

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God’s wind carries creation everywhere	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: None
WIND CARRIERS: Kids experiment with using wind to carry or move things.	SUPPLIES: Non-latex balloon, deflated beach ball, or plastic shopping bag	SUPPLIES: Multi-speed fan (the larger the better), masking tape, bubble solution and wands, foam trays, pencils, scissors, toothpicks, paper squares 5" x 5", crayons, glue, long shallow tub (a long plastic underbed storage box works well), water, towels
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God’s breath gave us life.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers
EVERY BREATH YOU TAKE: Kids measure their personal wind (lung) capacity and test what it can accomplish in various situations.	SUPPLIES: Pencils	SUPPLIES: Plastic tablecloths, flexible straws, clear 2 liter plastic bottles, pitchers of water, dishpans or large bowls, funnels, measuring cups, towels, pencils, whiteboard or poster board
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God’s wind does work.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
AWESOME AIR: Kids learn how to use air-powered devices to get work done.	SUPPLIES: Pencils	SUPPLIES: Copy paper, tape, pencils, non-latex balloons or quart size zippered bags, Bibles, small metal washers, string, scissors, corrugated cardboard strips, markers, 3" square wooden blocks, hammer, 1 ½" nails with small heads, large diameter straws



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 wind carries creation everywhere.

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 begin when everyone has arrived. **Welcome to Science. I am excited you are here. Did you know that sometimes scientists investigate the invisible? For example, some scientists experiment with sound. Can you see sound? (No.) Some scientists experiment with smells. Can you see smells? (No.)**

When we read today's Bible story, we are going to focus on something invisible that God used to start creation, the wind. Wind is made of air, which we can't see either. But we can catch air. What can we catch air with? (A bag. A balloon. A beach ball. An umbrella.)

To help us see the importance of air in the creation story, every time we read a "windy" word, like whish, puff, and breeze, I want you to blow air out of your mouth. Pretend to be like the wind! At the same time, I will add air to this balloon (or beach ball or bag) and pinch it shut.

Creation is the story of how our world began, so it's the first story in our Bibles. Let's open up to page 2 and read together. Cue the kids when you want them to blow like the wind.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
Non-latex balloon, deflated
beach ball, or clear plastic
bag

Look at our balloon! If we let air out, would we see it? (No.) Is it still there? (Yes.) It's the same way with God. God is all around us. We don't see God, but we can see all the things God made.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Wind Carriers

Set Up:

- Create a large, open area in the room with the fan at one end.
- Place a table in front of the fan.
- Place the tub on the table and fill it about half full with water.
- Use tape to mark a line on the floor a few feet away from the fan.
- Make a sample boat by cutting a boat shape from a foam tray. Fold the paper in half to make a triangular sail. Glue the sail to a toothpick. Stick the toothpick in the front end of the boat.

Activity Instructions

Move to the large open area. **Do you remember the very first thing that happened in Creation? Our story said "a wind from God." Why do you think creation started with wind?** (*There wasn't anything else. Wind is just air. Wind can carry things a long way. Wind can do work.*) **Wind is a good starting point for us, too.**

1. **Let's make wind right now using our bodies.** Encourage kids to blow, flap hands and arms, twirl around. **What is wind made of?** (*Moving air.*) **Can we see the wind?** (*No.*) **But we can see things that it moves. We are going to see how God uses wind to carry things.**
2. **Everyone needs bubble solution and a bubble wand. Find a place to stand along the tape. Without moving your feet, how far across the room can you blow a bubble?** Let the kids do this for a minute or so.
3. **How strong is our wind?** (*Not very.*) **How can we make a stronger wind?** (*Use the fan.*) **How could a stronger wind help us?** (*It could blow the bubbles farther. It could blow bigger, heavier things.*) **Let's see if we are right.** Let the kids blow bubbles using the fan at different settings. Encourage observations about the distance the bubbles travel, if the bubbles break sooner, etc.
4. **Bubbles are very light. The wind can move much bigger things, too. What else can the wind move?** (*Kites, leaves, seeds, balloons, boats.*) **We are going to make sailboats for the wind to move.**
5. Distribute a foam tray, pencil and scissors to each child. **Use the pencil to draw a big boat shape on your tray. Then cut it out.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Multi-speed fan (the larger the better)
Masking tape
Bottles of bubble solution and wands
Foam trays
Pencils
Scissors
Paper squares 5" x 5"
Crayons
Glue
Toothpicks
Long shallow tub (a long plastic underbed storage box works well)
Water
Towels

