

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<p>Lower Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: We are created for life together.</p> <p>CREATION CONNECTIONS: Kids watch a video that encourages thought regarding humanity’s relationship to creation.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Something that’s special to you that you get to take care of (a ring, a picture of a baby, a musical instrument, etc.), a potted plant, a globe, pictures of created things listed in Genesis 1:1-2:4a</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bible</p> <p>SUPPLIES: <i>Dr. Seuss’ The Lorax</i> OR <i>Finding Dory</i>, video source, large screen, and snacks (optional)</p> <p>For <i>Dr. Seuss’ The Lorax</i>: “trash” items (paper, wrappers, old socks, etc.)</p>
<p>Upper Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God calls us to care for creation.</p> <p>SMALL CREATURES, BIG CHOICES: Kids watch a video that shows kids interacting positively and/or negatively with creation.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: A potted plant, picture of a family pet, pictures and props representing creation</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bible, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: <i>Dr. Seuss’ The Lorax</i> OR <i>How to Train Your Dragon</i>, video source, large screen, a globe, snack (optional)</p>
<p>All Kids</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: Our lives are connected to all other life.</p> <p>LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS: Kids watch a video that portrays the relationships between animals and their human neighbors.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Spray bottle filled with water, pencils</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bible, Spark Bible Stickers, Spark Story Bible</p> <p>SUPPLIES: <i>Dr. Seuss’ The Lorax</i> OR <i>Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron</i>, video source, large screen, and snacks (optional)</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: We are created for life together.

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 Video! Today we are going to talk about taking care of things!** Show the kids your special item. Tell them how you care for it. Then show them the plant. **What would happen if you didn't take care of this plant? What happens when you take care of it?**

Our Bible story today tells how God made everything on earth. Show the globe. **All the water, land, plants, and every living creature, including you and me!**

Read the Creation story from pages 2-7 of the Spark Story Bible. Invite kids to follow along and keep track of all the created things the story mentions (*light, sky, water and dry land, plants and trees, sun, moon, and stars, sea animals and birds, animals of every kind, people*).

What did God create? Use pictures from the Spark Story Bible to help kids recall the reading. If you brought pictures, use these as well.

We heard in the story that everything that God made was good. This means that it was exactly the way God wanted it to be. God wants us to help keep it

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Something that's special to you (a ring, an heirloom, a musical instrument, etc.)

A potted plant

A globe

Pictures of created things listed in Genesis 1:1-2:4a.

that way. Taking care of creation—plants, animals, water, air, and each other!—means that we will always have a great home!

As you watch today's video, think about what you can do to care for the good things God has given us.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Creation Connections

Set Up: Preview and select the video clip you would like to use. Collect the additional supplies for the video you will be showing. Set up the video source and projector in your space, making sure that everyone in the room will be able to see it. If desired, prepare a snack for the kids to enjoy while they watch the video. Ask Shepherds to help you with this. *Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

Video Option 1: *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax* (2012, animated, PG)

Start cue: (5:12) "Oh, hi Ted." "Hi Audrey." "Did your ball land in my backyard again?"

End cue: (22:37) "Check it out, guys! Oh. Where did everybody go?"

Scene set-up: The land around Thneedville was once beautiful and full of life. But the people became greedy and used up all the good things on the land and left it empty and useless.

Activity Instructions for *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*

Move to the area where you will watch the video. **Today we're going to think about taking care of God's creation. God built our world to be our home. Just like our houses, apartments, or townhouses, our planet home needs care, too.**

Discuss the following questions, helping kids understand that taking care of our Earth is important. **What would happen if you didn't take care of your house — if you never, ever cleaned the dishes, or washed your clothes?** (*Everything would be a mess!*) **Taking care of the world is the same way. If we don't do our job, the world could become a mess! Today we're going to watch a video that has to do with taking care of creation.**

Show the kids the garbage and talk briefly about it. **How many of you like garbage? What would happen if I threw this all over the floor? Or if I went outside and tossed it in the parking lot? What should I do with it instead?** (*Throw it in the trash!*)

