

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<p>Lower Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God’s creation is good.</p> <p>GOD SAID . . . : Kids portray each day of creation through creative movement and sound effects.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Fabric pieces of various colors, patterns, and textures found in nature, markers, cardstock</p>
<p>Upper Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God’s creation needs care.</p> <p>IT WAS VERY GOOD! Kids use simple props to re-enact the creation story from Genesis 2.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Pencils</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Large black sheet, fabric pieces of various colors, patterns, and textures found in nature, pencils, index cards</p>
<p>All Kids</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God gives us creation.</p> <p>GOD’S GREAT GIFTS: Kids make gift boxes representing creation and demonstrate ways to care for it.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Pencils</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Boxes, assorted sizes, wrapping paper, kid-friendly scissors, clear tape, stuffed animals, fabric pieces of various colors, patterns, and textures found in nature, water bottle, artificial plant, plastic fruits or vegetables, paper scraps, large black sheet, pencils</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: 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 and welcome everyone to Creative Drama. **It's great to see everyone! What is the weather like outside today?** Allow enough time between questions for kids to answer. **Does anyone have any plants growing inside or outside their house right now? Raise your hand if you saw any animals (pets or wild) before coming here today.**

Weather, plants, animals are all part of the special world God created for us, and God's creation is good. Let's hear the story of God's creation from our Spark Story Bible. There are some great pictures for you to see and some fun sounds for you to hear, so watch and listen carefully. (Read the Creation story from pages 2-7 of the Spark Story Bible.)

Let's see how carefully you listened. What was around before God created the world? (*nothing, only God*) **How did God create the world?** (*with words, God said . . .*) **What did God do on the last day, after the whole world was created?** (*God rested.*)

Today we're going to work together to act out the story of creation. We're going to imagine the sounds and movements of each good thing God made as we tell the story!

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bible

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

God Said . . .

Set Up: Lay out fabric pieces for kids to see and choose from. Write each set of sound effects words on individual pieces of cardstock with markers.

WISH! WHOOSH! SWOOSH!
CRACKLE BOOM! BANG!
SPLLLLLITTT!
PILLOW! BILLOW! PUFF!
DRIP! DROP! KERPLUNK!
CRACKLE! CRUNCH! SNAP!
RUMBLE! RUSTLE! POP!
GLIMMER! SHIMMER! SHINE!

WIGGLE! SPLISH! SPLASH!
FLUTTER! PUTTER! TWEET!
GROWL! PROWL! SNORT!
SKITTER! SKATTER! CREEP!
SLITHER! SLINK! HOP!
BLINK! WINK! HICCUP!
WHEW! PSHEW! AHHH!

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

Supplies

Fabric pieces of various colors, patterns, and textures found in nature
Large black sheet
Markers
Cardstock, 15 pieces

Activity Instructions

Prepare to re-enact the story. Ask the Shepherds to help you with this activity.

1. Help kids decide which parts of creation they wish to portray using body movement, fabric, and sound effects. Kids may act out more than one part. Show kids the various fabric pieces available for use as props and the sound effect cue cards.

We've got some things to help us tell this story today, including fabric for props and cue cards for all the sounds. Do any of the fabric colors remind you of something God created? Assign fabric and parts to kids, making sure each day of creation has someone to act it out. Here are the words from the sounds in our story. Which one(s) best match what you will be acting out? Distribute sound effect cue cards to match the days of creation.

2. Encourage kids to imagine what kind of movement each element of creation would make. Encourage out-of-the-box thinking. Trees could spontaneously grow from the ground. Sparkly fabric could be swung in a circle overhead to represent stars. More than one child could be involved in the movement.

Imagine what happened when God created things! How can you use your fabric to look like a bird or the stars? How could you move to show lightening? What might it have looked like when mountains were forming? Or plants and trees popping up through the ground? Ask a partner to help you if you wish. Take time to practice these movements.

3. Help kids practice reading the sound effect cards with inflection for their piece of creation. Encourage kids to vary the pitch of their voices. Invite them to imagine what the light, or God resting, might sound like.

