

WEEK 7: THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

ARMOR OF GOD

The Sword Of The Spirit, Which Is God's Word, Gives Us The Power To Defeat The Enemy

...and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:17)

Ephesians 6:17

Roman soldier's **swords** were short and double-edged, meaning they were very effective for quick use in hand-to-hand combat. A soldier would use the sword to defend himself against other weapons, but also to attack his enemy. As we have **studied** the Armor of God, each piece so far has been for our personal protection or defense. As we study the final piece of Armor, there is indeed an element of defense, but this is the only piece of armor used for offense as well. This weapon is called the Sword of the **Spirit**.

Matthew 4 tells of the epic battle between Jesus and Satan in the desert. Satan tempted Jesus three times and with each **temptation**, Jesus responded to Satan with the Sword of the Spirit by quoting scripture. This allowed Him to conquer temptation and defeat Satan.

We can use this battle strategy as a model in our own lives. When the enemy tempts us, scripture can protect us. **Psalms** 119:11 says, "I have stored up your Word in my heart, that I **might** not sin against you." When we take time to read and understand the Bible or meditate on it, we are gaining knowledge and truth that can equip us for battle. When we go the extra mile and memorize scripture, we can later recall specific verses from memory to use against Satan.

When we know God's **word**, we know what He is thinking and what He wants us to do. The **Sword** of the Spirit is the Word of God allowing us to draw closer to Him and farther from sin.

Questions with space for them to respond in the book:

1. Using Jesus as a model, how can we use scripture to protect ourselves?
2. Read Matthew 4:4-17. What three phrases from scripture does Jesus use to thwart Satan's temptations?

3. The Word of God is our best weapon. What kind of commitment can you make to spending time meditating on and memorizing scripture?