

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God created us to take care of creation.</p> <p>CARING FOR CREATION: Kids chant “We Care for This World” as a speech choir accompanied by rhythm instruments.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Selection of rhythm instruments, chart paper with lyrics for “We Care for this World”</p>
Upper Elementary		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God created us with unique imaginations.</p> <p>CREATION SOUNDTRACK: Kids create a soundtrack by choosing music for each part of the Creation story.</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: CD player or mp3 player with speakers (or access to YouTube), 15-20 songs of various genres (country, pop, hip hop, rap, musical theater, opera, classical, rock, metal), chart paper and markers, or whiteboard and dry erase markers, pencils</p>
All Kids		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God created a special place for everyone.</p> <p>ALL GOD’S CREATURES: Kids will make a music video of a performance of “A Place in the Choir.”</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Chart paper, marker, pencils</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Sets of animal ears, stuffed animals or puppets, score or recording of “A Place in the Choir” by Bill Staines (Copyright © 1978 Mineral River Music), keyboard or guitar, rhythm instruments, chart paper, video camera, TV, 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 created us to take care of creation.

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 kids. When everyone has arrived, begin. **Welcome to Music! It's wonderful to see you all today. Raise your hand if you've ever watered a plant. Now raise your hand if you've ever picked up litter off the ground and thrown it in the trash. These are two great ways that we can take care of creation!**

Today, our Bible story is called Creation. It's about where everything in our world comes from. The story is from Genesis, and it's the very first story in the Bible. I'll read it aloud, and you can pretend to be the parts of creation by echoing all the creation sounds I make (the UPPER CASE WORDS). Distribute Spark Story Bibles and have everyone find page 2. Pause after each UPPER CASE word that you read so the kids can repeat the sound.

That was fun! I liked all of the sounds you made. Now let's see what you remember about the Creation story. Who created the earth? (God.) What did God create at the beginning? (Light, sun, birds, plants, etc.) What did God do on the seventh day of creation? (God rested.) What's your favorite thing in the world, and how do you take care of it?

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

The world that God has created is a wonderful place, and God trusts us to take care of it together. Today, we're going to learn a chant about all the things in God's creation that we can care for.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Caring for Creation Chant

Set Up: Become familiar with "We Care for This World." Write the lyrics on chart paper.

Spark Resources
None

We Care For This World

Chorus: We are God's stewards, We care for this world.

Supplies

Selection of rhythm instruments
Chart paper with lyrics for "We Care For This World"

Verse #1: Birds of the air? Fish of the sea?

Verse #2: Plants giving seed? Trees growing fruit?

Verse #3: Animals and birds, that swim and crawl and fly?

Verse #4: Humans just like me, created just like God?

All Groups Together: Yes, we are God's stewards, we care for this world!

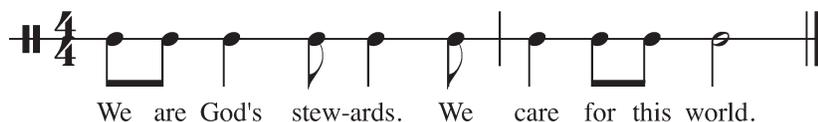
Activity Instructions

1. Invite kids to gather in a circle where they can see the lyrics for "We Care For This World."

Today we are going to learn and perform a chant about being God's stewards.

A steward is someone who takes care of things. Who takes care of you? (*Mom, Dad, brothers, sisters, friends*). **What kinds of things do God's stewards take care of?** (*birds, fish, plants, trees, etc.*)

2. Teach the chorus, starting with the two bars of 4/4 rhythm (shown below). Clap the rhythm for the kids, then have them clap with you. Add the words. Repeat until the kids know it.



3. Teach the verses and encourage kids to pantomime with each verse:

Verse #1: Birds of the air? Fish of the sea? (Encourage kids to pretend to be birds flying and fish swimming.)

Verse #2: Plants giving seed? Trees growing fruit? (Encourage kids to pretend bodies grow like trees and plants.)

Verse #3: Animals and birds, that swim and crawl and fly? (Invite kids to pretend to swim, crawl, and fly.)

