

GLADIATOR

A HERO WILL RISE

WEEK 1

MEMORY VERSE

So, we should stop doing things that belong to
darkness and take up the
weapons used for fighting in the light.

(Romans 13:12 ICB)

KNOW: Sin is everywhere but God sent Jesus to rescue us.
DO: Accept Jesus' free gift and live for him.



BIBLE BOX OVERVIEW

ROMANS GLADIATOR SERIES 3'S & 4'S BIBLE BOX SCRIPT/STORYTELLER GUIDE

STORYTELLER NOTES: To briefly introduce and reinforce the **Gladiator** theme throughout the series, we recommend a visual element. This could include a **gladiator** dressed teddy bear or puppet, action figure, or poster board cartoon (*see template*). If time and resources allow, choose a child/leader to wear some **gladiator armor** during or after story-time.

We will focus on a different item from a **gladiator's armor** each week.

WEEKLY RESOURCES: The following items are needed for the series

1. **Gladiator Accessories:** *Spear/sword, helmet, shield & sandals*
2. **Gift-box:** *Bible, scroll & quill, colosseum picture or ornament & a wooden cross**

This will be the **story-box** for the entire month and represents **the gift of salvation given to us through Jesus**. Inside the box are items needed to teach the **Bible** lesson. The contents of the **gift-box** will change slightly each week and *additional items will be added to the weekly resource list.

PROGRAM FLOW: After a brief introduction to the **gladiator** and a time of worship, the storyteller brings out the **gift-box** and leads through the storytelling. Due to the shorter attention span of this age group, songs are placed deliberately within the script to allow opportunities for movement and interaction.

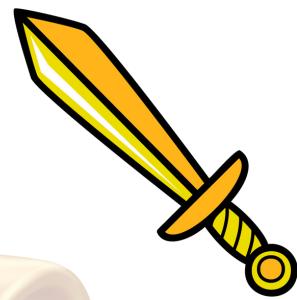
WORSHIP: Choose worship songs that explore the theme of salvation, Jesus' victory, God's love, bravery and following. Suggestions include: *Our God is Big and Strong* - Saddleback Kids, *One, Way, Jesus* - Hillsong Kids, *I am Yours* - Kids on the Move

