

Week 1 / Pre-School

Introduction to the Bible

Session plan

Core value: 'The Bible is powerful and sharper than a sword'

Key Verses:

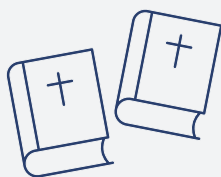
Isaiah 40.8

'The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.' (ESV)

Hebrews 4.12

'For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword.' (ESV)

Resources:



Two Bibles



Puppet



Toy sword



Bibles or images of Bibles for each child



ORIGINS
& MEANING



EXODUS
& FREEDOM



EXILE
& PEACE



MESSIAH
& LOVE



SPIRIT
& COMMUNITY



HOPE
& HOME

Opening activity: Sword Fights

Ask children if anyone would like a sword fight (if children don't volunteer, then do this with willing adult). Hand your volunteer a Bible and with your own Bible pose as if ready to sword fight. Act out a mini sword fight with the two Bibles.

Note: This needs to be slow and gentle (given the age group) as you lead in a simple sword fight using the Bibles.

Zoom tweak

Ask families on screen if they want a sword fight with you. Encourage them to go and find something safe like a straw or a toy sword they may have to hand – DON'T show them your sword is a Bible until the final moment. Say that on your count of three everyone can sword fight each other on screens. The leader sword fights with the Bible – if they don't notice, after a minute or so, ask them to stop and see what you fought with.

Activity: Puppet Capers

Perform the following script using a puppet. (Use any puppet you have – ensure it is one with a mischievous personality. Here we use Carlos the Camel).

Carlos: What are you doing?

Leader: This book changes people's lives.

Leader: Having a sword fight.

Carlos: Elmer changed my life.

Carlos: You are using books to have a sword fight? CRAZY!!!

Leader: Really? How?

Leader: This isn't just any book, Carlos – this is 'the book of all books!'

Carlos: After reading it I painted myself in rainbow stripes – that was a BIG change.

Carlos: Yes, but it is NOT a sword.

Leader: A change you didn't keep! You don't seem to have rainbow stripes today?

Leader: It is actually sharper than any two-edged sword.

Carlos: No, the rain washed them away!

Carlos: Have you lost your marbles? It's a book, made from paper – NO SHARP EDGES (to children) she's crazy!!

Leader: The Bible is so powerful it will change your life forever! It is that powerful!

Leader: This book is the BEST book in the world!

Carlos: Way more powerful than a sword?

Carlos: It is no way better than Elmer.

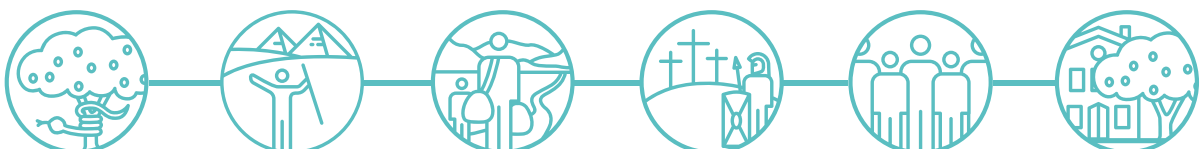
Leader: Way more!

Leader: It actually is, as this is a book full of God's words.

Carlos: I have an idea. Let's have a sword fight – but you use this (hand a toy sword) and I will use the Bible – (to children) I am SO going to win with the most powerful book in the world, full of God's words! Woohoo!

Carlos: God's words? NO WAY!

(Have a small sword fight where the puppet wins)



Creative prayer

Arrange an assortment of Bibles or pictures of Bibles in a circle on the floor. Allow each child to hold their Bible or picture of one up like a sword (show the children how to do this). Quieter children can simply place their hands on the images/Bibles. Ask them to close their eyes. As they do, standing still, allow them to pretend to do a slow-motion sword fight (again demonstrate).

As they do this, say the following prayer:

Pray

Thank you for the Bible

Thank you it's the BEST book in the world

Thank you God for giving us a book full of your words

Thank you that it's more powerful than a sword

Amen

Zoom tweak

- Pre-ask families to have a Bible at hand
- Or email the front cover image of a Bible for them to print off

Next Session:

Session 2: Origins & Meaning

