

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God’s creation is good!	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: None
CREATION MATCHING GAME: Kids will play a memory game to practice matching the 6 days with what was created.	SUPPLIES: Noisemakers (one per kid)	SUPPLIES: Set of Creation Matching Memory cards, scissors, timer
CREATION TAG: Kids will play a game of tag, in which they tag people in the order that Creation was made.		
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: We are God’s stewards, just like Adam and Eve.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers
CREATION WORD GAME: Kids will play of variation of Hangman using scripture from Genesis 1 and 2.	SUPPLIES: Normal recyclable materials (paper, plastic, cans etc.), unusual recyclable materials (eyeglasses, cell phones, rubber tires rubber, etc.) non-recyclable materials (foil gift wrap, binders, vinyl, etc.), pencils	SUPPLIES: Chalkboard, whiteboard, or chart paper; Scavenger Hunt Lists; pencils; baskets or bags, markers, timer, pencils
NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT: Kids will go on a scavenger hunt to explore both God’s creation and how we care for it.		
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: We are created in God’s own image!	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles
CREATION TEAM TAG: Kids will play a game of tag designed to demonstrate that all people are made in God’s image.	SUPPLIES: Pencils	SUPPLIES: Clay or dough, table or hard surface, basket, small pieces of paper, marker, pencils
GUESS THE SCULPTURE: Kids will play a sculpting game to explore the variety of all of God’s creation.		



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit www.wearesparkhouse.org to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Sparkhouse Digital annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.

Workshop Focus: God's creation is good!

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Creation Storytelling

Gather in a circle for the story. **Welcome kids! Today we are going to play two fun games as we learn about the way God created the world. But first we are going to talk about an important word that I bet you already know! What does the word *good* mean?** Allow time for kids to respond, praising their responses.

Our Bible story today is about God creating the world. Do you think that God created a good world? Accept the kids' answers. Why don't we find out together? I want you listen carefully as I read the story of creation from our Spark Story Bible, and every time I say the word *good* I want you to play your noisemakers.

Distribute Spark Story Bibles and noisemakers, one of each per child. Invite kids to find the story of Creation in their Spark Story Bibles on pages 2-7. Read the Creation story aloud, encouraging kids to follow along. Be sure to emphasize the word *good* as you read.

So kids, did we hear a lot of "goods" in our story? Why do you think that is? Allow time for kids to respond. God made our world good because God loved all of creation. Everything that God made in those six days was good. Because God made you, too, you are good! Do you think it is cool that God thinks *all* of creation is good, including you? What a wonderful God!

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
Noisemakers (one per kid)

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Creation Matching Memory Game

Set up: Make copies of the Creation Matching Memory Cards Page A and Page B from pages 42-43 of this guide (one copy of Pages A and B for every two kids).

Spark Resources

None

Activity Instructions

Invite everyone to sit around a table and explain the game. **We will play a creation matching memory game.** Show everyone Pages A and B, and remind them what each picture on Page A stands for and which day it goes with.

Supplies

Set of Creation Matching Memory cards (one set for every two kids)
Scissors (one pair for every two kids)

Page A

- Top Row: day and night (Day 1), sky (Day 2)
- Second Row: land, water, and plants (Day 3), sun and moon (Day 4)
- Third Row: fish and birds (Day 5), animals and people (Day 6)
- Fourth Row: God rested (Day 7), blank

Your job is to match the picture of creation with the day it was created. For example—on Day 1, God created day and night, so you will need to find the card with the picture of day and night and the card with Day 1 on it.

Get ready to play

1. Form groups of two by pairing a younger child with an older one.
2. Distribute Creation Matching Memory Cards Pages A and B, and a pair of scissors to each group of two.
3. Ask kids to cut out the cards, lay them face down on the table in front of them, and mix them up.

Play the game

Take turns turning over two cards at a time until you find a picture that matches the day it was created. When you find a match, say, "On Day __, God created __." Take the pair you matched and keep it for yourself. The person with the most cards at the end of the game is the winner.

When everyone is finished, gather in a circle and review the story of creation together.

On the first day, God created . . . (day and night)

On the second day, God created . . . (sky)

On the third day, God created . . . (land, water, and plants)

On the fourth day, God created . . . (the sun and the moon)

On the fifth day, God created . . . (fish and birds)

On the sixth day, God created . . . (animals and people)

On the seventh day, God . . . (rested)

Creation Tag

Now that we really know the Creation story, let's put our knowledge to the test by playing a game of tag. Move to an open area large enough for a lively game of tag and explain how the game works.

