

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Clay</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Dough shells, milk, eggs, cheese, ham, soap, water, towels, oven, oven mitt, knife, cutting board, cookie sheets, mixing bowl, whisk, measuring spoons, dry measuring cups, towels, plates, forks, napkins</p>
Upper Elementary	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Paper, pen, pencils, plastic eggs</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Pretzels, cereals, Easter chocolates, butterscotch baking chips, soap, water, towels, bowls, dry measuring cups, mixing bowl, microwaveable bowl, microwave, spatula, spoons, waxed paper, scissors, cookie sheet, freezer, orange soda pop, cups</p>
All Kids	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Water, food coloring, small plate, sugar cubes, medicine dropper, glass, water, spoon, pencils</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Sugar cubes, powdered sugar, milk, almond extract, soap, water, towels, heavy waxed paper, baking sheets, mixing bowl, liquid measuring cups, measuring spoons, rubber spatulas, spoons, toothpicks, bowls, food coloring paste, pastry bags, decorating tips, tongs, plates, plastic wrap</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: When God raised Jesus on that first Easter, we were changed forever!

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)

Holy Week and Easter Storytelling

As the kids arrive, let them play with a large ball of clay. **Make a cave out of the clay. This is the cave tomb of Jesus, where all of the Easter action happens. A tomb is a grave that sits above the ground.**

When you are ready to begin, tell the kids to grab a handful of the clay and gather around for story time. Ask Shepherds to help each kid get enough of the clay. Give each kid a Spark Story Bible. Help them turn to the stories. **We will use the clay to tell the Easter story. Follow along with your clay and Bible as we read together.**

I'm going to read The Day Jesus Died, pages 476-481, and The Empty Tomb, pages 482-487, from the Spark Story Bible. When you read the following lines, lead the actions with the clay:

- Page 476: The soldiers made Jesus carry a heavy wooden cross. **Make a cross from your clay.**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
Clay

- Page 478: The soldiers nailed Jesus' hands and feet to the cross. **Push your finger in the places where Jesus' hands and feet were on the cross.**
- Page 483: They hurried to the cave where Jesus was buried. **Roll the clay into a ball and push your thumb into your balled clay to make a cave.**
- Page 484: It was empty in there! Jesus was gone! **Look inside your clay cave. It's empty! Jesus is alive!**

How did Jesus die? (*He was nailed to a cross.*) **Where was Jesus buried?** (*in a cave called a tomb*) **When Jesus was raised on Easter, the world was changed forever! Jesus' death means new life for us!**

Collect the clay to use in the closing prayer.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Quiche Caves

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Ingredients (serves 10):

- Baked miniature phyllo dough shells, 2 packages, 2.1 ounces (60 grams) each, 30 shells total
- Eggs, 2
- Milk, 4 tablespoons (60 ml)
- Cheddar cheese, shredded, 1 cup (about 240 ml)
- Shaved ham, finely chopped, ½ cup (about 120 ml)

Set Up: Preheat the oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit (163 degrees Celsius).

Activity Instructions

1. Guide the kids to thoroughly wash their hands before they handle any food. **Let's wash up before we start cooking.**
2. **Where was Jesus buried for three days?** (*in a cave, behind a stone*) Hold up a dough shell. **For our cooking workshop, we are making Quiche Caves. These shells are like the cave where Jesus was buried. We are going to fill the caves and see what happens.**
3. Place the dough shells on an ungreased cookie sheet. Set them aside until later.
4. Hold up an egg. **We use a lot of eggs at Easter. What do you do with eggs at Easter?** (*color them, hide them, eat them*)

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Hand soap
Water
Towels
Oven
Oven mitt
Knife
Cutting board
Cookie sheets, 2
Mixing bowl, large
Whisk
Measuring spoons
Dry measuring cups
Dish soap
Cleaning towels
Plates
Forks
Napkins