BIBLE BOX OVERVIEW



ROMANS STORY EC WEEK 1

GLADIATOR ITEM: SWORD/SPEAR



GIFT-BOX CONTENTS



Bible



Paul Costume

Colosseum ornament or
picture



scroll & quill



inflatable Glove



Band-aids

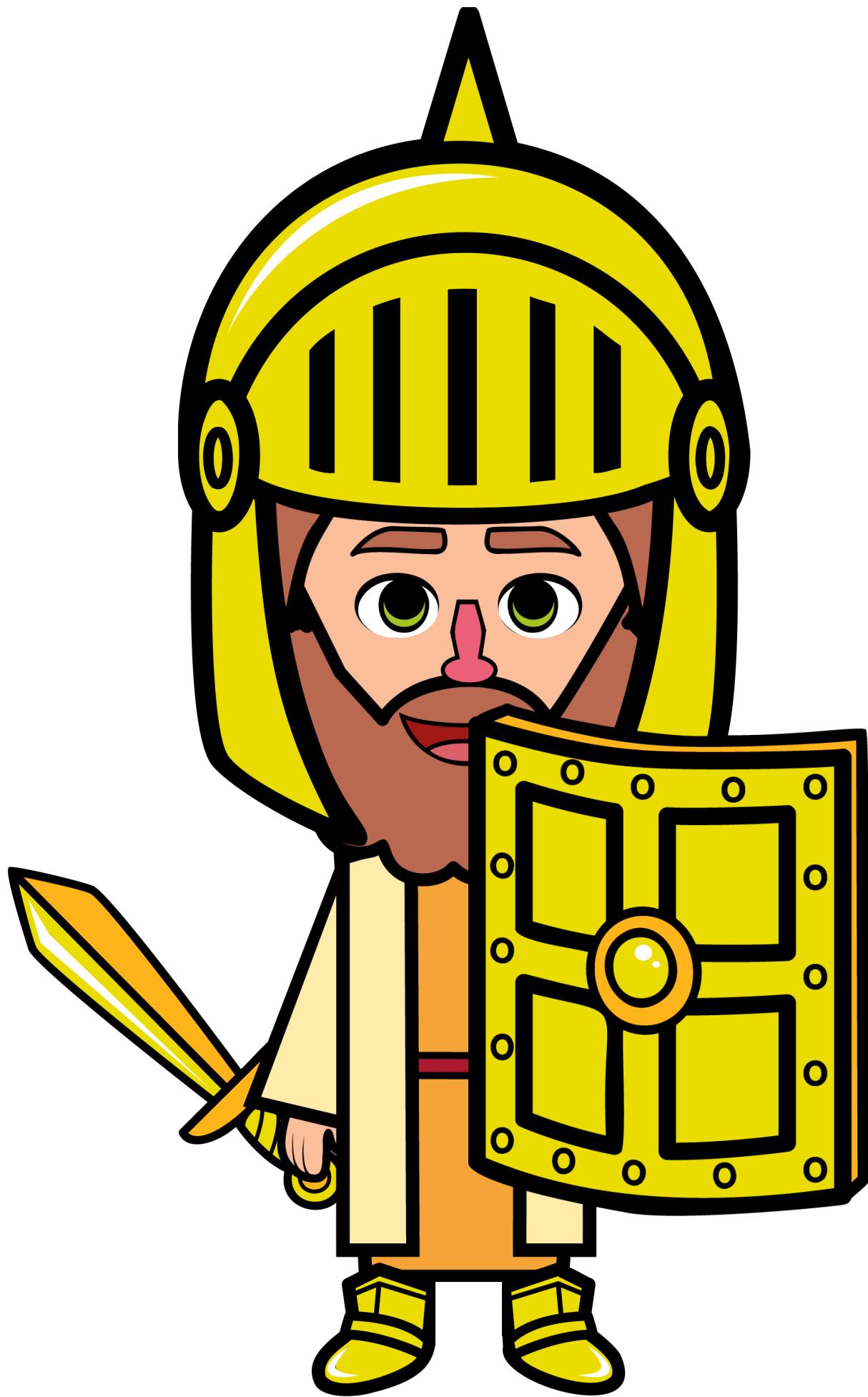


small wooden cross

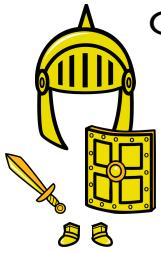


Flashlight





GLADIATOR EC WEEK 1: SIN (SPEAR) STORYTELLING SCRIPT 3 & 4'S (STORY IN A GIFT-BOX)



STORYTELLER INTRODUCTION

Hi friends, we are starting a new series today called **Gladiators**. Does anyone know what a **gladiator** is? (Allow for responses.)

Yes, **gladiators** are fighters who lived a long time ago. They wore **armor** a bit like this (show gladiator visual element - see storyteller notes).

Gladiators were big and strong (*flex muscles*). Can you show me your muscles? (audience respond). Very good. Let's show how strong you are now (*lead the kids in some strength displaying exercises*).

Wow! We have some tough gladiators here today, that's for sure. Can you tell me who is stronger than any gladiator (allow for suggestions.)

God, that's right. God made the earth, the mighty ocean and the powerful sun. He made us too. We are going to sing a song together now that thanks God for being big and strong. Let's worship.

WORSHIP:

Sing praise songs that explore God's power and strength
e.g. *Our God Is Big and Strong* – Saddleback Kids



GLADIATOR WEEKLY ITEM: SWORD/SPEAR

Each week, we are going to look at a different part of a **gladiators armor** and today, is the **sword** or **spear**. Look at this (*holds spear in the air*). Doesn't that **sword/spear** look sharp and powerful? A **gladiators sword** is very important to them. It is what they use to attack their enemies. We are going to think more about this **sword** later, but first, I want to show you something else that we are going to use in our **Bible** story today and over the next few weeks.

(Storyteller brings out the **Story Gift-box** unopened.)





