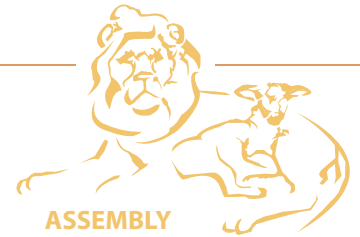


## GOD'S WORD IS LIVING!

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: HEBREWS 4:12-13



*The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

## LESSON IDEAS

### GOD'S WORD IS A SWORD

#### Supplies

a ceremonial sword

(Be careful to get a sword which is not sharpened for this exercise. If you cannot get a real sword, a play sword can substitute but will be significantly less dramatic.)

Have the children gather around and touch the sword. Ask them the following questions:

- How does this sword relate to our Bible passage? (The Bible compares the Word of God with a sword.)
- What do you do with a sword? (A sword is used in battle to attack and kill your enemy.)
- What do you do with the Sword of God, the Bible? (You use the Word of God to attack and kill our spiritual enemy, which is the devil and sin.)

Explain to the children that the Word of God tells us what sin is. With the work of the Holy Spirit it is able to convict us of our sins and help us to repent. It is also able to save us, just like a sword in battle can save a people from an invading army.

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### CUTTING OUT THE ROTTEN SPOT

#### Supplies

- an apple with rotten spots or bruises
- a paring knife

Tell the children the apple is like a person's heart. Show them the apple from a distance. Ask them to describe it. They will likely not see the bruises but instead describe it as a perfectly good apple.

Take your paring knife and peel the apple, revealing the bruises. Ask the children to describe the apple again. They are likely to change their description to include comments about the rotten parts.

Explain to the children that God can see the sin inside of our hearts, like the rottenness inside the apple. God uses His Word like a sword to help us change and cut the sin out of our lives.

(As you describe the following effects of God's Word, use the knife to cut out the rotten spots.)

- God's Word tells us that we need to honor our father and mother and helps us to be respectful. God's Word shows us the times we are disrespectful.
- God's Word tells us that we should love our brothers and sisters and to cut out all hatred and anger.
- God's Word tells us that Jesus is the Son of God and that we need to place our hope and trust in Him alone and turn away from all other gods.



## GOD'S WORD IS LIVING!

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: HEBREWS 4:12-13

### WE CAN'T HIDE FROM GOD

Tell the children that you are going to play hide and seek. Tell them that they must hide in the classroom. Explain that you will count to ten and then try to find them. Don't close your eyes, very quickly find them. (Some of the children may never have played this game before so you might need to explain it.)

At some point you are hoping that one of the children objects to you looking while they hide. If a child does not object, then have another teacher object saying, "Hey you're looking when the children are hiding. Aren't you supposed to close your eyes?"

At that point take the time to agree but explain that you are playing the game to help us see the character of God who sees all we do. Then explain to the children that we can't hide from God and that no one and nothing is hidden from His sight.

## WHERE IS the Gospel?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

The Word of God is living and active. Certainly it teaches us many moral lessons but the greatest story on its pages is the story of the Gospel of Christ. In fact, Jesus is the story. Jesus is called the Word; see John 1:1 and 1 John 1:1. In Jesus we see the true Living Word. The Living Word died on the cross that we might be forgiven and the Living Word rose from the dead that we might also rise!

