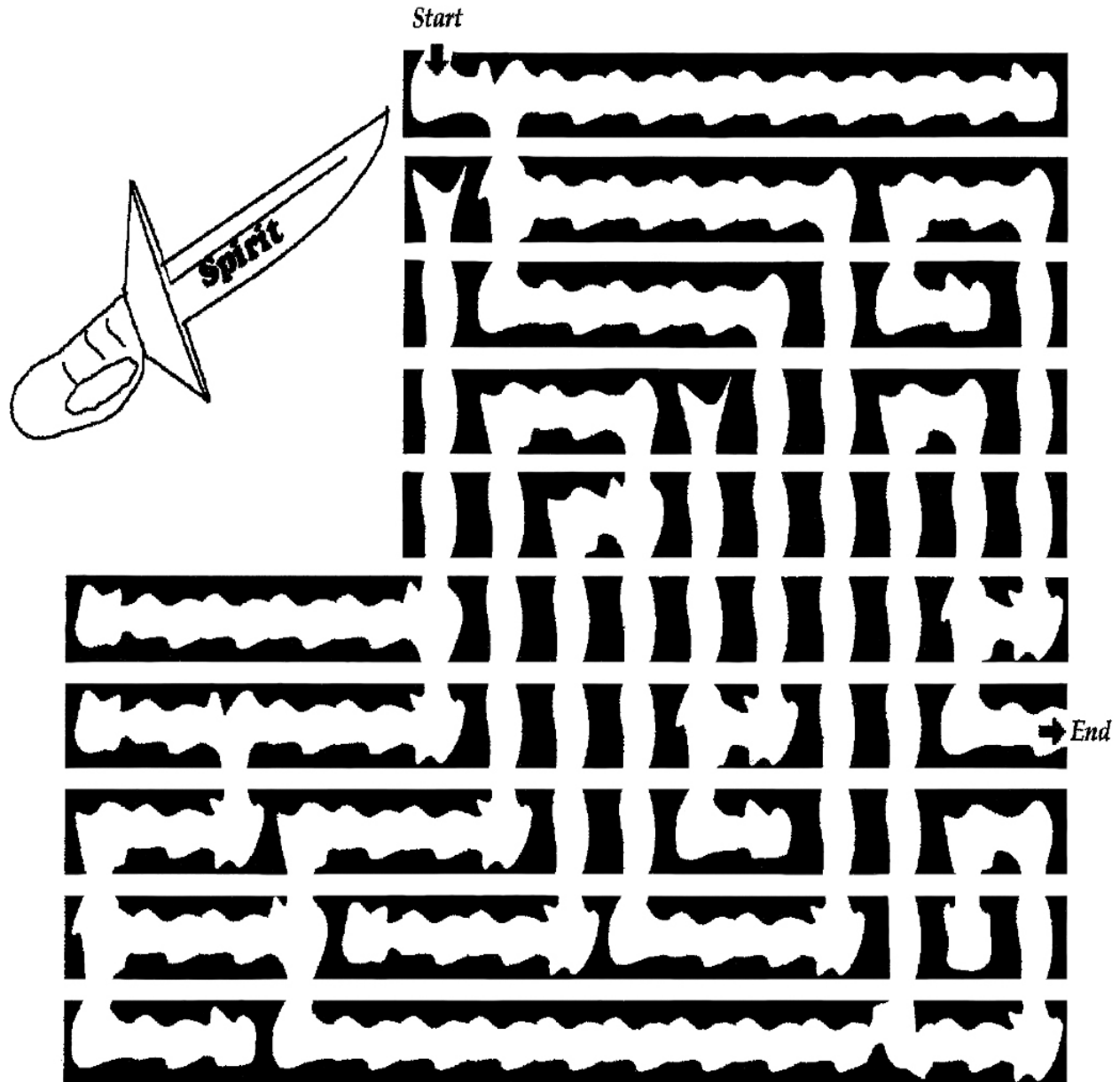
My Armor

The Sword of the Spirit of God



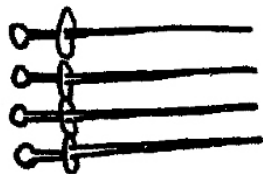
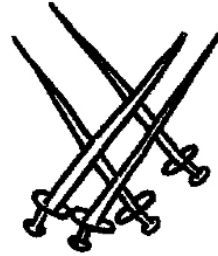
Color the picture of the swords.

The Sword of the Spirit Maze



Start at the top left corner, take the sword with you to the end at the right.

Count the Swords



Count the swords in the groups on the left, and draw a line to the group of swords on the right with the same number of swords.

GENESIS
NUMBERS
JOSHUA
JUDGES
RUTH
KINGS
EZRA
ESTHER
JOB
PSALMS
PROVERBS
JEREMIAH
DANIEL
HOSEA
JOEL
AMOS
JONAH
NAHUM
HAGGAI
MALACHI
MARK
LUKE
JOHN
ACTS
ROMANS
GALATIANS
TITUS
PHILEMON
JAMES
FIRST PETER
JUDE
REVELATION

A F
M S O L
J U D G E S
E H I J A M E S
P S M L E G F C
R O M A N S I R
O E L C R I R E
T B E A M K S V
H O S E A N T E
E P T I L I P L
S U H D A A E A
S E E M C J T T
H J R T H O E I
J O H N I N R O
E S A U A A O N
R H G M N H L T
E U G B O J U A
J
C O M M A A E D U K M I T U
T A R I D I R G L E O J I D
S P L A A P S A L M S A M E
H N R J L U G O
K I O U A K E T
I E V A T S N I
N L E N I H E T
G A R U A F S U
S G B O N N I S
O N S O S O S O
P H I L E M O N
N I A R Z E P V