6. **Next we need to make a sail.** Distribute paper squares and crayons. **Take one corner of your square and fold it to the corner diagonally across. This will make a triangle sail. Color your sail on one side. Write a note to God on the other.**
7. Distribute toothpicks and glue. **Glue about half of your toothpick inside one end of your sail. Stick the other end of your toothpick near the front end of your boat.**
8. **We'll take turns putting your boats in the tub of water at the end closest to the fan. What do you think will happen when we turn the fan on?** (*The boats will move to the other end.*) Turn on the fan and watch the boats move.

We experimented with wind, an invisible carrier of God's creation. We also used the wind to carry God's word. Every time we feel a breeze, we can be reminded of the beginning of creation.

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. **Wind, like God, is invisible but always working. What can you think of that the wind does?** (*It moves sailboats. It dries clothes.*) **In our closing prayer today, each of us is going to tell God your idea. For example, you could say, "God, your wind makes the leaves dance." Then everyone will say, "Thank you" together. Then it is the next person's turn. Everyone will have a turn. It's okay if you repeat what someone else says.**

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

God, your wind makes the leaves dance. Thank you.

God, your wind lets me fly a kite. Thank you.

God, your wind

After all the kids have said something, conclude with:

God, help us to remember you created our world every time we feel a wind blow.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Workshop Focus: God's breath gave us life.

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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

Gather in a circle and begin when everyone has arrived. **Welcome to Science. Today I am looking forward to investigating an overlooked, but vital part of our world, air. Many of you may be familiar with the Creation stories. How many times do you think air, or an air-related word like wind, or breath is mentioned in that story? (A lot. None. Five.) I would like you to count each air related word we find in today's reading. You can circle them in your Bibles if you want to.** Distribute pencils. **Our story today is at the very beginning of the Bible. It is in the book of Genesis, Chapter 2 starting on page 3.** Encourage kids to place a sticker near the story.

Read Genesis 2:4-25 as a group. **How many air-related words can you find? (breathed, breath, air) Is anyone surprised that air is mentioned in the Creation story? So many times we just take for granted that air is there. But not today. Let's get going on some air investigations.**

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Every Breath You Take

Set Up:

- Cover the work area (either tables or floor space) with plastic tablecloths.
- Provide an empty 2 liter bottle, pitcher of water, dishpan or deep bowl, funnel, measuring cup, two flexible straws and a towel for each pair or group of kids.
- Create a chart like this on a whiteboard or poster board, labeling a row for each kid.

Kid's name	Lung capacity (In cups)	Verse completed in 1 breath—normal voice (N)	Verse completed in 1 breath—whisper (W)	Verse completed in 1 breath—loud voice. (L)

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Plastic tablecloths
Flexible straws (1 or 2 for every kid)
Empty 2 liter bottles (one for every 2-3 kids)
Pitchers of water (one for every 2-3 kids)
Dishpans or large bowls (one for every 2-3 kids)
Funnels (one for every 2-3 kids)
Measuring cups (one for every 2-3 kids)
Towels (one for every 2-3 kids)
Pencils
Whiteboard or Poster board
Markers

Activity Instructions

Move to the science work area. **In today's Creation stories, it was God's breath that gave us life. What do we use to breathe? (Lungs) We're going to do a few lung experiments today. First, we'll measure our lung capacity. Remember, God made soft breezes and strong gales, and has given us different lung powers as well.**

1. **Find a partner (or small group) and sit near a dishpan or bowl. Be sure to take turns with each step of our experiment.**
2. **Put your empty 2 liter bottle in the bowl. Use the funnel and pitcher to completely fill the bottle with water.**
3. **Next, take the full bottle of water out of the dishpan and set it carefully on the table. Make sure no water spills out!**
4. **Fill the dishpan with at least 4 inches of water.**
5. **Cover the mouth of the bottle with your thumb or fingers and quickly turn the bottle upside down so that no water spills out and the top of the bottle is under the water in the dishpan.**
6. **While one person holds the bottle under the water, someone else should slip the short end of a straw up inside the neck of the bottle. You'll need to bend the short end of the straw first for this step.**

