

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<p>Lower Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God created each of us and everything we see.</p> <p>CREATURE COLLECTION BOOK: Kids create their own animal creations to learn more about God's creation of the world.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Devices with internet access, drawing application, and slideshow application; paper and crayons</p>
<p>Upper Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God created a world full of amazing things.</p> <p>WACKY ANIMAL WEB SEARCH: Kids research a weird, wacky animal as a way to explore the vastness of God's creation.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Pencils or pens</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Devices with internet access and a drawing or text application</p>
<p>All Kids</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God's creation is good!</p> <p>NATURE HUNT: Kids go on a nature hunt with cameras to learn more about God's good creation.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Devices with a camera for kids in groups of 3 to 4, a list of what God created each day (use the reproducible list on page 58 to make a handout for each group)</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 created each of us and everything we see.

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

Greet kids as they arrive. Have them sit so that everyone can see the slideshow.

Welcome to the Digital Media and Technology Workshop! It's great to see everyone here today! I have a question for you. Where does a computer come from? Who created it? Give kids time to respond. Help them trace how the plastic, metals, glass, rubber, and other materials all came from natural resources that are part of the world that God created. **Everything that makes up a computer came from creation. God's world is amazing! God created each of us and everything we see, hear, taste, touch, and smell—even the resources that are used to make things like computers!**

Today we will hear a story about when God created the whole world. I'll read it to you from our Spark Story Bible. Hold up your Bible and turn to Creation on page two. **Every time I say the word, "Good," you say, "Hooray! It was good!" Let's practice. And God saw that it was good. (Hooray! It was good!) Great job.** Read the story, pausing for the hoorays.

Ask a few questions to help kids remember parts of the story.

Who created the world? (God.)

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

How long did it take God to create the world? (*Six days.*)

What are some things God created? (*Night, day, sky, light, water, sun, moon, stars, etc.*)

What did God do on the seventh day? (*Rested.*)

Great job! You remember many things about the story!

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Creature Collection Book

Set Up: Set up a device with a search application and slideshow application that an adult or youth leader will use to access the internet. PBS Nature and National Geographic sites might also be helpful. Make sure all kids can see the device. Pass out Spark Story Bibles for each kid.

Activity Instructions

1. **God created all the animals and nature around us. Today we will look at pictures of God's creations. Open up your Spark Story Bible to page six. What animals do you see?** Each time a kid points out an animal, search online for a real-life image of the animal for all the kids to see.
2. Ask the kids to pick out one animal they like best. **What do you like about this animal? What's interesting about it? Is there anything scary or dangerous about it? Why do you think God created this animal?**
3. **Let's draw the animals we've chosen!** Pass out paper and crayons. Ask kids questions about their animals. Encourage them to take up the whole paper with their drawing and to use lots of colors.
4. **We're going to make this into our own creation book! Everyone hand in your drawings and I'll staple them together.**
5. **What would you want to create if you could? Why? What would it do? God had a big job to do when creating everything. Let's appreciate the animals and nature God created.** Go through each drawing in the book. Make sure all kids can see. Give positive feedback about each drawing. Encourage the kids to say something they like about the drawings too.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Device with internet access, drawing application, and slideshow application
Paper and crayons

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

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

Gather kids together in a circle. Review the kind of animal each kid or group created during the activity. **God created each of us and everything around us. Let's say a prayer to thank God for all the different kinds of people and plants and animals God made.**

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

**Dear God,
Thank you for all of creation!
Thank you for birds that fly.
Thank you for fish that swim.
Thank you for creatures that crawl.
Thank you for making it all!
Amen!**

Workshop Focus: God created a world full of amazing things.

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

Greet kids as they arrive and have them sit in groups of no more than four. Pass out Spark Bibles. **Welcome to the Digital Media and Technology Workshop! I'm glad to see everyone! Today we're going to read the creation story from Genesis. Have any of you read this story before? What can you tell me about it?** Provide time for kids to respond with what they know about the story. **The story of Creation is the first story in the whole Bible. It's in the book of Genesis, which means "beginning." There are two stories about Creation. Both of them tell us about God creating many amazing things. We'll read the first story in our Bibles. Turn to Genesis 1:1.**

Give kids time and support to look up the story on page two in their Spark Bibles. For one way to read the story together, ask for volunteers to read what happens on each day:

Day 1: Genesis 1:1-5

Day 2: Genesis 1:6-8

Day 3: Genesis 1:9-13

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils or pens

Day 4: Genesis 1:14-19

Day 5: Genesis 1:20-23

Day 6: Genesis 1:24-31

Day 7: Genesis 2:1-4

Invite kids to choose one or more stickers to place by the story in their Bibles. Also encourage them to write in the margins.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Wacky Animal Web Search

Set Up: Make sure every group has a device.

