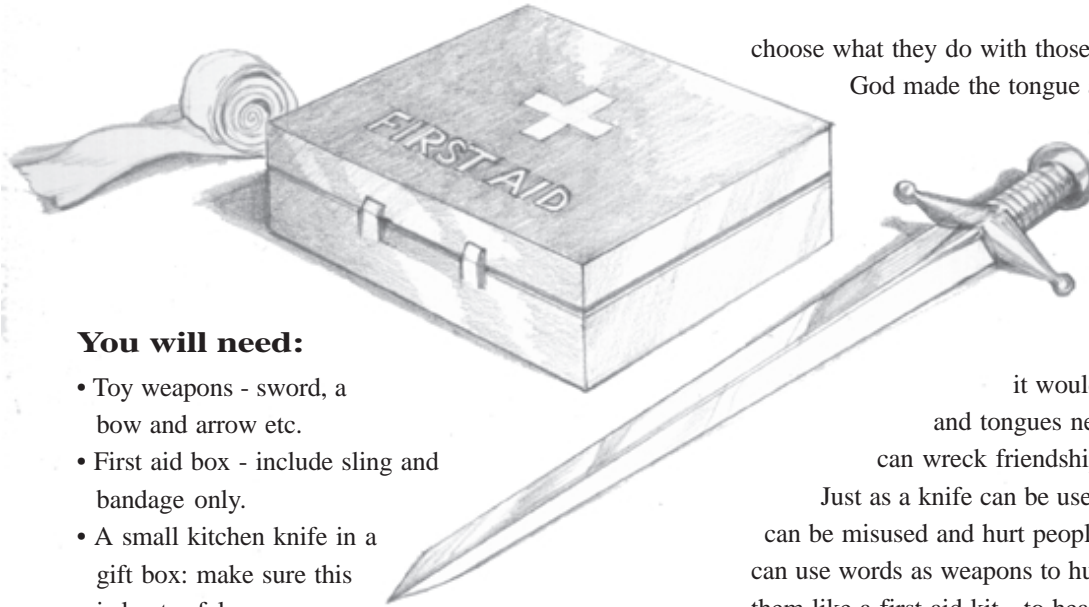


# The dangerous gift

## Biblical Material: Proverbs 12.18, Ephesians 4.29

'Thoughtless words can hurt as deeply as a sword but wise words can heal.'

'Use helpful words, not harmful ones: words which will build people up and do good to those who hear them.'



### You will need:

- Toy weapons - sword, a bow and arrow etc.
- First aid box - include sling and bandage only.
- A small kitchen knife in a gift box: make sure this is kept safely.
- Wall-paper and a thick felt-tipped pen.

### Introduction

Ask a few pupils to show some toy weapons (plastic swords etc.). Talk about the damage real weapons can do and how adults keep knives etc. out of reach for safety's sake. Show the first aid kit. Demonstrate putting on a bandage. Ask pupils about times when this would be needed. Talk about the way people use bandages etc. to help us heal when we have been hurt.

### Core Material

Ask pupils what might be inside the box. Unwrap it yourself and show the knife. Ask the pupils about the uses of the knife. Explain that in order to be useful the knife has to be sharp. It would be useless if it were blunt. However, the very quality which makes the knife useful, also makes it dangerous. Teachers might want to take a little time here to remind children about not touching sharp knives.

Read the Biblical Material. Christians believe everyone was created by God and given the gift of thought and speech but people have the freedom to

choose what they do with those gifts. Christians believe God made the tongue able to express the thoughts of the mind and a person's inner feelings. This ability makes speech very powerful, but without that power it would be useless. Both minds and tongues need using with care. They can wreck friendships if misused.

Just as a knife can be used to prepare food, or it can be misused and hurt people, in a similar way we can use words as weapons to hurt others or we can use them like a first aid kit - to heal people's hurt feelings.

### Prayer/Reflection

Make the paper look like a wall. Explain that some people write hurtful things, but you are going to write some words that heal. Write pupil suggestions for healing words on the wall as positive graffiti. Ask pupils to select one piece of positive graffiti and close their eyes and think about times when people said something positive that helped them. Remind them after the assembly about not writing on walls.

*Note.* For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.