7. **One person can take one deep breath and blow as hard as you can into the straw.**
8. **When you have run out of air, cover the mouth of the bottle and quickly pull it out of the water and turn it upright.**
9. **Use the water from the dishpan, a measuring cup, and the funnel to refill the bottle with water. Fill it to the tippy top, and keep track of how many cups it takes to fill it! That measurement is your lung capacity. Record your results in the Lung Capacity column on the chart.**
10. **Let your partner(s) take their turn(s).**

After all the kids are done, distribute pencils and review the experiment.

While we can't create a world using our breath, what can we do? (*Talk, sing, whistle, blow up a balloon, blow out a candle, play some musical instruments, etc.*)

Our breath gives us life and enables us to do many things. Thanks be to God for breath and lung capacity!

Everyone has different lung capacities because we are all different. Some of us have lots of air in our lungs and others of us have less. All of it is okay! Now, let's test our lung power.

1. **Everyone open your Spark Bible to another story of Creation from Genesis 1:1-31 on page 2.**
2. **Everyone will read as far as you can in this story 3 times—once in a normal voice, once in a whisper, and once in a very loud voice. The trick is, you get only one breath each time. Your partner(s) will watch and record how far you get—the verse number and final word—on the chart. You should write an “N” for normal voice, “W” for whisper, and “L” for loud voice in your Bible after your last word of each test to remind you how far you got.**
3. Take the following poll before beginning. **Good scientists make predictions of what they think will happen. Let's make some predictions right now.**
4. **Who thinks they can read the farthest in a one breath whisper?** Put a small X in the whispering column in the appropriate rows.
5. **Who thinks they can read the farthest is one breath with a normal voice?** Make appropriate marks in chart.
6. **Who thinks they can read the farthest in a loud voice?** Make appropriate marks in chart.
7. **Let's try normal voice first. Face your partner(s), and pick who goes first. Take a deep breath and begin.**

Compare predictions with results and discuss. The results will vary, but generally speaking, kids will get farthest when reading in a whisper because they aren't using as much air to talk. Reading with a loud voice uses a lot of air, and they won't get as far! **We should remember, God's breath gave us life. We can use our breath to tell others about God and to give thanks.**

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. **Which animal do you think has the greatest lung capacity? What can you do to increase your lung capacity? Why would you want to? Let us close now with a breath prayer. Breathe in the entire time I am saying the first line. Then breathe out the entire time I am saying the next line. The trick is to breathe in or out—slowly. At the end, we will all say, Amen.**

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Breathe in: Lord God, the wind with which you started creation is with us still.

Breathe out: The breath that gave us life continues to flow through all of us, each time we breathe.

Breathe in: Help us remember the importance of keeping your life-giving air clean,

Breathe out: so that we can continue to give you thanks and to acknowledge your marvelous creation.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: God's wind does work.

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

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Creation Storytelling

Set Up: Pour about 1 inch of water into the pan. Place the candle in the center of the pan. *Before lighting the candle, check your local fire codes and your congregation's fire policies regarding the use of open flames.*

Activity Instructions

Gather in a circle and begin when everyone has arrived. **Welcome to Science. Did you realize that both the Bible and science help people understand more about their world and how it works? The Bible uses stories, science uses experiments.**

While we are reading today's Bible stories, we're going to make some scientific observations. Move the pan so it is visible to all. **Your observations about what happens will lead into today's activities. Let's open our Bibles to the very first story, the beginning, Genesis 1:1.**

Start reading from page 2 of the Spark Bible.

At Gen. 1: 3, light the candle. **"Then God said, "Let there be light."**

At Gen. 1:6, put the jar over the candle. **"Then God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters."**

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Supplies

Votive candle
Matches
Clear glass jar
Shallow pan
Water

Continue reading. At some point, the candle will extinguish and the water level in the jar will rise. Wait until the end to explain.