Get Ready to Play

- Briefly review the days of creation, and practice the action for each day.
 - Day 1: kids will cover and uncover their eyes with their hands to show day and night
 - Day 2: kids may reach their arms up and away from their bodies to show "sky."
 - Day 3: kids will crouch and jump to look like plants springing from the land
 - Day 4: kids will make a circle with their arms to show sun and moon
 - Day 5: kids will flap their arms like birds and move their hands like fish
 - Day 6: kids will walk like people or move on all fours like animals
 - Day 7: kids will pretend to sleep
- Next, explain that one person will be a tagger who will have to "create the world" by tagging the kids in creation order. Everyone else will act out a day of creation. Make sure all days are covered! If there is more than one person acting out a given day, everyone acting out that day must be tagged before the tagger can start tagging kids for the next day. For example, all kids acting out day 1 must be tagged before the tagger can start tagging kids acting out day 2.
- When kids are tagged in creation order, they may sit down and cheer on the tagger.
- The game ends when everyone is caught. At this point, the tagger can sit down and rest, just like God rested on the seventh day.

Play the Game

We are ready to play Creation Tag! Choose one person from the group to be the tagger and send that person out into the hall with a Shepherd. Assign each of the remaining kids a day to act out. When everyone knows how they will act out a day, invite the tagger and Shepherd back into the room and start playing. Time the game to see how long it takes to finish, and play again and again with a new tagger, encouraging the group to beat their previous times.

That was fun! Tagger(s), how are you feeling after creating the world in six days? Are you ready for a rest? God created a good world in six days and rested on the seventh day. Because God rested on the seventh day, we rest on Sunday to remember God's work in creating the world. Great job today!

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
Timer

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Have a set or two of the Creation Matching Memory cards from pages 42-43 with you as you gather in a circle on the floor. **I'm so glad you came to join me at Bible Skills and Games today. It was fun to play with you. I hope you had fun, too. We are going to close in prayer, but I need your help. Everyone grab a creation card. Distribute cards, one per child. We are going to pray for all of God's creation. When I pause in our prayer, say either loudly or to yourself, all at once, the part of creation made on your day and pray for that part of our world.**

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Creation Matching Memory cards (one card for each kid)

Prayer Time

Dear God, thank you so much for creating a wonderful world that we can play games in. Thank you for all the work you put into the world on each day of creation. We pray for all parts of your creation, especially . . . (Pause and give the kids time to say their creation parts.) **Help us to live knowing that we are all a part of your good creation. We pray these things in your name. Amen.**

Workshop Focus: We are God’s stewards, just like Adam and Eve.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Creation Storytelling

Set up: Place the recyclable and nonrecyclable items in a pile on a table in the center of a circle.

Activity Instructions

Welcome kids and invite them to gather around the recyclable and nonrecyclable items. **Today we are going to play a fun game and go on a scavenger hunt to help us learn about God’s creation and our job in it. But first we are going to talk about recycling. Why do we recycle?** (*To preserve resources, to save the Earth, etc.*)

We recycle to help the earth we live in. Let’s try playing a little game to practice recycling. Go through each item in the pile and see if the kids can guess which items are recyclable or not.

A lot of things can be recycled. Discuss the following questions, allowing time for kids to respond. **Was there anything that could or could not be recycled that surprised you? Do you know why it is important to recycle and to help the earth?** Allow time for kids to respond. **Not only is it to keep the world nice, but we take care of the world just like Adam and Eve did, because God asked us to. We are God’s stewards, just like Adam and Eve.**

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Normal recyclable materials
(paper, plastic, cans, etc.)
Unusual recyclable materials
(eyeglasses, cell phones,
rubber tires, etc.)
Nonrecyclable materials (foil
gift wrap, binders, vinyl, etc.)
Pencils

Let's find the creation story in our Spark Bible. Invite kids to take out their Spark Bibles and find Genesis 2:4-25 on pages 3-4. Read aloud or ask for volunteers to help read the story, inviting kids to follow along. Encourage kids to place one or more of the Spark Bible Stickers near their favorite part of the story, marking the date and their reactions in the margin.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Creation Word Game

Set Up: On the chalkboard, chart paper, or whiteboard, draw blanks for each letter for all the following words and phrases: dust, nostrils, breath of life, garden in Eden, river, till, knowledge of good and evil, helper, name, rib, woman.

