

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bible</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Newspapers, milk jugs (plastic), aluminum cans, recycling bins (3)—one each for paper, plastic, and aluminum</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Fruit ring cereal, butter, marshmallows, hand soap, water, dish soap, sealing plastic bags, canned goods, microwave, oven mitts, microwave-safe mixing bowl, spatula, wax paper, cooking spray, cleaning supplies, wet wipes</p>
Upper Elementary	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Pencils, Bible high-lighter pens</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Cooking spray, flour, refrigerated pizza dough, pizza sauce jar, dried oregano, pepperoni slices, mozzarella cheese, shredded, soap, towels, kitchen shears, bowls, spoons, wide-blade spatulas, baking sheets, oven mitts, pizza cutter, plates, forks, napkins, dish soap, dish cloths</p>
All Kids	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Pencils</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Hand soap, water, labels for each station, plates, napkins, spoons, forks, fruit dip, crackers, broccoli crowns, pitcher of water, paper cups, permanent markers, tray, pineapple rings, apples, strawberries, fish-shaped crackers, blueberries, raisins, individually wrapped cheese slices, people-shaped cookie cutters, tablecloth</p>



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: Our creative God made everything.

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: Put a pile of newspapers, milk jugs, and aluminum cans on the floor, near three recycling bins.

Activity Instructions

Thanks for coming to the Cooking Workshop! Look at this mess! Point to the pile of recyclables. **Do you recycle at home? Why do we recycle?** (*to reuse materials, use trash to make something new, take care of the earth*) **God wants us to take care of the earth! How do you sort your recyclables?** (*organize by number, different bins, see what they are made of*) **Please help me!** Make sure each kid gets to sort a few items. Direct them to the appropriate bins. **Newspapers are made of paper and go in one bin. What are milk jugs made from?** (*plastic*) **What are cans made from?** (*aluminum*)

Do you know what you are made from? (*skin, bones, blood*) **We are made up of all of those things! Let's read about when God made the first person, Adam. This story is in the very beginning of the Bible, in the book of Genesis.** Read the story from the Spark Story Bible, pages 8–13. Be sure to show the illustrations.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

Supplies

Newspapers
Milk jugs, plastic
Aluminum cans
Recycling bins (3)—one each for paper, plastic, and aluminum

What did God use to make Adam and the animals? (dust) Wow! People and animals were created from dust! Who made the animals? (God!) Who made the plants? (God!) Who made the land and water and sky? (God!) God made everything! We are going to create with dust today. Let's get to work!

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Creation Crunch

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Ingredients

(Serves 8)

- 6 cups (1440 ml) fruit ring cereal
- ¼ cup (60 ml) butter
- 1 10-ounce (300 grams) bag marshmallows
- Cooking spray

Set Up: Cut placemat-sized squares of wax paper for each kid. Coat the wax paper pieces with cooking spray. Measure the butter and marshmallows into a mixing bowl. Measure 4 cups (960 ml) of cereal into a large mixing bowl. Divide the rest of the cereal into 4 plastic bags, ½ cup (120 ml) per bag. Remove the air and seal. Keep the other supplies handy.

Activity Instructions

Before we start, we must wash away the everyday, dirty dust from our hands!

Help the kids wash their hands with soap and water.

1. Divide the kids into pairs or small groups to crush the cereal. Give each group a sealed bag of cereal and a canned good.

We need the most important ingredient for our recipe—dust! Roll the can over the cereal to crush it into dust. As kids crush the cereal, point out that cans can be recycled.

2. Meanwhile, recruit a volunteer to coat a spatula with cooking spray. Melt the butter and marshmallows in a microwave-safe bowl in 30-second intervals. Stir the mixture every 30 seconds until it is smooth.
3. Invite kids to pour their bags of dust into the marshmallows, stirring the mixture until even and gooey. Then add the 4 cups (960 ml) of uncrushed cereal to the mix.

When your dust is ready, come add it to the creative mix! This dust looks yummy!