Verse #4: Humans just like me, created just like God? (Point to yourself and others. Encourage kids to give each other high fives or hugs.)

All Groups Together: Yes, we are God's stewards, we care for this world! (Join hands in a circle.)

4. Practice the first verse and chorus with everyone.
 - Chant the chorus.
 - Clap the rhythm of the chorus
 - The leader chants the first verse: **Birds of the air? Fish of the sea?**
 - The kids repeat it back, pantomiming the actions as they chant.
 - Chant and clap while saying the chorus.
5. Divide the kids into three groups: Chorus, Rhythm, Verses.
6. Place the groups in separate areas of the room. Pass out rhythm instruments to the rhythm group.

Chorus chanters, what do you clap and say? (*We are God's Stewards! We care for this world!*) **And what's a steward?** (*Someone who takes care of things.*) **Rhythm kids, play your rhythm instruments in the pattern we learned and tell us who God's stewards are.** (*Us.*) **Verse chanters, tell us and show us what stewards take care of?** (*birds, fish, plants, trees, etc.*) **Right! And everybody, what does God want all of us to do?** (*Care for creation!*)

7. Perform the song. Point to each group when it is their turn.

We Care for This World

Chorus Group (Chant and Clap): **We are God's stewards, We care for this world.**

Rhythm Group: Play instruments in rhythm of chorus.

Verse Group (Chant and pantomime Verse 1): **Birds of the air? Fish of the sea?**

Chorus Group (Chant and Clap): **We are God's stewards, We care for this world.**

Rhythm Group: Play instruments in rhythm of chorus.

Verse Group (Chant and pantomime Verse 2): **Plants giving seed? Trees growing fruit?**

Chorus Group (Chant and Clap): **We are God's stewards, We care for this world.**

Rhythm Group: Play instruments in rhythm of chorus

Verse Group (Chant and pantomime Verse 3): **Animals and birds, that swim and crawl and fly?**

Chorus Group (Chant and Clap): **We are God's stewards, We care for this world.**

Rhythm Group: Play instruments in rhythm of chorus

Verse Group (Chant and pantomime Verse 4): **Humans just like me, created just like God?**

Chorus Group (Chant and Clap): **We are God's stewards, We care for this world.**

Rhythm Group: Play instruments in rhythm of chorus

All Groups Together: **Yes, we are God's stewards, we care for this world!**

Option 1: Have the groups switch parts, so everybody gets the chance to do everything.

Option 2: March around available space (hallways, other rooms) while performing "We Care For This World."

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 in a circle. **We are going to ask God to help us take care of creation, but we are going to use our bodies not our words. When I say, "God help us take care of . . ." you are going to use your bodies, not your voice, to show God what you are going to take care of. You can use the actions we used today for our chant, or you can pretend to be another part of God's creation.** Give kids time to figure out how they will move their bodies during the prayer.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Let's pray:

Dear God, your creation is great, and we want to take good care of it. "God help us take care of . . ." Ask kids to use their bodies to show what they will take care of. **With your help, we will try every day to be good stewards of your creation. Amen.**

Workshop Focus: God created us with unique imaginations.

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

Welcome kids as they arrive. Gather in a circle. **Welcome to Music! How many of you listen to music?** Allow time for kids to respond. **What kinds of pictures do you imagine when you listen to your favorite music?** Allow time for kids to respond. **Music is used in lots of different ways to express our imaginations. A really popular example is movies. In movies, music soundtracks are very important. They help make the story more real to the audience.**

Our Bible story today doesn't use music, but we are going to find music to help express our imagination of the story, and to give the story a soundtrack. The story is the Creation story. Let's read it from our Spark Bibles. Find Genesis 1:1—2:4a on page 2-3. Use the "popcorn!" reading style. Have each kid read as much as he or she wants and then yell, "popcorn!" Then it's the next kid's turn.