Activity Instructions

Gather around the chalkboard, chart paper, or whiteboard filled with the word puzzles to solve, and explain the game. **Today we will play a version of hangman. We'll solve word puzzles that will help us piece together the story of creation as it appears in Genesis Chapter 2. We have 11 rounds to play. Your job is to take turns guessing the letters that make up the words. Once we have figured out what all the words are, you will use your Spark Bibles to figure out which verses in Chapter 2 they are from.**

1. Ask kids to guess letters for each word, one word at a time.
2. When all words have been figured out, invite kids to use their Spark Bibles to figure out which verse the words are in.
 - a. Dust (verse 7)
 - b. Nostrils (verse 7)
 - c. Breath of life (verse 7)
 - d. Garden in Eden (verse 8)
 - e. River (verse 10)
 - f. Till (verse 15)
 - g. Knowledge of good and evil (verse 17)
 - h. Helper (verse 18)
 - j. Name (verse 19)
 - k. Rib (verse 22)
 - l. Woman (verse 22)

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Chalkboard, whiteboard, or
chart paper
Markers
Pencils

When you have finished this game, invite kids to use a Spark Bible Sticker to mark the part of the story that is most interesting to them, and encourage them to circle their favorite words.

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Set Up: Make copies of the Scavenger Hunt List from page 44 of this guide (one copy per kid).

Activity Instructions

Now we're going to move around a bit. We all know that God's creation has a lot of different things in it. We're going to go on a scavenger hunt to look for some of the different things God created, but we are also going to look for examples of how we use God's creation.

We are God's stewards, just like Adam and Eve. We are supposed to take care of the world, but often we do things we shouldn't—like littering and leaving the lights on at home. These things waste the resources of God's creation.

1. Divide the kids into teams of 2-4 kids. Ask Shepherds to help supervise the teams.
2. Give each team a basket or bag.
3. Give each kid a Scavenger Hunt List and a pencil.
4. Establish specific parameters so kids will stay safe during this activity, and communicate the rules clearly. (Where can they go? What can they take?)
5. Set the timer for 10 minutes and send kids out to find as many items on the list as they can find. Most of the items can be found both inside and outside. If kids find something on the list that doesn't fit in the basket or bag, have them write down what they found and where they found it on their Scavenger Hunt List.

When everyone returns from their scavenger hunt, allow each team a minute or two to describe what they found.

Look at all the evidence of God and humans we found today. Was it harder to find evidence of God's creation or human creation? Allow time for kids to respond. **We need to remember that it is our job to care for God's creation. Often that means making sure there isn't evidence of our own creation in the world—like litter. What are other ways we can help the earth?** (Pick up trash, recycle, compost, turn off lights and water, etc.)

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Basket or bag (one for each team of 2-4 kids)
Scavenger Hunt Lists (one per kid)
Pencils (one per kid)
Timer

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Sit in a circle around the piles of items collected during the scavenger hunt. **Thank you so much for coming to Bible Skills and Games today. I had fun and I hope you did, too. Tell me, what did you learn about the creation story today?** Allow time for kids to respond. **I learned that we are God's stewards, just like Adam and Eve, which means we have a responsibility to help care for the world. What is one way you are going to care for the world today?** Allow time for kids to respond. **Those are great answers, let's keep them in mind as we pray together.**

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Let's pray: Great Creator, your world is so amazing. There are so many colors and textures and creatures out there and they all came from you. Help us to protect your creation and to always see its value. Be with us today as we try to care for your creation by . . . (Give kids time to name their ideas—silently or aloud.) **Thank you for the chance to care for the world you created. We pray all these things in your name. Amen.**

Workshop Focus: We are created in God's own image!

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Creation Storytelling

As kids arrive, invite them to join you in a circle on the floor. **God made the whole world! Wow! Today we're going to hear about how God created everything—and created us in God's own image. What do you think that means?** Allow time for kids to respond. Answers will vary. **Being made in God's own image means that we are a reflection of God. Isn't that awesome? What an honor to share our likeness with God.**

Before we get to our games today, let's read the story from the Bible. I need your help, though! We're going to play a mirror game as I read the story. Pair kids up. Assign one as the leader and the other as the follower. Explain that as you read from the Bible, the leader will create actions to go along with the story. The follower will mirror the actions of the leader.

Read the story from the Spark Bible (Genesis 1:1—2:4, pages 2-3) dramatically and encourage kids create fun actions. Give kids the opportunity to mark the story with a Spark Bible Sticker. If your group is predominantly younger, you can read the Creation story from pages 2-7 of the Spark Story Bible.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Pencils

Great job! It's wonderful to hear how God created everything—including all of us. And it's great to hear that we are created in God's own image. We are reflections of God!