Here is the sound effect for reptiles. What do you think reptiles would sound like? (*hissing or other suggestions*) **Let's make hissing sounds as we read this card!** (*SLITHER, SLINK, HOP!*)

4. Ask two volunteers to hold the black sheet to create a backdrop for the story.

Let's use this black sheet to represent the world before creation.

5. A child who likes to read may want to hold the sound effect cards, changing them when appropriate.
6. The leader is the narrator.

Re-enact the story

To get started, have the kids line up on the side of the sheet in order of appearance. **I'm going to help everyone line up in the order of our story. Hold on to your fabric. When it's your turn, you may come to front of the middle of the sheet, do your action and say your sound effect.** (Leader/Kid's name) **will hold the sound effect cards to help you.**

After your turn, move to the other side of the sheet. I'll be the narrator and remind you when it's your turn. Read the Creation story from the Spark Story Bible, pausing to allow the dramatic performances and sound effects to happen for each part of creation. Encourage children to be the audience when it's not their turn to act.

After the Re-enactment

Gather the kids to debrief the experience. Compliment the kids on their contribution to such a creative presentation of the story. Hold the Spark Story Bible (pages 2-7) open to the Creation story. **God created so many different things for us in the world. Do you think God is happy with creation?** (*Yes, God saw . . . and it was good. No, pollution has changed the world.*) **What is the best part of God's creation?** Accept various answers. **God gives us his good creation to take care of. How can we do that?** (*Don't litter, recycle, etc.*)

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.

It was fun to imagine what creation was like. What was your favorite part of our time together? Allow kids time to respond. **Just like God's creation, each of you played a unique and good part in our drama today!**

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

As we get ready to close, let's stand in a circle to remind us of the good earth God created. When we pray today, let's each thank God for one good part of creation. You can "pass" if you wish or use the same idea as someone else. I'll start the prayer, we'll go around the circle naming things, and I'll end the prayer.

Thank you for coming to Creative Drama today. It was fun to see you!

Prayer Time

Let's pray:

God of creation, we praise and thank you for all of the good things you have made for us . . . *(Kids and leaders name things.)* **God's creation is good!**

Help us to care for creation every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Workshop Focus: God’s creation needs care.

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 on the floor, or around a table. **Welcome to Creative Drama! It’s great to see everyone. I was wondering, does anyone here have chores to do at home?** Allow time for kids to answer this and each of the following questions. **How many of you have to care for pets? What kinds of things do pets need? Does anyone have yard work to do? How do your chores change as the weather changes?**

Our Bible story today is about our world, how God created it and gave us responsibility to care for it. God’s creation needs care. This story is told in the book of Genesis. Today we’ll read some different parts of the story. Ask for three volunteers to read Genesis 2:4-10; 2:15-22; and 1:29-31 respectively (page 3 of the Spark Bible). Invite kids to use one of their Spark Bible Stickers to mark this story, and write the name of their favorite animal in the margin.

That was a lot of information. Let’s see what you recall from our reading. How did God make Adam? (*formed him with dust, breathed life into him*) **What job did Adam have in the Garden of Eden?** (*work it and take care of it*) **When Adam needed a helper, who did God create?** (*first the animals, then Eve*)

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils

Today we're going to use some simple props and creative movement to re-enact the creation story from Genesis 2. Then we'll work together to produce a modern-day ending to the story.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

It Was Very Good!

Set Up: Lay out the fabric for kids to see and choose from. Write these four statements on each of 2 index cards:

- Thousands of years went by and the earth . . .
- Animals began to . . .
- The people were wondering . . .
- God's people remembered the story of creation and . . .

Activity Instructions

Prepare to re-enact the story. Move to an open area. Invite Shepherds to help you with this performance.