Activity Instructions

1. **God created the animals we might have as pets, like cats, dogs, rabbits, and horses. God also created animals we might see in zoos, like lions, giraffes, and monkeys. God also created unusual animals like sloths and chinchillas. On your device, look up some animals that you might see in a zoo but not in your home.**
2. If kids are sharing devices, walk around the room and make sure everyone is getting a turn. If they're not sure what to look for, give kids the names of some strange animals (wombats, okapis, guanacos, capybaras). After a few minutes, ask each group to share their strange animal. **What's strange about your animal? Why do you think God created it? What's interesting about it? Now we're going to create an animal report. Look up facts about your animal and type them in a document. You may also copy and paste pictures of your animal into your report.**
3. **Let's share a little bit about your animal report. What do you like about your animal? What does your animal do? What does your animal eat? What's a fun fact about your animal? Thank you, God, for creating unique animals!**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Devices with internet access
and a drawing application

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

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

To finish up your time together, gather in a circle with kids. **Thank you for sharing the information you learned. It's amazing to think of all the wild and wonderful creatures God created.**

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to pray a rhyming prayer. Invite them to take turns finishing the rhyme that you begin. Here are a few couplet starters:

Thank you God, for things that fly.

Thank you God, for . . .

Thank you God, for making the night.

Thank you God, for . . .

Thank you God, for creating the earth.

Thank you God, for . . .

Finish the prayer with this rhyme:

God, we thank you for all your creation.

Making the whole world really took imagination!

Please watch over us night and day.

All of these things, in your name we pray.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: God's creation is good!

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

Greet kids as they arrive and have them sit in groups of three or four. **Welcome to the Digital Media and Technology Workshop! I'm glad to see everyone! Let's look out the window. Describe what you see.** Give the kids time to name things like trees and plants and sky. Encourage them to use other descriptions like green, bright, dark, shiny, or windy. **Did you know that God created all of those things, and that all of them are good? God created plants and trees and birds. God created colors. God created light and darkness. God created weather!**

We are going to hear the story of Creation from the Bible. Every time you hear the word "good" I want you to say, "It was good!" Depending on the age and attention span of your group, read the Creation story from pages 2-7 of the Spark Story Bible or the account of creation from Genesis 1:1–2:4 on pages 2-3 in the Spark Bible. Pause each time you say the word good. After the reading, encourage kids using the Spark Bible to mark the creation story with a sticker.

What was one good part of creation that you remember? (*Allow time for kids to respond.*) **Remember those parts of creation. They will be important in our workshop activity today!**

Today we'll be going on a nature hunt! Let's go!

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Nature Hunt

Set Up: Have the handout listing God's creations ready to go with each device.

Activity Instructions

1. Provide a camera, smartphone, or tablet and the list of God's creations for each group. **Who can tell us what God created on the first day? Go through each of the seven days. Wonderful! Now that we know what God created, let's go find the creations!**
2. Go outside and invite the groups to take one picture for each day of creation, with the older kids using the cameras. If there are multiple items for a day, such as wind, light, day, and night, they only have to take a picture of one of those. Have the Shepherds help supervise. Gather everyone back together once the groups have finished.
3. **Let's see all the beautiful pictures you have taken of God's creations!** Have the kids show off the picture they took for each day. **What do we notice in this photo? What is good about this creation? What do you like to do on a day of rest?**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Devices with a camera for kids in groups of 3 to 4
A list of what God created each day. Print the reproducible list on page 58 and hand one out to each group.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

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

To finish up your time together, gather in a circle. **Thank you for sharing all the ways you found God's creation outside.**

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Show kids how to do a “Moving Five” prayer by sitting down with legs crossed and hands on knees, palms up. **I will begin a prayer, and you can help finish it. Each of us will put our right hand on top of the hand of the person sitting on our right. This means we put our left hand under the hand of the person on our left.** Expect a little confusion! A quick demonstration will help kids position their hands correctly.

When I begin our prayer, I'll start by thanking God for something good. When I'm finished, I'll gently bring my right hand over and tag my neighbor's hand on the left. Then the next person will thank God for a good part of creation, tag the neighbor's hand, and so on.

Dear God, Thank you for EVERYTHING in your creation. I am thankful for rivers. They are good! Tag your neighbor's hand. Finish the prayer when the Moving Five gets back to you. **God, thanks for all of your good creation! Amen.**

What God Created

1. Wind, light, day, night
2. Sky
3. Water, land, plants, trees
4. Sun, moon, stars
5. Sea animals and birds
6. Animals with fur, bugs, reptiles, people
7. Rest