



TOURNAMENT GAMES

THIS GUIDE WILL HELP YOU:

- ✓ Prepare and plan for each Medieval Fun game and Bible story game each day
- ✓ Gather supplies for each game
- ✓ Feel confident because there's a script with what you can say to connect the Bible story to kid's lives!

The Tournament Experience

While training to be a knight is a serious and devoted task, at times it can be something else entirely: FUN ! Who hasn't pretended the sword they picked up off the grass wasn't a gleaming sword? Who hasn't jousting on a play horse? Who hasn't pretended the part of the knight or the princess escaping the dragon? This is what game time is for: fueling imagination and ingenuity! While you will be tying the Bible story into the games, you are building a foundation of faith using the best tool that you can: empathy. If kids are imagining themselves in the story or actively living out their faith, they can identify with the emotion and faith they need to stay strong in Jesus. If they are having fun, they will connect fellowship with other kids at church with growing together as friends. They'll learn that church is not just about growing closer to God, but growing closer to God together with encouragement and friendship.

So really, games is practicing the Christian life; growing up together in Christ with determination, friendship and cooperation. And yes... fun!

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EACH LESSON WILL INCLUDE:

- ✓ Materials and preparation
- ✓ A quick review of each game
- ✓ An introduction script
- ✓ Step-by-step instructions for leading the games
- ✓ A script for communicating the Bible truth connected with the game or activity

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

Today, you'll be delving into the medieval art of dueling. Your focus will be on the sword; and a Knight of God's sword is the Bible! The story they will hear is about Jesus using Bible verses to fight off Satan's temptations. Follow the script and games, but feel free to share your own life experience to make the Bible more real!

If you would like some help leading, let your director know. There might be a youth in your church that wants to learn from experience. Kids look up to teens as role models; you can even ask two teens to simply demonstrate following the rules of the game! Kids will follow you if the "cool" teens are!

Sharpen the Swords: Prep

- ✓ Draw your sword...or just make one out of half a thin pool noodle and wrap 4 inch of ductape on the end like a hilt
- ✓ Write several Bible Verses on poster board
- ✓ Use masking tape or hula hoops to create "dueling" circles; make them one foot apart and about 3 feet wide

Pack up the Horses: Materials List

- ✓ 2-3 Large brown paper rolls
- ✓ Swords (1 per child per session)
- ✓ 2 hard plastic swords
- ✓ Markers(1 per child per session)
- ✓ Bible Verse poster
- ✓ Hula Hoops or masking tape/ electrical tape or painters tape

THINGS TO KNOW:

- ✓ Knights Circles are small groups that have their own leaders that will facilitate discussion and prayer after the game if you have time.
- ✓ The Knights Code is a Code for a knight of God that summarizes the entire week of VBS in one easy code of conduct; it can hang in your room.
- ✓ Safety- We want your children to have fun with medieval games, but we want them to stay safe! The key to the sword fighting is to stick to the original idea of safety; each child will stay in their "ring" or circle.
- ✓ While it is not always written in your script, you should try to yell out the Daily Bible truth in the middle of the game! The kids will shout out "Knights Unite" after they hear the Bible Truth, and connect the truth to the game!



Script:

Hello, Apprentices! Welcome to Tournament Games. This is such an exciting part of your training because you get to finally feel what it is like to be a knight with swords, shields, armor, and loads of other cool activities! Now I know that we are going to be doing some pretty awesome things, I need you to know the biggest deal in the training area: following the rules. Swords and shields and jousting poles can be dangerous, but they are safe if we use them the correct way. As long as you follow my directions and act responsibly, I will let the Knight's leader know that I think you should advance to the next level of Knighthood and become apprentices- the first stage of Knighthood! So, first things first, a knight needs to know how to use a sword! So we will duel! Now, dueling with these training swords is actually not about attacking, but practicing! So you will stand in a circle, as will your training partner. (*Demonstrate each move as you describe it.*) Here are some ways you will use a sword: you can lunge by moving your knee out and putting your arm forward, you can block, you can parry by not only blocking but moving their sword out of the way, and with each move, you plan get your partner off balance. If you get your partner to move out of the circle, it's your point! If you both move out of the circles, neither of you receive a point- so don't charge each other. Practice your skills and master them!



Tournament Game 1

5-7 minutes

- ✓ Have kids partner up quickly. Pair up the kids who look lost if you see them looking around and it looks like they may be indecisive.
- ✓ During the game, if it looks like 2 kids are just "going crazy" and are out of the circle, discipline them in context. Don't just tell them to stop; tell them that when the time comes to use their sword, they need skills to use it. They should work together to discover skills, not fight.
- ✓ If you want, have someone else with you to demonstrate the game.
- ✓ Wrap up activity by explaining we all need to practice with our sword.