5. Let the kids crack the eggs into a mixing bowl. Pass the shells to the kids.
Explore the eggshells. The egg is a reminder of Jesus' empty cave on Easter morning.
6. Turn off the lights to begin. **Three days before Easter, it was a dark day. Jesus, the light of the world, went to the cross and died.**
7. Get help from the kids to beat the eggs with a whisk. **On his path to Easter, Jesus was beaten.**
8. **People teased him, hurt him, and even spit on him.** On the word "spit," add the milk to the egg mixture.
9. Stir in the shredded cheese. **This cheese is like the sharp things that hurt Jesus on the cross. As we pour in the cheese, say, "Ouch!"** Repeat "Ouch" until all of the cheese is added. (*ouch, ouch, ouch*) **Sharp nails were in his hands and feet. A spear went into his side.**
10. Sprinkle the ham on top of the mixture, then stir it until it is well blended. **A crown of poking thorns was placed on his head. Ouch!** (*ouch, ouch, ouch*)
11. Lead the kids to measure two teaspoons (10 ml) of the egg mixture into each dough cup. **Jesus poured out his life and died.**
12. Hold the pan of eggs out for all to get one last look, then push them into the oven to bake. **After his death, Jesus was placed in a cave tomb. Get a good look at these Quiche Caves. When we look inside the oven tomb again, everything will look different!**
13. Bake the Quiche Caves for 10-12 minutes or until the egg fluffs. While they bake, clean up the egg mess. **After Jesus died, everyone went away. Let's put all of this mess away.**
14. If the caves are still baking when cleanup time is done, have kids gather in groups with their Shepherds and talk about what they think the disciples did after Jesus died on the cross.
15. When it is time, turn on the lights again. Go to the oven and pull out the pan of quiche. **When the two Marys came to the cave tomb, they found that Jesus was risen. Jesus is risen, alleluia! Let's say that again.** (*Jesus is risen, alleluia!*) **Our eggs are risen! Look how fluffy they are now! When Jesus was raised on Easter, we—and all of the world—were changed forever! Jesus' death means new life for us!**
16. Serve three Quiche Caves to each kid on a plate with a fork and napkin. **Enjoy your Quiche Caves! You get three—one for each day Jesus was in the cave tomb.** As you eat, talk about Easter traditions. **How does your family celebrate Easter?** Share stories between bites.

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.

When Jesus was raised on Easter, we were changed forever! Jesus' death means new life for us!

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Clay from the Open the Bible activity

Prayer Time

Distribute the clay from the Open the Bible activity. **Use your clay as we pray.**

Watch what I do!

Dear God,

The stone is rolled away. *(Roll the clay.)*

Jesus is raised. *(Raise the clay into the air.)*

We are changed forever. *(Smash the clay between praying hands.)*

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Happy Easter, friends!

Workshop Focus: From under the crown of thorns, Jesus crushes death and all of our sins.

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)

Holy Week and Easter Storytelling

Set Up: Split up the stories of Holy Week and Easter (Matthew 27:27-66; 28:1-10) into readable sections, to match the number of kids you expect at the workshop. Write the verses on small strips of paper. Set aside the beginning and ending verses to use in case extra kids come to the workshop. Tuck a paper strip with Bible verses on it into plastic Easter eggs. Hide the eggs around the workshop space before the kids arrive. If you don't have extra kids come, you will read the verses you set aside.

Activity Instructions

As the kids arrive, send them on an egg hunt. **Find a hidden egg and look inside!** The kids will find an egg and open it to find Bible verses. Distribute Spark Bibles. Help them look up the verses and use their stickers in the margins.

Today, we are going to hear parts of the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.

When we get to the verses you found in your egg, please read them. Begin reading at Matthew 27:27-66 (pages 1096-1097), and finish with Matthew 28:1-10 (page 1097).

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Paper, small pieces
Pen
Pencils
Plastic eggs

Where did they lay Jesus' body? *(in a cave tomb)* **What did the two Marys find at the tomb on Easter morning?** *(The tomb was empty. An angel sent them to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen.)*

God used Jesus' broken body to heal the world from sin. From under the crown of thorns, Jesus crushes death and all of our sins.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Crushed Crowns

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Ingredients (serves 8):

- Pretzel sticks, 1 cup (240 ml)
- Sweetened shredded wheat cereal, 1 cup (240 ml)
- Square rice cereal, 1 cup (240 ml)
- Easter chocolates (bunnies, eggs, etc.), 1½ cups (360 ml)
- Butterscotch miniature baking chips, 1 cup divided into ½ cups (240 ml)

Set Up: Measure the pretzels, shredded wheat, and rice cereal ahead of time. Set aside in separate bowls. Cut plate-sized squares of waxed paper, 1 per kid.