Can anyone explain what happened here? What part of creation does the candle represent? (*Light*) **What part of creation does the glass represent?** (*the sky/dome*) **Does anyone know why the candle extinguished?** (*It ran out of air.*) **What happened to the water level?** (*It got higher.*) **Why?** (*The water replaced the air.*) **Air, which both we and the candle need, is what we are going to investigate. Let's get started.**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Awesome Air

Set Up: Use a hammer to drive one nail into the middle of each wooden block, leaving about 1" of the top exposed.

Make sure the straws fit easily over the head of the nails and can turn freely.

Activity Instructions

Move to the area where you will do today's experiment. **The first part of today's stories says Creation started with God's wind. Did God's wind stop after the sixth day?** (*No*) **God used wind to do work, and so do we. Let's see how.**

1. Separate kids into multi-age groups of 3 to 5 members each.
2. **Sometimes, it helps if we capture, or focus the power of wind. Stand two Bibles up with about one hand space between them. One at a time, try to blow the books down. If they don't fall, everyone try blowing together.**
3. **How can you blow the books down?** Distribute a balloon to each group. (Make a balloon by poking the straw through one end of the bag and taping around it.) **How can you use this to push the books down—just using the wind you create?** Put the balloon between the books and inflate. **What happens?** (The books fall over.)
4. **If you focus your wind, you can knock things over and you can also lift heavy objects. Put a deflated balloon so the lip hangs over the edge of the table. Place one Bible at a time on top and blow into the balloon. How many Bibles can you lift with air?** (The number of Bibles you can lift will depend on the weight of the Bibles and the size of the balloon.)

Wouldn't it be nice if we could see the wind? It could remind us of Creation every time we saw it! We can't see the wind, but we can see where the wind is coming from by making a wind vane.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Copy paper
Tape
Pencils
Non-latex balloons (one or two for each group of 3-5 kids) or Quart size zippered bags
Bibles (one or two for each group of kids)
Small metal washers
String
Scissors
Corrugated cardboard strips—2" x 5" (one for each group of kids)
Markers (enough for each group to have access to a few colors)
3" square wooden blocks (one for each group of kids)
Hammer
1½" nails with small heads (one nail for each square wooden block)
Large diameter straws

1. Distribute the cardboard strips, markers, scissors, tape and straws to each group. **Draw a picture on your cardboard strip. Some ideas include an arrow, fish, an airplane, or maybe a cloud blowing air. Color one side. On the other side, write a note about God's wind.** (*God's wind creates. God's wind blows all around, etc.*)
2. **Balance your shape on one finger. When you find its balance point, tape one end of the straw to that spot.**
3. **Slide the other end of the straw over the nail. Watch what happens when you blow.** (*The cardboard spins around like a weather vane spins in the wind.*) If you have time and the ability to go outside to test the wind vanes, that would be great!

Wind vanes use air that is moving to push the vane around. Air is always pushing against us, but we don't usually notice it. However, we can use that pushing air in other ways.

1. Distribute washers, copy paper, string, tape and scissors to each group.
2. **Somebody hold a washer high out over the floor and let it go. What happens?** (*It falls to the ground.*)
3. **Now let's use the paper, string, tape and scissors to find a way to make the washer fall more slowly.** Let the groups experiment freely. After a few minutes, if direction is needed, suggest they try making a parachute by running string through the center of the washer and attaching it with tape, to a piece of copy paper.

Gather together to reflect on all the experiments of the day. **Today we observed that air is there, even if we can't see or feel it. It helps us in many ways. The same is true with God.** Share a story from your own life about how God is present, and invite Shepherds and kids to do the same if they are comfortable doing so.

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.

Today we talked about the wind and air of Creation. Although wind and air are invisible, they are essential to our lives. Each line of our closing prayer is going to start with a letter found in the words air and wind. Think of something, visible or invisible, that you are thankful for that starts with those letters. When I raise my hand after each line, say what you are thankful for.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Lord God,

A—All you have created (*apples, armadillos*)

I—Is everything we need (*ice cream, in-line skates*)

R—Right in our own world. (*raccoons, ravioli*)

W—We thank you for everything. (*water, walnuts*)

I—In your loving kindness (*insects, ice cream*)

N—Never let us take you for granted. (*noodles, noses*)

D—Day by day, let us be more aware of your goodness. (*dogs, deer*)

Amen.