Script:

Now, the Bible is a sword; and oddly enough, the same rule of using a sword applies to us using our Bible! We need to practice with it if we are going to use it the right way; to make a change for the good in our world. If we never pick up our Bible and read it, we won't know how to use it! It would be like never practicing with a sword; you could hold it, but not defend yourself or attack evil! And we need to practice a lot or we may still use it the wrong way! You could read that evil people are trapped by Satan, and can share that information with someone rather harshly- "you are evil and bad and you belong to Satan". BUT that means you didn't practice the Bible enough. Satan does trap people, but Jesus says we should save them with love and God's light. We should be saying, "Did you know you don't need to be angry or sad all the time? Jesus could take that away." So, we are going to make a wall of evil or sinful things that might hurt people, and we are going to say a Bible verse, and then piece that wall.

Tournament Game 2

5-7 minutes



- ✓ Give Markers to each child and have them write down sinful things or "things we know are wrong" on the big piece of craft paper
- ✓ They can each get in line to share the two plastic swords
- ✓ When it is their turn, they will look at the poster board and shout out a verse as they cut the paper.
- ✓ As each child cuts the paper, encourage them by saying they are destroying the evil that the Bible can cut through sin that's a barrier of God's love. People can't see God because of sin.

Script:

So every time that we live out a Bible verse and love others, fight fear, or let people know what they mean to God, we are fighting the evil in the every day. Every day, kids might feel alone, bullied, or even afraid. When we give them Bible verses as encouragement and hope and when we live out the Bible everyday by serving and loving others, we destroy evil!

Pray and Dismiss Circles

Day 2- Righteousness Protects our Hearts

Grab your lances; time to go jousting! You will be practicing jousting with pool noodles and capturing pool rings while riding in a wagon. They will be focusing on doing the right thing. Doing the right thing to stay close to God, just like holding your lance close to your body and focusing on the rings, is difficult to do when moving through life. But we can with God's help!

Sharpen the Swords: Prep

- ✓ Collect 3-5 thick pool noodles and cover them in duck-tape; you can also add some ribbons to the hilt
- ✓ 2 Wagons
- ✓ Wrap some ribbon around the pool rings and small hula hoops

Pack up the Horses: Materials List

- ✓ 3-5 Lances (thick pool noodles)
- ✓ 2 wagons
- ✓ Targets (small hula hoops, balls on strings, pool noodles, or any similar size circular items)

THINGS TO KNOW:

- ✓ Stage of Knighthood: Today, the kids will be "Apprentices" working to become "Pages". The next stage of Knighthood is "Squire" and then they will become Knights at the ceremony on the final day of VBS. Be encouraging but also challenging. When kids have a goal in sight- something they are working towards- they are much more likely to work with you instead of against you. They will be less likely to need discipline and be on same page with you!
- ✓ Youth: In addition to the youth helping in your station, you may find that you are working with youth who are Knight's Circle leaders. Treat them with the same respect as you would an adult leader! And mentor them.

Script:

Hello, Apprentices! Welcome back to Tournament Games, or welcome for the first time! To become Pages, which is the next stage of Knighthood, you will need to learn one of the fine arts of a knight: Jousting! Now, we have several lances here— and what you must remember when you are holding a lance is that you need to keep it very close to your body, otherwise it wobbles. (*demonstrate*) See, if I hold it out here like this, it wobbles and I'll never be able to hit a target. But if we keep the lance close to our body underneath our shoulder, we can keep it steady and hit a target! If we keep Jesus near us, we won't run away from him and we will always do the right thing. We'll talk more about that a little later, but I want us just to practice and have some fun! Now, to practice serving one another, one person will pull the wagon, nice and steady, for the person holding the lance. If you feel like you can't pull it, just let one of our Knight's pull it. And keep your lances steady!



Tournament Game 1

5-7 minutes

- ✓ Place kids in two lines, have them rotate through jousting.
- ✓ Inspire the kids to cheer and encourage each person.
- ✓ Instruct children as needed to practice and hold out hula hoops for them to catch on their lances.

Script:

Great practice, everyone! Now bring it back together and let's talk. When we choose to do what's right, we choose to keep Jesus close to us. But when we get far away from God, we lose our focus. We lose our ability to know what's right from wrong.