Thanks! Let's review. What were some of the things God created? (*Water, land, day, animals.*) **Now close your eyes and as I read, try to imagine what this day of creation looked and sounded like while it was being created.** Reread Genesis

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils

1:6-7 aloud. **Open your eyes. What did you imagine? What did you see? What did you hear?** Allow time for kids to respond. **Choose a sticker to place by your favorite part of the creation story and write something in the margin if you want to. What do you wonder about or imagine doing when you read those verses? God used imagination to create everything and God created us in his image. Like God, each of us has a unique imagination!**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Creation Soundtrack

Set Up: Bring a wide variety of music to class. Ahead of time, determine which songs might go with a particular part of the creation story (see the example below), and consider providing multiple song options for each part of the story in order to give kids a variety of choices.

Activity Instructions

Today we are going to imagine what it might sound like if music represented each part of creation and we will create our own soundtrack for the Creation story. We'll take turns reading the Bible texts, and for each text, I will play parts of a few different songs and together we'll decide which song fits the text best.

Start with Genesis 1:1-2. Invite a volunteer to read the verses from their Spark Bible and ask kids to imagine what it looked and sounded like at this point in the creation of the world. Next, play excerpts from a few songs and ask kids to choose which song fits the text the best. When the group agrees on a song, use the chart paper or whiteboard to document the text reference, the title of the song, and the artist. Repeat this process for each of the texts listed here. After songs have been assigned to all of the texts, play the entire Creation soundtrack in order and have volunteers read each passage just before the assigned song is played.

Example of a Creation Soundtrack

Genesis 1:1-2 - A Formless Void
Song Title: *A Day Without Rain*
Artist: Enya

Genesis 1:3-5 - Light
Song Title: *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *Messiah*
Artist: Handel

Genesis 1:6-7 - Sky
Song Title: *Pictures at an Exhibition*
Artist: Mussorgsky

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

CD player or mp3 player
with speakers (or access to YouTube)
15-20 Songs of various genres (country, pop, hip hop, rap, musical theater, opera, classical, rock, metal) that could be used to represent an aspect of creation
Chart paper and markers or whiteboard and dry erase markers
Pencils

Genesis 1:9-10 - Land and Seas
Song Title: *Washington Post March*
Artist: John Phillip Sousa

Genesis 1:11-12 - Plants and Trees
Song Title: *The Garden Song*
Artist: John Denver

Genesis 1:14-18 - Stars, sun, moon
Song Title: *Star Wars Theme Song*
Artist: John Williams

Genesis 1:20-21 - Flying and Swimming Creatures
Song Title: *A Place in the Choir*
Artist: Bill Staines

Genesis 1:24-25 - Wild Animals
Song Title: *Circle of Life* from *The Lion King*
Artist: Elton John and Tim Rice

Genesis 1:26-31 - Humans
Song Title: *Fanfare for the Common Man*
Artist: Aaron Copland

Genesis 2:1-3 - Rest
Song Title: *Angels Watching Over Me*
Artist: Public Domain

After the soundtrack has been played, invite kids to take a couple of minutes to go back into their Spark Bibles to write something in the margins to help them remember their musical experience. Some kids might want to draw musical notes, some might want to write the names of the song chosen for a particular day, some might want to use a Spark Spot sticker to mark a text that has new or important meaning for them.

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.

**You created a great creation soundtrack! Your imaginations are very creative.
Let's share a prayer together before we leave for the week.**

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

We're going to use clapping pattern for our closing prayer. Let's clap eight fast notes together. Teach the kids a clapping pattern—8 fast claps with accents on the 1st, 4th, and 7th claps.

This is a call and response prayer. Make sure you say your own name instead of repeating mine. Let's start clapping! Clap throughout the prayer.

Repeat after me!

Hey God! (*Hey God!*)

How's it going? (*How's it going?*)

Remember me? (*Remember me?*)

It's _____. (*It's _____.*)

Choose me! (*Choose me!*)

For your work! (*For your work!*)

Help me see. (*Help me see.*)

And hear. (*And hear*)

Your awesome things. (*Your awesome things.*)

I can imagine. (*I can imagine.*)

The awesomeness. (*The awesomeness.*)

That was creation. (*That was creation.*)

Thanks for that! (*Thanks for that!*)

AMEN! (*AMEN!*)

AMEN! (*AMEN!*)

Workshop Focus: God created a special place for everyone.