STORY (GIFT) BOX

This looks like a special gift doesn't it? I wonder what is inside? Let's open it.



(Start to reveal the items in the **gift-box** and place them on the story table for the children to see. Refer back to each item as the story unfolds.)

- **BIBLE**

This is a **Bible**, and it is very important because it is all true. In the **Bible**, we learn about **God**, **Jesus** and his followers.



- **COLOSSEUM ORNAMENT (PICTURE)**

We have been talking about gladiators today and some gladiators lived in a place called **Rome** (show colosseum ornament or picture).



People who lived in Rome were called **Romans**; can you say that word with me?

Romans (audience repeat). Some of **Jesus'** followers were from **Rome** and there's also a book in the **Bible** called **Romans**.



- **PAUL COSTUME/ACCESSORY**

This book was written by a special man who followed **Jesus** called **Paul**. Let's say his name together too, **Paul** (audience repeat). Now **Paul** may have worn something like this in **Bible** times (show costume).

Paul was a **Roman**, but he didn't live in Rome, and he wasn't a gladiator (shakes head). He was just a normal man.

Before he met **Jesus**, **Paul** was sad and very angry, can you show me a sad or angry face? (Audience respond with facial expressions.)

Before **Jesus** changed him, **Paul** said mean words and sometimes he hurt people. This is called **sin**. Can you say that word? **SIN** (audience repeat).



- **INFLATABLE GLOBE (EARTH)**

(Inflate the globe) Ever since **God** made the **earth** and created people to live on it, **sin** has tried to spoil things.



- **BAND-AIDS (HURT)**

(Stick band-aids, around the globe) And the really sad thing is, we all **sin**. You, me and everyone. Each time someone says mean words, has bad thoughts or does harmful things, it hurts the **world**, and it **hurts God** (resume sad face).

But **God** had a plan (tap finger on forehead). He sent **Jesus** to **earth**. Can you say **Jesus** with me? **Jesus** (audience repeats).

Jesus was **God's** son, and he was always good. (Thumbs up.)



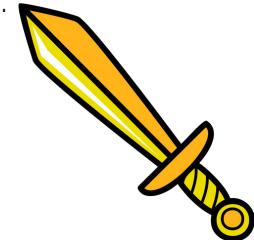
- **WOODEN CROSS**

But Jesus was punished for our sins, and he died on a wooden **cross** (*hold up the cross in front of the globe.*)



A mean Roman soldier tried to look powerful and used his **sword** to check that Jesus had died (*point gladiator sword towards the cross*). A **sword** used in a bad way like this can be like a sign for our **sin**. **Sin** brings so much sadness and **hurt**.

It was a very sad day when Jesus died (*show sad faces*).



But it had a happy ending (*show happy faces*)

Because **Jesus** came back to life (*thumbs up*) Say **Jesus** is alive with me (*repeat!*)!

And **sin** was defeated forever (*start taking the band aids off the globe*).

Then **Jesus** went back to heaven to be with **God** but he left his special spirit here on **earth**. The **Bible** even calls it the **sword** of his spirit.



- **FLASHLIGHT (LIGHT)**

Paul met **Jesus' spirit** through a bright light that came all the way from heaven. It was so bright that **Paul** couldn't see for a while but that meant he could use his listening ears better to hear what **Jesus** had to say.

Jesus helped **Paul** to understand the special free **gift** he had given to the **world** (*hold up gift-box & globe*).

Now **Paul** knew in his heart who **Jesus** was and what he did for us. He wanted to tell everyone he met about **God's** love and **Jesus'** special **gift**.

- **SCROLL AND QUILL (LETTERS)**

So, **Paul** started writing letters (*hold up scroll & quill*) with something like this.



One of those letters was to the people living in **Rome** and we can find it in the (*hold up Bible*). Can you remember what it is called? **Romans**.

Thank you for listening so well to our story today. We are going to find out more about **Paul** and his letter to the **Romans** next week but let's close by praising Jesus.