1. Help kids decide which parts of the creation story from Genesis 2 they wish to portray and make sure all parts are covered. **What could you be, other than a person, in this story? What parts would be important to include if you were telling this story to others?** Kids may wish to play a person or other part of creation and may participate in more than one part. Show kids the various fabric pieces available as props and encourage them to choose the fabric that will help them act out their part.
2. Invite kids to imagine what kind of movement each element of creation would make. Encourage creative thinking. Trees could spontaneously grow from the ground. A group of swaying kids could form a river. **What would God look like? Were all of the plants and animals fully grown at creation? What is one special thing you will do to play your part in the story?** Allow kids enough time to figure out how they will act out their portion of the story.
3. Ask for volunteers to read Genesis 2:4-10; 2:15-22; and 1:29-31 as narrators.

Read slowly to give our actors time to perform their parts. If I place my hand on your shoulder, stop reading for a moment to allow the actors to catch up.

Offer pronunciation help for any of the words.

4. Ask for two or three kids to hold the sheet as a backdrop for the re-enactment.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Large black sheet
Fabric pieces of various colors, patterns, and textures found in nature
Pencils
2 Index cards

Re-enact the Creation Story

To get started, have the volunteers hold the sheet so it looks like the backdrop for the story. The narrators could stand to one side of the sheet and the actors stand to the other side.

Let's pretend this black sheet is the world before creation. Listen carefully as our narrators begin to read the story. When you hear your part, join the scene in front of the sheet and do your actions. Our narrators may pause from time to time to allow everyone a chance to act. Let's start with total silence just like God did. Begin the re-enactment.

After the re-enactment, divide the group in half and give each group an index card with these four statements on them.

- Thousands of years went by and the earth . . .
- Animals began to . . .
- The people were wondering . . .
- God's people remembered the story of Creation and . . .

We have learned how God created the world and we learned about the jobs Adam and Eve had to do. What has happened with God's creation since then? I wonder how we're caring for God's creation today? I'd like each group to decide how you would finish the statements on these index cards, and then create a short pantomime or skit showing your answers. When the groups are ready with a skit or pantomime gather together to share them with each other.

Suggest one of the kids read the statements one at a time, while the others act out the group's ending. Kids could hold the black sheet for a backdrop once again if needed.

Compliment everyone on their creative work finishing the story. **How do you think Adam and Eve did taking care of the garden? If Adam and Eve had never left the garden, do you think our world would be different today? How?** Invite the kids to turn to Genesis 1:29-30 and mark their Bible with a *Makes Me Wonder*, *Makes Me Feel*, or *This Reminds Me Of* Spark Bible Sticker. Encourage kids to write their responses to the stickers in the margin of the Bible.

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, everyone, for coming to Creative Drama today. I hope you had fun with our creation story re-enactment, learning how Adam and Eve cared for God's creation, and sharing your Modern Day Ending of the creation story.

What's one thing you could do this week at home, church, school, or in our community to care for creation? Allow kids time to answer.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Let's gather in a circle to remind us of the good earth God created. Think of one thing God created that you are especially thankful for. During our closing prayer, each of you can name that piece of creation. It's okay if your idea is the same as someone else's.

Dear Creator, our world is so awesome. We thank you for . . . (Kids name items of creation.) **Help us to care for the world you gave us. Be with us and guide us the rest of the week. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Workshop Focus: God gives us creation.

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

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- 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

Welcome to Creative Drama! I'm glad we could all be here together today. Who can tell me what season we're in right now? Allow time for kids to respond after each question. **What are some of the good things about this season?**

Our Bible story today tells all about the good things God made for us in our world. Invite older kids to find Genesis 1:27-31 on pages 2-3 in the Spark Bible. Encourage kids to use a Spark Bible Sticker or write today's date in the margin. Ask one or two volunteers to read the passage to the group. **Thank you for sharing God's word with us. Listen now while I read more of the story.** Read the story of Adam and Eve from pages 8-13 of the Spark Story Bible.

God gives us all of creation. Help me remember the Bible story we just heard. What good things did God create? (*Garden, animals, trees, wind, water, people, etc.*) **Who were the first two people God created?** (*Adam and Eve*) **What job did God ask Adam and Eve to do?** (*care for creation, name the animals*)

Today we will work together to make props and perform a skit about God's good creation.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

God's Great Gifts

Set Up: Lay out supplies for kids to see and access easily.