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Hand soap
Water
Dish soap
4 Sealing plastic bags
4 Canned goods
Microwave
Oven mitts
Microwave-safe mixing bowl
Spatula
Wax paper
Cleaning supplies
Wet wipes

- Scoop ½ cup (120 ml) of the gooey mix onto each square of waxed paper, one for each kid. While the mix cools, talk about God’s creative creatures.

Tell me about your favorite animal. What makes that animal unique? Allow time for answers. **Our creative God made the earth and everything on it! We know from the story that Adam and Eve named the animals. Now you will get a chance to play in the dust you made.**

- Pass out the squares of cooled cereal goo.

Shape your pile of dust into a new animal and give it a name.

- After some time for creating, show and tell about the works of art with each other.

Great job, creative chefs! These are some very creative animals. Now, you can eat them up!

Wipe up sticky hands and faces with wet wipes before you continue with the wrap up.

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.

Thanks for cooking today! I have never seen such creative animals!

Hold out your hands. These hands were made from dust, just as our animals were made from dust today. These hands are creative hands! They made great creations today. Pile your hands in the center of our circle. As we pray, keep your busy hands moving. When your hand is on the very bottom of the pile, pull it out and move it to the top. Let’s pray! End the prayer like a team cheer, lifting the pile of hands to the sky as you say together, “Aaaaaaa-men.”

Prayer Time

God, Thanks for making these hands! Only you could come up with the idea to make so many interesting people and animals from ordinary dust. You made everything with careful hands. Make our hands careful and gentle with the earth and its creatures. Amen.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Workshop Focus: God created everything and expects us to care for it.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Creation Storytelling

Welcome to Cooking Time! Wash up, creative chefs! As you wash, think about your favorite pizza restaurants. What are appetizers? (*foods served at the beginning of a meal*) **What is your favorite appetizer before pizza?** (*salad, breadsticks, cheese sticks, hot wings*) **Today, we're cooking up a snack that will help us remember the creation story. It's a story about the beginning of the earth and everything on it. It's found at the beginning of the Bible, in the book of Genesis.**

Invite the group to read the Know it! question in the orange box on page 2 of the Spark Bible, and together, highlight all the things God created in Genesis 1-2:4a. [Light - verse 3, a dome (sky) - verse 7, dry land and seas - verse 10, vegetation - verse 12, two great lights - verse 16, sea monsters/living creatures/birds - verse 21, cattle/creeping things/wild animals - verse 25, humankind - verse 27]

How long did it take God to create the world? (*Six days, although some scholars say that could mean six of God's days, which may be different than the way we count time.*)

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Pencils
Bible highlighter pens

What did God think about the things that were made? (*God saw that they were good.*) **Who was supposed to help God care for the earth?** (*Adam, Eve, people*)

God was creative and made us to be creative beings. Today, we will create a snack to help us remember the story.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Pizza Pie from the Sky

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Ingredients

(Serves 8)

- Cooking spray
- 1 cup (240 ml) flour
- 2 tubes of refrigerated pizza dough, quartered
- 1 14-ounce (397 grams) jar of pizza sauce
- 2 teaspoons (10 ml) dried oregano
- 2 packages pepperoni slices
- 2 cups (480 ml) shredded mozzarella cheese, ¼ cup (60 ml) for each pizza
- Optional: onions (diced), green peppers (diced), mushrooms, pineapple chunks, additional shredded cheese

Set Up: Preheat the oven according to the dough's package instructions. Coat the baking sheets with cooking spray. Pull the pizza dough apart into eight chunks. Use the kitchen shears to cut some of the pepperoni into crescents. Put the optional toppings in bowls with spoons and cover with a towel. Arrange all of the ingredients for easy access during your workshop.

Activity Instructions

Ask kids to wash their hands and gather around a counter or table to retell the creation story as you make mini-pizzas. Use your pizza as an example and lead the kids through the recipe, allowing time to complete each step. Indicate the end of each step by saying together, "God saw that it was goooood!"