WORSHIP

One Way Jesus, Hillsong Kids or I am Yours, Kids on The Move

GIFT BOX STORYTELLING 1: SIN (SPEAR)

GIFT BOX CONTENTS:

- Bible
- Paul robe or costume accessory
- colosseum ornament, or picture
- scroll & quill
- small inflatable globe
- Selection of band-aids
- Small (wooden) cross

STORYTELLER

Hi friends, we are starting a new lesson today called Gladiators. Does anyone know what a gladiator is?

Yes, gladiators are fighters who lived a long time ago. They wore armor a bit like this (volunteer gladiator stands up).

Gladiators were big and strong. Let's see the muscles on this gladiator, shall we? (volunteer gladiator shows muscles).

Very good, let's all show how strong we are (Storyteller leads the kids in some strength displaying exercises).

Yes, we have some tough gladiators here today, that's for sure. I wonder if you know who is the strongest and most powerful of all? (Allow for suggestions.)

God, that's right. God made the earth and us too. We are going to sing a song together now that thanks God for being big and strong. Let's worship.

WORSHIP:

o Praise songs that explore God's power and strength, e.g. Our God is a Great Big God and Big and Strong – Saddleback kids

STORY (GIFT) BOX:

I'm going to need my gladiator to come back and help me. Can you hold your spear/sword high up in the air for everyone to see (volunteer gladiator holds spear in the air). Wow doesn't that spear look sharp and powerful? We are going to think more about this spear later, but first I want to show you something else that we are going to use in our story today.

(Storyteller brings out the Story Giftbox unopened.)

This looks like a special gift doesn't, I wonder what is inside, do you? Shall we open it?

(Storyteller could ask for a volunteer to hold the Giftbox or place it on a table for everyone to see. All the items can be taken out of the box simultaneously or one at a time as the story unfolds.)

- **Item 1: Bible**

This is a Bible, and it is very important. In the Bible, we learn all about God, Jesus and his followers.

- **Item 2: Paul Costume/accessory**

Someone in Bible times may have worn something like this, we are going to be learning about a character from the Bible called Paul. Can you repeat that name with me? (Audience repeat word Paul as volunteer wears the costume or accessory to represent character). I think we are all ready to get into our story now, don't you?

- **Item 3: Colosseum Ornament/Picture**

We have been talking about gladiators today and some gladiators lived in a place called Rome (show colosseum ornament or picture).

People who lived in Rome were called Romans; can you say that word with me? (Audience Repeat word: Romans!)

Some of Jesus' followers were Romans, one special man who followed Jesus was called Paul (volunteer Paul steps forward). Paul was a Roman, but he didn't live in Rome, and he wasn't a gladiator (shakes head). He was just a normal man.

Before he met Jesus, Paul was sad and very angry, can you show me a sad or angry face? (Audience respond with facial expressions)

Sometimes Paul said mean words and sometimes he hurt people. This is called sin. Can you say that word? (Audience repeat the word: sin)

- **Item 4: Inflatable Globe**

(Inflate the globe) Ever since God made the world and created people to live on it, sin tried to spoil things.

- **Item 5: Band-Aids**

(Stick band-aids, around the globe) Every time someone said mean words, had bad thoughts or did harmful things, it hurt the world, and it hurt God (Resume sad faces).

But God had a plan (tap finger on forehead).

God sent Jesus to earth. Can you say Jesus with me? (Audience repeat: Jesus) Jesus was God's son, and he was always good. (Thumbs up)

- **Item 6 Wooden Cross**

But Jesus was punished for our sins, and he died on the cross (Hold up the cross in front of the globe.)

One of the Roman soldiers even used his spear to make himself look powerful and to check that Jesus was dead (Gladiator can hold up spear again or point it towards the cross.)

It was a very sad day (show sad faces)

But it had a happy ending (show happy faces)

Because Jesus came back to life (thumbs up)

Can you say Jesus is alive? (Audience repeat: Jesus is Alive!)

And sin was defeated (start taking the band aids off the Globe).

Paul (steps forward) met Jesus after he died on the cross (hold up cross).

Jesus helped Paul understand the special free gift he had given to the world (hold up giftbox).

Now Paul knew in his heart who Jesus was and what he did for the world (hold globe).

He wanted to tell everyone he met about God's love and the special gift Jesus gave to the World.