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: Have chart paper and marker ready to go.

Activity Instructions

Gather in a circle. **Welcome to music! I have some questions for you. Where do you sleep at night?** (*In bed.*) **Where do pets sleep?** (*In a kennel, fish tank, outside.*) **Where do birds sleep at night?** (*In their nests.*) **All of God's animals and each of us have our own places to sleep, and live, eat, and learn.**

Our Bible story today is about Creation. It's from the book of Genesis, the first book in the Bible. The story tells how God made a special place for everything in creation. Let's read the story and keep track of how many things God creates. Raise your hand every time you hear something that God has created and we'll keep a tally. Have a Shepherd or an older kid keep tally on the chart paper. Help the kids find "Creation" on pages 2-7 in the Spark Story Bible and/or Genesis 1-2:4a on pages 2-3 in the Spark Bible. Encourage kids using the Spark Bible to mark the Creation story with a sticker, and circle the name of their favorite part of creation.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Chart paper
Marker
Pencils

Great job! Let's count how many things you heard God create. Help kids count the tallies. **Can you name some of the things that God created?** (*Light, birds, animals, humans.*) **Our talents, homes, family, and friends all make up a part of our place in creation. What is your special place in creation?** (*Answers will vary.*) **Turn to your neighbor, shake hands, and say, "Thanks for making my place in creation great!"**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

All God's Creatures

Set Up: Practice the melody and lyrics to "A Place in the Choir" by Bill Staines. Make sure the video camera and TV are ready to go if you will create a music video. Write lyrics for chorus and the first three verses of "A Place in the Choir" on chart paper.

Activity Instructions

Today, we're going to make a music video of all of us performing the song, "A Place in the Choir." The words of this song talk about how everyone has a part in God's choir! We're going to pretend to be all those different parts of creation while we sing this song.

Teach the Song:

1. Invite kids to gather in a circle where they can see the lyrics for "A Place in the Choir."
2. Using call and response, teach the chorus. Sing each line for the kids, then have them repeat it back. Repeat until all lines are learned. Make up actions to help the kids remember what they are singing.
3. Practice the first three verses. The older kids who can read and Shepherds should take the lead on singing the verses.
4. Ask the kids to identify what animals they are singing about in each verse. Encourage the kids to pretend to be the animals when they are singing.

Make the Video:

Invite reluctant performers to run the camera, be in charge of lighting, hold the chart paper, or stand off camera and lead actions for the younger kids. Don't expect perfection, but encourage everyone to be energetic! Multiple takes and blooper reels can be great fun!

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Sets of animal ears
Stuffed animals or puppets
Score or recording of "A Place in the Choir" by Bill Staines
(Copyright © 1978 Mineral River Music)
Keyboard or guitar
Rhythm instruments
Chart paper with lyrics
Video camera
TV
Pencils

1. Film the chorus. Use actions and rhythm instruments. If you have a digital camera, you can insert the chorus in between the verses when you are editing. If you don't, film the chorus in between each verse.
2. Film the song verse by verse until you have filmed all 3 verses. (You may have to film each verse more than once to get what you want.) Give the younger kids puppets, stuffed animals, and animal ears to use when acting like their animals. Invite the older kids to either act like animals or use rhythm instruments.
3. Try to allow time at the end to watch what you have filmed. Kids love to see themselves on TV!

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.

Let's gather all of our "critters" here today and share a prayer of thanks for all of God's creations. Thanks for all your work today. You were great critters, filmers, and singers!

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Our prayer today is an opposites prayer. I'll say, "Thank you God for something" and you'll say, "Thank you God for the opposite of that something." If I say, "Thank you God for up," you would say . . . (Thank you God for down.) Right! Let's pray.

God of creation, you have made all sorts of wonderful things. Thank you God for light. (Thank you God for dark.) **Thank you God for water.** (Thank you God for land.) **Thank you God for animals that fly.** (Thank you God for animals that crawl or swim.) **Thank you God for night.** (Thank you God for day.) **Your creation is great, and we are glad to have a special place in it! Amen.**