Activity Instructions

Prepare to do the skit. Limit preparation time to no more than 15 minutes.

1. Move to an open area and group kids in multi-age groups with 3-5 kids in each group.
2. Instruct each group to agree on a favorite item from creation to present to the large group. (animals, plants, the sun, stars, water, people, etc.) Ask these questions to help the conversation and decision making process. **What is your favorite thing God created? What would you miss if God hadn't created it?**
3. Invite each group to use the available supplies to create a representation of their favorite part of creation. Have groups also choose an appropriate sized box for the item, place the item in the box, and wrap the box as a present.

Pick something that reminds you of your favorite part of creation. It doesn't have to be the exact thing. You can draw a picture of your item if you choose. It's okay if part of the item sticks out of the box or if part of the box shows. We'll be unwrapping all of the boxes during the skit.

4. Ask each group to come up with a list of ways to take care of their favorite part of creation, then create and practice a short pantomime showing how they will care for it.

Perform the Skit

When each group is ready with a pantomime showing how they will care for their favorite part of creation, come together as a large group and begin the performances. Ask for two volunteers to hold a black sheet as a backdrop for the skits, and one volunteer to read Genesis 1:28-2:1 from page 3 of the Spark Bible at the appointed time. The leader or a Shepherd can read the part of the narrator in the script below.

Let's imagine this black sheet is what the world looked like before God gave us creation. First we'll hear a part of the creation story from Genesis in the Bible, Then, I'll ask one group at a time to come up and name your favorite part of creation, and present your pantomime showing how you will care for it. Be sure to be a good audience for others while you are waiting your turn. Let's get started!

The volunteer reads Genesis 1:28—2:1.

Leader or Shepherd Narrator: **And God said, "Let there be (Name of favorite item from creation) _____." And God gave it to Adam and Eve to take care of.**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Boxes, assorted sizes, one per group of 3-5 kids
Wrapping paper
Kid-friendly scissors
Clear tape
Stuffed animals
Fabric pieces of various colors, patterns, sand textures found in nature
Water bottle
Artificial plant
Plastic fruits or vegetables
Paper scraps
Large black sheet
Pencils

Someone from the group unwraps the present and removes the item from the box.

Narrator: **Thank you God! We will care for** *(Name of favorite item from creation)* **by doing these things.**

The group acts out ways to care for it.

When all of the groups have had a turn the skit concludes as follows:

Narrator: **And God saw that his creation was good and on the last day, God rested.**

After the Skit

Have kids clean up any wrapping paper and put props and boxes where they belong. Gather the kids in a group to debrief the experience. **How do you think Adam and Eve felt about God's gift of creation? What kinds of things did they do to care for it? What kinds of things can we do to care for God's gift of creation?**

Invite younger kids to look at the pictures of the Adam and Eve story on pages 8-13 in the Spark Story Bible as older kids mark Genesis 1:28-2:1 with a *Makes Me Wonder, Makes Me Feel, or This Reminds Me Of* Spark Bible Sticker, writing a response to the sticker's prompt in the margin.

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.

I enjoyed seeing all of you present how you care for your favorite parts of creation. God really gave us some great gifts to care for in creation. What are some of your favorite gifts from God? Allow kids time to respond.

Thank you all for coming to Creative Drama today. We've really had some fun! Before we close with prayer, take a moment to think of one way you can help care for God's good creation. You may share your idea in our prayer if you wish.

Prayer Time

Let's gather in a circle to share how we can help care for creation in our prayer. I'll begin and end the prayer. During the middle, we'll go around the circle so you can add your idea. It's okay if your idea is the same as someone else's.

Creator God, thank you for everything you have given us, including the friends we have right here. Help us to care for your gifts by . . . (Allow kids to add their suggestions.) **Keep us safe this week until we meet again. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None