- **Item 7: Scroll and Quill**

So, Paul started writing letters (Give the scroll and quill to Paul)

One of those letters was to the people living in Rome and we can find it in the Bible (Hold up Bible). Can you guess what it was called? Romans.

Thank you for listening so well to our story today. We are going to find out more about Paul and his letter to the Romans next week but let's close by praising Jesus.

Worship

"I Won't Be Afraid" Cross Culture or I am Yours Kids on The Move

CRAFT

WEEK 1: SIN (ROMANS 1-3:26)

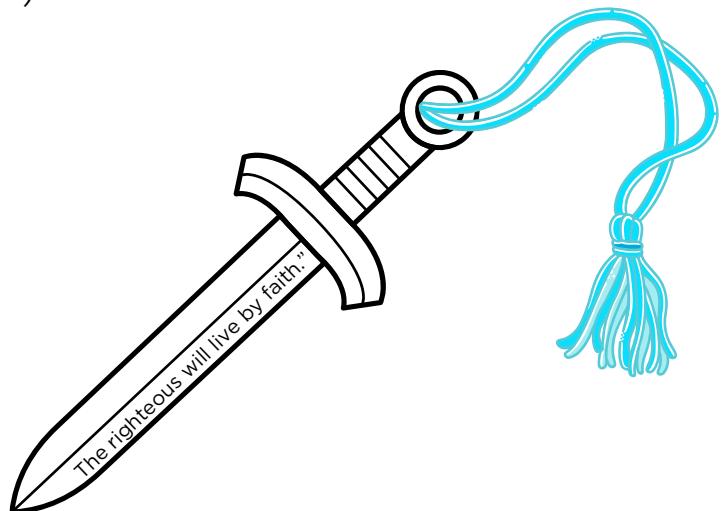
KNOW: Sin is everywhere but God sent Jesus to rescue us.

DO: Accept Jesus' free gift and live for him.