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Creation Team Tag

Move to an open area. **We just learned that God created everything in the whole world—including us! We learned something special about how we are created. What did we learn?** (*We are created in God's image.*) **That's right! Let's play a game of tag to remind us all about creation and that we are made in God's image.** Ask Shepherds to help keep everyone safe during this game!

Explain that there will be one tagger who will tag another member of the group. When tagged, that person must stop and the tagger must say, "You are made in God's image and you are good!" Then both players must link arms and continue to tag other people, following the same process. The game continues until all people have been tagged and everyone is linked together.

When everyone is linked, I will ask a question. At that time, run to your Bibles and figure out the answer. It will help for you to pair up with someone of a different age, so that you can use both Bibles.

Use the following questions. Continue play as long as time allows. Create more questions if you desire.

1. What did God create on the second day? (*day and night*)
2. In whose image were people created? (*God's image*)
3. What word did God use to describe creation? (*good*)
4. On what day did God create people? (*the sixth day*)

Guess the Sculpture

Set Up: Write the following sculpting ideas on the scraps of paper: image of God (make a few of these), fish, bird, dog, cat, giraffe, elephant, bear, snake, shark, monkey, pig, camel, lizard, lion, sheep, tree, flower, bug. Put the scraps of paper into a basket.

Activity Instructions

Gather around a table or another hard surface. **Today we've been talking about the fact that God created everything in the whole world. And God created us**

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Pencils

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Clay or dough (variety of colors)
Basket
Small pieces of paper
Marker

in God's own image. Awesome! Let's play a sculpting game that will help us remember all about creation.

Explain that a kid will choose a sculpting idea from the basket and begin to sculpt that thing out of the clay or dough. The group will have to guess what the person is sculpting. When a person guesses successfully, they take over as the new sculptor.

There's one twist, though. If you think that a person is being sculpted, don't say, "person," say, "image of God!" Ask the shepherds to help as kids need it during this game.

The game continues for as long as time allows. If a few kids are getting the answers right all the time be sure to call on some people who haven't answered yet to spread the opportunities around.

When everyone has had a chance to sculpt, compliment the group on their creative work. **That was some wonderful sculpting you kids did. Isn't it amazing, though, that only people get to be the image of God? All the animals and plants of God's creation are great, but only we get the lucky title of image of God. It is quite a responsibility to live up to, don't you think? In what ways does being made in God's image change the way we live?** Allow kids time to respond, accepting all answers.

It is a big responsibility to be made in God's image, and we can all try to live as God wants us to by listening to God's word and caring for others in the world.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Thank you so much for playing our games today. I hope you had fun. I did! I'm glad we could learn about creation. It is cool to be made in God's image! Think about someone who you don't always get along with. Do you think you can see the image of God in that person? We can pray that God will help us treat them as images of God, too.

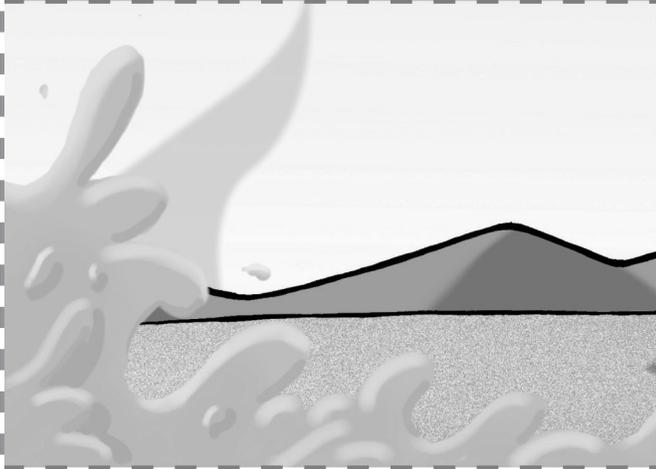
Prayer Time

Let's pray: God of all creation, thank you so much for sharing your image with us. Help us to live up to your image every day and to see that you make all people worthy of love and respect. Please help us especially see that . . . (Invite kids to name people from the above activity in their head or quietly out loud) . . . are all made in your image, too. Help us to be nicer to them because you made them, too. Thank you for helping us do your will. Amen.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None



**God
rested!**

Creation Matching
Memory Cards
Page A

**Day
1**

**Day
2**

**Day
3**

**Day
4**

**Day
5**

**Day
6**

**Day
7**

Creation Matching
Memory Cards
Page B

Scavenger Hunt List

God's creation

1. Something pointy

2. Something colorful

3. Something hard

4. Something soft

5. Something growing

Our creation

1. Something shiny

2. Something recyclable

3. Something littered

4. Something paper

5. Something reusable