

## Armed with the Word

**Text: Matthew 4:1-11**

**Key Verse: “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17).**

### Activity #1: Christian Chant

Ask the children to stand and march behind you in a line. Tell the students to repeat each line of the chant in cadence.

*Everywhere we go (Repeat)*  
*People want to know (Repeat)*  
*Who we are (Repeat)*  
*So, we tell them (Repeat)*  
*We are Christians (Repeat)*  
*Armed and Ready Christians (Repeat)*

### Activity #2: Sword Drill

A good old-fashioned sword drill would be perfect to lead up to this Bible story. Ask the students to hold their Bibles (swords) closed in their laps. The teacher announces a Scripture by book, chapter, and verse. The first student to locate the verse, stand to his feet, and read it aloud is the winner of the battle. Present him with a prize. Repeat to give others a chance to win.

### Bible Story: Matthew 4:1-11

*(Before the Bible story, show the students a plastic or homemade sword, asking the question: “How is the Word of God like a sword?” Give students time to think and respond.)*

We are in a battle and the devil is our enemy. We must always be on guard because our enemy wants to destroy and devour us (1 Peter 5:8). There is no reason for us to fear the enemy because we have a mighty weapon of war. The Bible is like a sword, and we can use it to destroy Satan’s lies. Jesus taught us to use this powerful weapon by his example. In Matthew 4:1-11, we learn that Jesus was fasting in the wilderness. The devil came three times to tempt Jesus. The first time the devil told Jesus to turn some stones into bread. But Jesus quoted a Scripture, “It is written, Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word from the mouth of God” (v. 4). Then the devil took Jesus to the pinnacle (i.e. highest point) of the temple and told him to throw himself down. Jesus replied, “It is written, you shall not tempt the Lord your God” (v. 7). Finally, the devil took Jesus up into a high mountain. Satan promised that all the kingdoms of the world would belong to Jesus if he would bow and worship him. Jesus answered, “It is written, you shall worship the Lord your God and only serve him” (v. 10). After this, the devil left, and angels came to minister to Jesus.

### Activity #3: Act It Out

Provide props (e.g. rocks, a picture of a temple, a picture of a high mountain, a plastic sword, a robe for Jesus, and a dark cloak for Satan) and allow the children to use them and act out the Bible story. Assign roles for the children to perform as you read the story again.

### Discussion / Wrap Up:

What is our weapon to win the war against Satan and his temptations? *(God’s Word - Sword)*

Who taught us to use God’s Word to win against Satan? *(Jesus)*

How do we use the Word in battle? *(Know it and quote it.)*

**Prayer Time:** Lead the children in a time of prayer. Be attentive to the needs of each child.

### Closing Activity: Swords

Cut out a piece of cardboard into the shape of sword. Make one for each child. Allow the children to decorate the swords with aluminum foil, tape, stickers, and colored markers.