Title: Sword Bible Bookmark

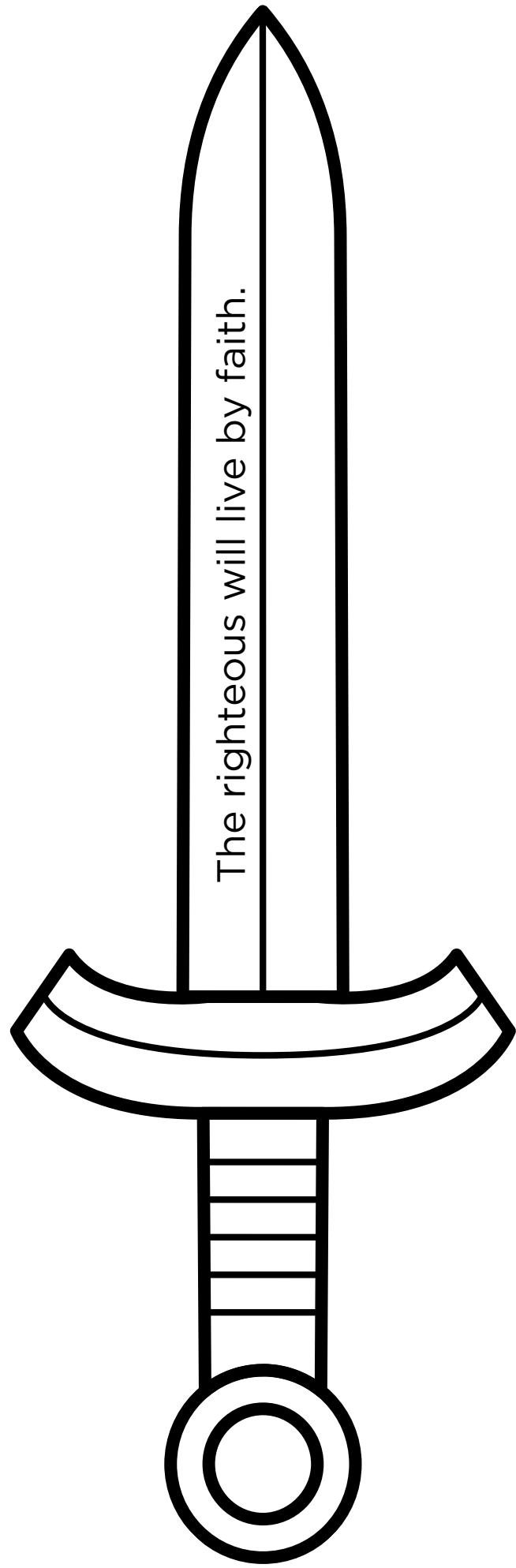
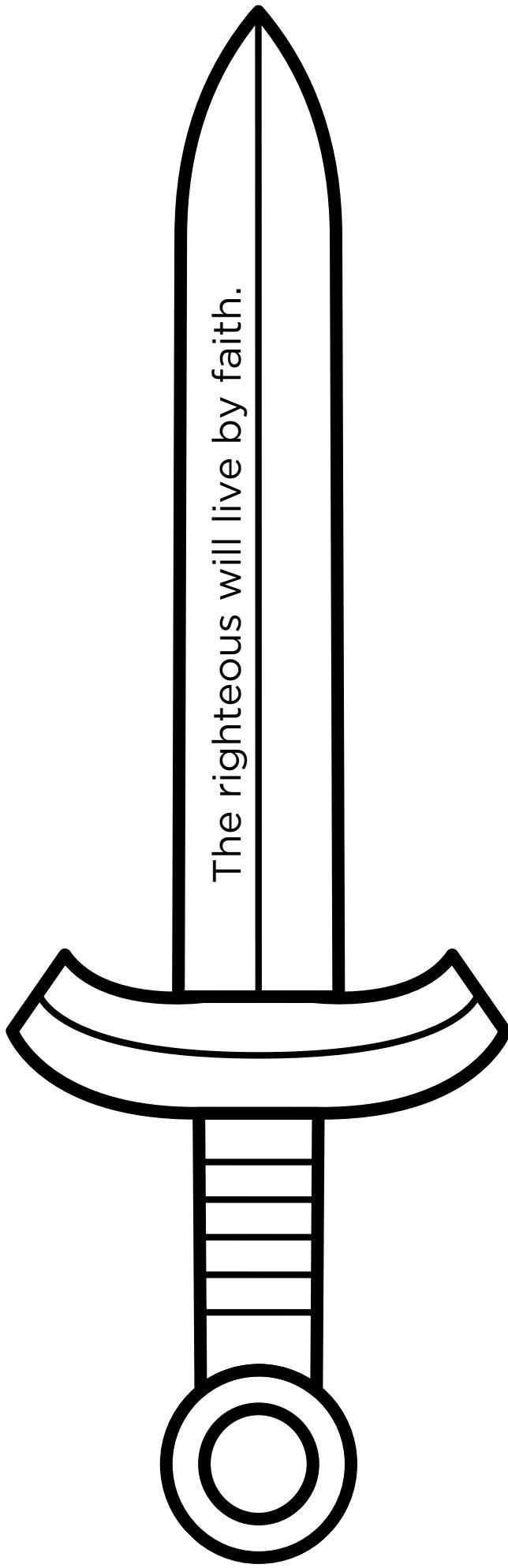
SUPPLIES:

- Pre cut sword printable (cardstock)
- Coloring tools
- Stickers (optional)