Show *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*, using the Start and End cues above for starting and stopping points.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Option 1: *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*
Video source and large screen
"Trash" items (paper, wrappers, old socks, etc.)
Snacks (optional)

Option 2: *Finding Dory*
Video source and large screen
Snacks (optional)

Following the clip, discuss the video using these questions: **Would you like to live in Ted's world? How do you think the world got that way? How could people have taken better care of it? How could they make their world better?**

Video Option 2: *Finding Dory* (2016, animated, PG)

Start cue: (16:52) "Too late, already fed."

End cue: (31:00) "She's extremely near-sighted. And here she comes now!"

Scene set-up: This clip highlights the impact that we as humans can have on parts of God's creation, including the oceans and creatures that live there.

Activity Instructions for *Finding Dory*

Move to the area where you will watch the video. Discuss: **What kind of things do you like about your home? Do you have a favorite part of your home? Do you like your home when it is super messy? Do you have certain things that you put in particular places? Like coats and shoes go in a closet, or on a rack? Our waste also has certain places it is supposed to be. Do you know about recycling? What is it? What kind of things can you recycle? What kind of things can't you recycle?**

Where do you think fish and whales and sharks live? In our movie, we will see a lot of sea creatures in their home, the ocean, and we'll see how humans can make their home clean and how our actions can make their home messy.

Show *Finding Dory*, using the Start and End cues above for starting and stopping points.

Following the clip, discuss the video using these questions: **What did the ocean look like at the beginning of the clip?** (*Unclean, lots of trash in the ocean.*) **How did that hurt Dory?** (*She got caught in the plastic from a six pack of soda.*) **How do you think that trash got in the ocean?** (*Humans.*) **How did humans help in the clip?** (*They got the plastic off of Dory. They helped the two sea lions when they were sick. They rescue, rehabilitate, and release animals.*) **What was your favorite animal from the clip? Just like us, all those animals and creatures are God's creation. And God wants us to care for all the other animals and living things. We need to help each other live and grow. Who are some people who care for you? Who do you care for?**

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. If space permits, invite the kids to form a circle. Place the globe in the middle of the circle.

Take a minute to think about the video we just watched, and all the gifts God has given us to care for on this planet.

God asks us to care for not only plants and animals but also for each other. Take a look around the circle—each person here is someone that God made! Let's thank God for everyone and everything in Creation.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Globe

Prayer Time

Invite kids to echo each line:

**Thank you, God for all creation,
Every town in every nation
Every creature in land and sea
Every person next to me
Amen.**

Workshop Focus: God calls us to care for 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 begin when everyone has arrived. **Welcome to Video! Today we are going to talk about caring for God's creation. I've brought some examples of things that I get to care for at home.**

Show participants the plant and the pet. Ask them to describe what “duties” you might have as the caregiver for these things. **What responsibilities do you have at home?** Allow time for kids to respond. **God cares about us and all of creation and we humans get to help take care of it all! Our Bible story today tells of the day God created everything. Let's hear more!**

Distribute the “creation” props. Read the creation account of Genesis 1:1-2:4a on pages 2-3 in the Spark Bible. As you come to each new created thing in the story, invite the kids with the corresponding prop to show, shine, wave, or otherwise display the prop for others to see.

Isn't it incredible to think that EVERYTHING was made by God? How did God describe each thing? (Good.) Think of the things that were listed in this story. Which is your favorite? What's good about it? Allow time for kids to discuss.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

A potted plant
A picture of a family pet
Pictures and props
representing creation

Invite kids to use their Spark Bible stickers and write in the margin if they wish, and then to share which verses they marked.

Today we are going to watch a video clip to help us think about what it means to care for God's creation.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Small Creatures, Big Choices

Set Up: Preview and select the video clip you would like to use. Set up the video source and projector in your space, making sure that everyone in the room will be able to see it. If desired, you can prepare a snack for the kids to enjoy while they watch the video. *Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

Video Option 1: *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax* (2012, animated, PG)

Start cue: (47:41) Ted is driving his bike to the Onceler's house in the dark.

