



BLACKSMITH'S GUIDE TO CRAFTS

THIS GUIDE WILL HELP YOU:

- ✓ Prepare and plan to create crafts that will remind children of the armor of God
- ✓ Connect the Daily Bible Truth to the craft
- ✓ Introduce the Missions Project and encourage kids to be involved

The Apprentice Experience

As the Blacksmith in the VBS kingdom, you will have a similar day of any blacksmith in Medieval England. You will have to prepare all your materials: this means some painting and gluing before the kids even get in the room. You will have to help your apprentices when they are feeling less than confident. You will get to praise each one for their individuality while sharing with them the importance of their armor as Knight of God. But you have the opportunity to do what no one other station leader can do: tell a child they have created something beautiful!

In your station, the knights in training will be experiencing the Bible Point by creating a reminder, through the craft project or the mission project, of living out the Bible Point in their life!

Just think: What if a Knight had a sword and never used it? You want to be an example and set a challenge that Knights of God use their sword, the Bible, and their other armor, in every moment to live for God.

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EACH LESSON WILL INCLUDE:

- ✓ Materials and preparation
- ✓ A quick review of lesson essentials
- ✓ An introduction
- ✓ Step-by-step instructions for creating each craft
- ✓ A guide to encouraging kids to get involved in the missions project

Day 1 – The Sword of the Spirit: The Bible Fights Evil

Today, you will be teaching your children how to create a sword full of God's word: literally! The kids will be writing Bible verses on two cardboard pieces that are cut like swords. They will then put them together with paperclips or wrap them in aluminum foil. They will have a reminder of the power of the Word of God against temptation.

Everyone needs some help! If you feel like you would love a co-leader, tell your director. There might be a youth in your church that wants to learn how to lead and has artistic talent. This would be an opportunity to be a mentor and get some help organizing and prepping crafts!

What you will need to do today...

- ✓ Cut out approx. 2 feet long sword out of cardboard/ poster board
- ✓ If using poster board, cut up pieces of aluminum foil to wrap around the swords "blade"
- ✓ Write Bible verses on a white board or a poster board

What you will need today...

- ✓ One sword (2 pieces) per child
- ✓ One piece of aluminum foil (optional)
- ✓ Bible Verses on a white board
- ✓ A Picture of your CURE child
- ✓ Crayons, markers and pencils
- ✓ Optional decorating materials, like stickers with verses or ink/stamps

THINGS TO KNOW:

- ✓ Knights Circles are small groups that have their own leaders that will facilitate discussion about the Bible Truth each day. Be sure that you say the Bible Point. After you say it, the kids who recognize the Bible Point will yell out "Knights Unite"! This will help them recognize the Bible Point.



Script:

Welcome to my forge! I am the local Blacksmith! I create and repair armor and jewelry for everyone in town in addition to re shoeing the horses now and then. I love making armor for new knights, because you have amazing devotion to training! Our first job in creating our swords is already done for you; Cutting and forging the sword into shape, but you do need to do the final forging and firing. As Knights of God, you need to forge the Bible into your sword: your personal sword! I want you to write down your favorite Bible verses on both sides of the swords! You see, as your Bible verse says, God's word is alike a double edged sword: so you will write down verses and place both of them together! We'll help you fuse them to create a double edged sword that can help you fight temptation and remind you that the Bible is powerful and alive if you remember what it says! The Bible Fights Evil! (*Kids say "knights unite"*)

Craft



- ✓ Instruct the children to begin by writing their name on the hilt.
- ✓ Tell them that they will be writing down Bible verses; they can use the ones on the board or in the Bible.
- ✓ If you are also in charge of pre-school crafts, have a picture Bible and instruct children to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories
- ✓ Advise children to finish writing down verses or coloring; they will then put the two pieces of cardboard together with paperclips or wrap the two pieces with aluminum foil

Mission Project



- ✓ Allow the children to see the picture for the CURE child. Explain the child's medical needs and how much money is needed to help. Even if your VBS does not raise all of the money, that's ok; they can network with kids just like them to ask their family and friends to help
- ✓ If you would like, give handouts to children with the CURE child's picture
- ✓ Discuss that one of the things Jesus talked about was taking care of the least of these as well as healing those in need. By reaching out, they are forging a friendship with someone a world away and sharing God's word!

Day 2- Righteousness Protects our Hearts

Today, your knights in training will be discovering how staying close to Jesus protects their hearts; so they will be forging a breastplate of righteousness and a belt of truth from a T-shirt . They will be learning how doing the right thing and God's truth should be worn proudly; like body armor. They will also be creating cards to send to their CURE child, as a reminder that Jesus is with them through this difficult time.

What you will need to do today...

- ✓ Gather and Prepare t-shirts for each child by placing their name or initials on the tag
- ✓ Place parchment paper in-between the layers of the t-shirt to prevent paint bleeding through

What you will need today...

- ✓ T-Shirts (*see director for sizes*)
- ✓ Fabric Paint, fabric crayons, or fabric spray paint with stencils
- ✓ Parchment paper (*optional*)
- ✓ Construction Paper
- ✓ Markers

Script:

Welcome to all of our Apprentices! I'm so happy that you are all learning more about becoming Knights of God, and more about your armor which you are here, in my forge, to create! Knight's need Body Armor for two important reasons: it protects their hearts, and it shows who you serve! Also, we need a belt of truth, to remember what truths we learn from the Bible from all we read! So you are going to handcraft your breastplate to show that you serve God, love Jesus, and follow the truths that God has placed on your heart to stay close to Him! Righteousness Protects our Hearts! (*kids say "Knights Unite"*) So, let's begin!