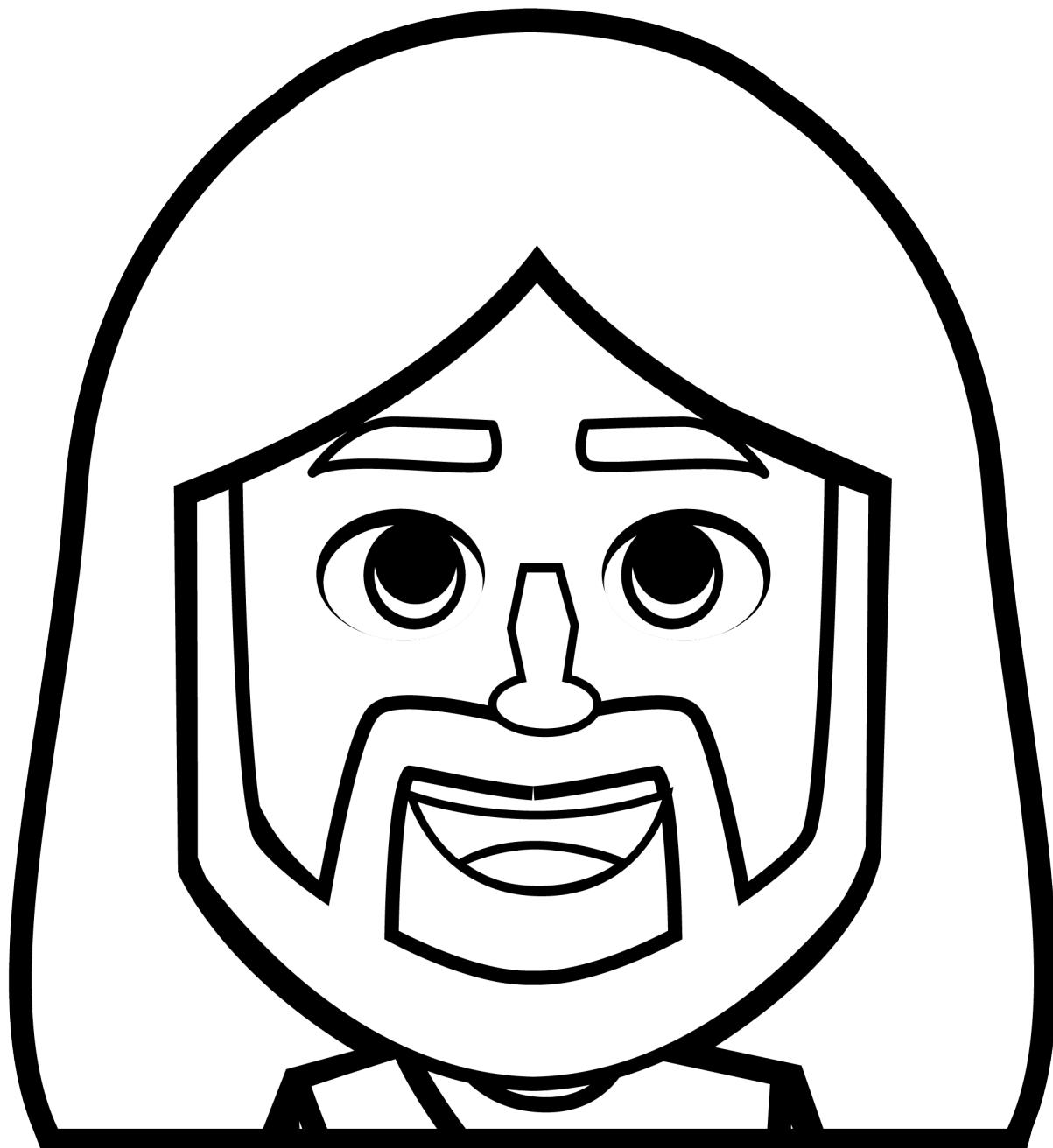


INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each child a sword printable and help them to write their names on them
2. Allow the children to decorate their sword printable with markers or stickers (optional)
3. Tell the kids how the sword represents the sin that has been destroyed through the power of God.



Sin is everywhere
but God sent Jesus
to rescue us.



Week 1

1. Which book in the Bible are we learning about?

Romans

2. Who wrote Romans and what is it?

Paul wrote a letter about Jesus to the people living in Rome.

3. In Romans, Paul tell us that Jesus saved us from sin. What is sin?

Sin is any wrong thought, word or action that makes God and others sad. Sin is everywhere and everyone sins.

4. How did Jesus save us?

By dying on the cross to take our sins away.

5. What special free gift does Jesus give us?

The gift of salvation. To be free from sin and close to God forever.

6. How can we be like Paul and stay close to God?

By praying, singing songs about God, coming to church and reading the Bible.

BIBLE PASSAGE ROMANS 1-3:26 ICB

**Bayside
Kids**