End cue: (1:01:40) The Lorax flies away and the Onceler looks sadly at the ground.

Scene set-up: The Onceler tells Ted, a boy looking for a real tree, the story of how he let his greed and selfishness destroy the Truffula trees, which lots of animals called home.

Activity Instructions for *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*

Move to the area where you will watch the video and invite kids to be seated. Show them the globe. **Sometimes it's hard to remember that God made us to live in community with all living things. It's not so much that we're "in charge" of creation, but that we are "responsible for" it. We get to be the protectors who take care of our planet! Let's watch a movie about taking care of God's creation.**

Brief them with the scene set up before starting the film. Ask them to observe how the Onceler was not a good protector, and how the Lorax was a good protector of creation.

When the clip is over, use the following questions to discuss the clip: **Where did you see examples of people caring for creation? Where did you see examples of people not caring properly for creation?** (*The Lorax makes sure the animals are safe. The Onceler cuts down all the trees without a thought to the creatures, even the ones that used to be his friends.*) **What do you and your family do to care for the world around you?**

Video Option 2: *How to Train Your Dragon* (2010, animated, PG)

Start cue: (12:00) Hiccup is hit with a branch and looks up to see a broken, fallen tree.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Option 1: *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*
Video source and large screen
Globe
Snack (optional)

Option 2: *How to Train Your Dragon*
Video source and large screen
Snack (optional)

End cue: (29:09) Toothless eats the fish Hiccup offered.

Scene set-up: Hiccup is a Viking that lives in a town with a bunch of people. In his town, they have a lot of sheep, and that attracts dragons, dragons who eat the sheep and burn down the houses. Needless to say, the Vikings and dragons don't have a good relationship.

Activity Instructions for *How to Train Your Dragon*

Move to the area where you will watch the video and invite kids to be seated.

Show them the globe. **Sometimes it's hard to remember that God made us to live in community with *all* living things. It's not so much that we're "in charge" of creation, but that we are "responsible for" it. We get to be the protectors who take care of our planet! Let's watch a movie about taking care of God's creation.**

Brief participants with the scene set-up before starting the film. Ask them to watch for examples of good and poor caretaking of God's creatures.

When the clip is over, use the following questions to discuss the clip:

Where did you see examples of people caring for creation? Where did you see examples of improper care? (*Hiccup rescues and feeds the dragon he brought down instead of killing it. He tries to learn about dragons instead of just fighting them. The other vikings just want to fight the dragons and don't care about learning about them or why they do what they do.*) **Have you ever stepped on a bug, pulled leaves off a tree or picked on a smaller kid just because it was "fun" or "easy"?** (Most of us have!) **What lesson does our Bible story teach us today about how and why God would have us behave differently in these situations?**

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.

Thank you all for joining in the Video workshop today. And thank you to the shepherds who brought you here—let's give them all a high five!

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Globe

Prayer Time

If time and space permit, invite participants to form a circle for closing prayer. Place the globe in the middle of the circle. Invite participants to take a moment to remember the Genesis creation account, the story of how God formed the earth and everything in it.

As you look at this globe and think about how God made the whole world, which parts of creation are you most thankful for today? Invite kids to respond.

What might you do this week to take good care of our planet? Invite kids to respond.

Let's pray. Please repeat each line after me when I pray it:

Every creature, great and small,

You have made us one and all.

Help us each and every day,

Love to show in every way.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: Our lives are connected to all other life.

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.
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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Creation Storytelling

Gather in a circle and begin when all kids have arrived. **Welcome to Video! Today we're going to talk about neighbors. When God made the world, it was like a big friendly neighborhood. Everyone got along, played together, and loved God. Let's listen to the Creation story!**

Read the Creation story. If your group is made up of primarily younger kids, use the Spark Story Bible (pages 2-7). If the group is primarily older, use the Spark Bible (Genesis 1:1-2:4a on pages 2-3). Read the Creation story dramatically, with feeling, encouraging the kids to follow along as you read. God created the world from nothing—this is quite an amazing story!