1. Invite a helper to flip on the oven fan and the lights when cued.

Today, we start at the very beginning, when all was dark and without form.

On the first day of creation, the wind of God blew. God said, "Let there be light!" God saw that it was goooood! Cue helper to turn on light and fan.

2. **On the second day, God said, "Let there be a sky!" God saw that it was goooood!**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Soap
Towels
Kitchen shears
Bowls
Spoons
Wide-blade spatulas
Baking sheets
Oven mitts
Pizza cutter
Plates
Forks
Napkins
Dish soap
Dish cloths

Give a small scoop of flour to each kid and ask them to spread it around on the table in front of them.

3. **On the third day, God said, "Let there be dry land!" God saw that it was goooood!**

Place a ball of dough in front of each kid.

Flatten your land into a circle.

4. **On the third day, God said, "Let there be water!" God saw that it was goooood!**

Pass the pizza sauce and spoons; top the dough with "water."

5. **On the fourth day, God said, "Let there be a sun and a moon and stars." God saw that it was goooood!**

Give each kid one circle and one crescent of pepperoni. Top the pizza with your "moon" and "sun." Sprinkle oregano "stars" on top.

6. **On the fifth day, God said, "Let there be sea animals and birds!" God saw that it was goooood!**

Give $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cheese to each kid. Shape pieces of cheese into fish and flapping wings. Sprinkle remainder of cheese on the pizza.

7. **On the sixth day, God said, "Let there be creatures of every kind on the earth, animals and people!" God saw that it was goooood! God was creative to make all of the different kinds of creatures. Complete your original creation with your choice of toppings.**

Reveal the additional pizza toppings, reminding them to share with all.

8. Use a spatula to move the pizzas to a baking sheet. Bake for ten minutes.

On the seventh day, God said, "It is time to rest!"

God saw that it was goooood!

Note the placement of your pizza, so you can find it when it is time to eat. Shh! Your creations are resting!

9. **Let's pray! God, bless our creations as they bake. You make all things goooood! Amen.**

While kids are cleaning up, ask them to describe ways what they think is the most interesting, strange, weird, or surprising part of creation. Accept all answers and enjoy the conversation!

10. **People are God's partners in caring for creation. Let's be good stewards and clean up this mess while our pizzas bake.**
11. When browned, remove the pizzas to cool. Serve the pizzas on plates with napkins.

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.

Gather in a circle. **Just as you made your unique pizzas, our creative God whipped up an amazing earth filled with amazing, living things. Please pray with me.**

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

**Dear God, thank you for creating us!
God created us, and saw that it was goooood!
We can see that everything you made is goooood!
Help us take good care of it all. Amen.**

Workshop Focus: God created everything.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Creation Storytelling

Welcome kids and gather in a circle or around a table. **Hello, everyone! Are you ready to be creative today? What kinds of things do you like to create or make?** (*art, crafts, cookies, model airplanes, music, sewing projects*) **What is the longest amount of time it took you to make something?**

God is a creator. God made you and me. God made the whole earth and everything on it. Let's read in our Bible to find out more. If your group is mostly older kids, read the Creation story from Genesis 1-2:4a on pages 2-3 in the Spark Bible. When you're done reading the story, discuss the Think About It! question in the orange box on page 2. Invite them to use their stickers to mark this story in the margin. If your group is mostly younger kids, read the Creation story from pages 2-7 in the Spark Story Bible. Be sure to share the rich illustrations. **This story is at the very beginning of the Bible, in the book of Genesis.**

What did God make? (*everything: light, dark, sky, land, water, people, animals*) **How long did it take to make it?** (*Six days, and one to rest.*)

We are going to walk through the making of the world. Are you ready for a six-day journey? Let's start, like the story, at the very beginning, before there was anything at all.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Creation Station Appetizers

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Spark Resources

None

Ingredients

(Serves 8)