If you are reading from the Spark Story Bible, have fun with the sounds included in the story. Invite kids to join in the fun by making sounds on cue: “tweets” for birds, “woofs” and “neighs,” etc., for animals. At the end, have them say, “Whew! Pshew! Ahhh!” when God rests.

If you are reading from the Spark Bible, begin in darkness. Have a volunteer turn on the lights when light is created. Invite volunteers to spray mist from a spray bottle

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
Spray bottle filled with water
Pencils

onto the group when water is created. Invite kids to use their Spark Bible stickers to mark the story.

God created a good place for us to share. Our video today will help us think about how we do so.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Loving Our Neighbors

Set Up: Preview and select the video clip you would like to use. Set up the video source and projector in your space, making sure that everyone in the room will be able to see it. If desired, you can prepare a snack for the kids to enjoy while they watch the video. *Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

Video Option 1: *The Lorax* (2012, animated, PG)

Start cue: (5:12) "Oh, hi Ted." "Hi Audrey." "Did your ball land in my backyard again?"

End cue: (22:37) "Check it out, guys! Oh. Where did everybody go?"

Scene set-up: The land around Thneedville was once beautiful and full of life. But the people became greedy and used up all the good things on the land and left it empty and useless.

Activity Instructions for *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*

Invite kids to be seated. Brief them with the scene set up before starting the film.

A lot of times, we think that humans are in charge of everything. However, when watching this video, pretend you're the Lorax or one of the animals. What would you think as you watched the Onceler cut down the first tree? How do you think what the Onceler did eventually affected the animals and plants?

When the clip is over, use the following questions to discuss the clip, accepting all answers: **Pretend again that you are one of the animals in the movie. How would the Onceler's world look to you? How would their arrival change your day? What could the Onceler have done to make sure the animals were cared for? How could the people living in Thneedville with Ted take care of animals or plants? How do you care for the wildlife in your neighborhood?**

Video Option 2: *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron* (2002, animated, G)

Start cue: (23:06) "Murph, you okay?" Horses neigh at Spirit.

End cue: (37:20) Little Creek smiles up at Rain from the ground.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Option 1: *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*
Video source and large screen
Snacks (optional)

Option 2: *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron*
Video source and large screen
Snacks (optional)

Scene set-up: Spirit is a horse that is the leader of a herd of wild horses. He gets captured by humans, and is treated in two very different ways.

Activity Instructions for Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron

Invite kids to be seated. Brief them with the scene set up before starting the film. Then ask:

How many of you have ever met a horse before? What are they like? How do you think you should treat them? As we watch the video, pay attention to how the humans treat the animals.

When the clip is over, use the following questions to discuss what you just saw.

How did the Colonel treat Spirit? What about how Little Creek treated him? How do you think God wants us to treat animals? What could we do to be sure that our animal neighbors are cared for? (Keep our yards clean and poison free, feed birds, plant things that will provide shelter and food for animal, etc.) How do you care for the animals in your neighborhood?

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.

God made the world and every living creature in it. God put us here to enjoy and care for creation. When we care for our neighbors—human, animal, fish, bird—we will have a better world to live in!

Let's give thanks for all of our neighbors. First, think about your favorite animal. [Pause.] **On the count of three, everyone shout it out!** Count to three and let the group say their answers.

Next, look at the person to your left. . . . to your right. . . . in front of you . . . and behind you. Everyone in this room is part of God's creation, too. Just like the animals and fish, we all are unique, one of a kind! And we all need to work together to help each other along every day.

As we pray, let's thank God for our favorite animals, for the people around us, and for everything!

Prayer Time

Creator God, thank you for everything you made when you created this beautiful world. Help us to be thankful and to take care of all of your good things. Thanks for our favorite animals (pause) . . . and for each other. Amen.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None