- 1 container fruit dip (16 oz., 480 ml)
- 1 sleeve soda crackers
- 1 small head broccoli, cleaned and cut into crowns
- Pitcher of water
- 1 large can pineapple rings
- 1 apple, cut into 8 wedges
- 1 pint (480 ml) strawberries
- 1 box fish-shaped crackers
- 1 pint (480 ml) blueberries
- 1 small box raisins
- 16 individually wrapped cheese slices

Supplies

Hand soap
Water
Labels for each station
Plates
Napkins
Spoons
Forks
Paper cups
Permanent markers
Tray
People-shaped cookie cutters
Tablecloth

Set Up: Arrange the supplies at seven stations, each labeled according to a day of creation.

Day 1: Plates, napkins

Day 2: Fruit dip, spoons

Day 3: Crackers, broccoli, pitcher of water, cups, permanent markers, tray

Day 4: Pineapples, apples, strawberries, forks

Day 5: Fish-shaped crackers, blueberries

Day 6: Animal crackers, raisins, individually wrapped cheese slices, people shaped cookie cutters

Day 7: Prepare a snack-and-rest spot. Spread a tablecloth on a table or picnic-style blanket on the floor where all may be seated.

Activity Instructions:

Move to the cooking area. **Before we begin, let's wash up!** Help kids wash their hands with soap and water. **We are going to make creation appetizers. Follow me.** Show delight at the end of each step of creation by saying together, "God saw that it was goooood!"

1. Begin in a darkened room, at the Day 1 station. Flip on the light in the room.

On the first day of creation, God said, "Let there be light!" God saw that it was goooood!

Pick up plates and napkins.

2. Move to the Day 2 station.

On the second day, God said, "Let there be a sky!"

Scoop clouds of fluffy fruit dip onto your plate.

3. Lead the kids to the Day 3 station.

**On the third day, God said, "Let there be dry land and plants and water!"
God saw that it was goooood!**

Create landscape with dry land with crackers. Add broccoli trees.

Ah, water! Pour water from a pitcher into drinking cups. It may be helpful to leave the cups at this station for ease of moving to the other tables. Kids may write their initials on their cups with a permanent marker and leave them on a tray until it is time to eat.

4. Rotate to the Day 4 station.

**On the fourth day, God said, "Let there be a sun and a moon and stars." Add a pineapple ring sun, apple wedge moon, and strawberry stars to your sky.
God saw that it was goooood!**

5. Move to the Day 5 station.

On the fifth day, God said, "Let there be sea animals and birds! "God saw that it was goooood!

Place a handful of fish-shaped crackers on your plate as you say, "Glug, glug." Add some blueberry birds to the scene as you make birdy "tweets."

6. Lead the kids to the Day 6 station.

On the sixth day, God said, "Let there be creatures of every kind on the earth, animals and people!" God saw that it was goooood!

Add animal crackers, raisin bugs, and two people-shaped cheese slices: Adam and Eve. As you add these creatures, make animal noises and buzzing sounds for the bugs. As you cut the cheese slices with a cookie cutter, announce, "Hello, Adam! Hello, Eve!"

7. Sit down together at the Day 7 station.

On the seventh day, God said, "Whew! It is time to rest!" Sit down and enjoy what you have created.

What we've just made is an appetizer plate. Appetizers are at the beginning of a meal. The picture we've made is the beginning of time. You are so creative!

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.

In less than a week, God created the whole world! God even took a day off to rest. Let's lay down on the floor to rest while we pray. Turn the lights down and sprawl on the floor.

Everybody breathe in, and now let out a deep sigh. In the prayer you will have a chance to add your favorite thing that God made: giraffes, rocks, grass, noses, whatever you want to say. Let's pray.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Dear God,

In six days you created everything in the world and all of the beauty on it.

Thanks for making . . . (Invite kids to name their favorite thing God created.)

Thanks for the people in this room.

Remind us to take rest times in our busy, creative lives. Amen.

Slowly, open your eyes, and sit up. Thanks for our Cooking Workshop today! I hope your heart and tummy were filled by our lesson about creation.