Activity Instructions

1. Make sure the kids wash their hands before you begin the cooking activity. **Wash your hands with soap and water before we begin.**
2. Put out a bowl of pretzel sticks. Lead the kids to form crosses with two pretzel sticks. **Jesus was on a journey to the cross.**
3. Show the kids how to break up pretzel sticks into a large mixing bowl. **His body was broken.**
4. Pass around the bowl of shredded wheat. Crush a couple of squares of shredded wheat cereal into the large mixing bowl with the pretzels. **His spirit was crushed. Jesus was spit on, teased, and crucified.**
5. Crush and pour the square rice cereal into the bowl of shredded wheat and pretzel pieces. **What causes your spirit to feel crushed?** *(bad day, mean people, homework, chores, being afraid)*
6. Crush chocolate Easter bunnies and eggs into a microwaveable bowl of broken chocolate. **The body of Jesus is crushed and broken to bring new life to the world. God uses something broken, Jesus' body, to make something new, everlasting life. We are going to use these broken bunnies to make a new creation, our snack.**

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Supplies

Soap
Water
Towels
Bowls, 3
Dry measuring cups
Large mixing bowl
Microwaveable bowl, medium
Microwave
Rubber spatula
Spoons
Heavy waxed paper
Scissors
Cookie sheet
Freezer
Orange soda pop
Cups

7. Add ½ cup of butterscotch chips to the bowl. **The butterscotch chips are the surprising flavor in these snacks. We know that the Easter story has a surprise ending.**
8. Melt the chocolate and butterscotch chips in the microwave for one minute on medium heat. Have the kids stir the mixture until it is smooth.
9. While the candy melts, give each kid a square of waxed paper and pass the permanent markers. **Just before he died, Jesus cried out God's name, "Eli, Eli. . . ." Write your name on the edge of the waxed paper.**
10. Instruct the kids to pour the chocolate-butterscotch mixture into the crushed mixture. **When Jesus died, a darkness came over the whole land.**
11. Stir the mixture until all of the cereal and pretzels are well coated with chocolate and butterscotch. **God was with Jesus the whole time he was suffering.**
12. Scoop a serving spoon full of the mixture onto each square of waxed paper. **God is with us all the time, too.**
13. Give each kid a spoon. Use a spoon to form the mixture into wreath-shaped crowns.
14. **The crowd mocked Jesus as the King of the Jews. Can someone please read Matthew 27:28-29 aloud? Pause. Shape the chocolate-covered cereal into a crown with a spoon.**
15. Sprinkle a few of the set-aside butterscotch chips on top of the crowns as pokey thorns. Pass the bowl of chips. **This crown was made of vines with thorns. The thorns poked into Jesus' head. Ouch! Add the butterscotch chips as thorns on your crown.**
16. Put all crowns on a cookie sheet. Place them in a freezer for three minutes to set. **I'm going to put these crowns in the freezer for three minutes. I want you to imagine what would have happened to the disciples if Jesus had not been raised.**
17. Remove the crowns from the freezer, and pull the waxed paper away from each crown. Hold the sample crown above your head and look up at it. **Jesus died a painful death on the cross, but the story doesn't end there. Three days later, on the first bright Easter morning, the darkness went away. From under the crown of thorns, Jesus wins victory over death and sin. God raised Jesus from the dead! Alleluia!**
18. Serve the crowns with chilled orange soda pop. If time allows, clean up the workshop space together.

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.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

From under the crown of thorns, Jesus crushes death and all of our sins. All things are new!

Prayer Time

For our prayer, lie down on the floor, as if you are Jesus in the tomb.

Dear God,

You used Jesus' broken body to make all things new!

Use us to bring new life to this broken world.

Give life where there is death, joy where there is sadness.

Help us rise in love each day.

Amen.

Rise up, Easter people! We are made new by Jesus!

Workshop Focus: The tomb is empty, and our hearts are full!

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)

Holy Week and Easter Storytelling

Set Up: Arrange the supplies so they are accessible.

Activity Instructions

1. When all of the kids have arrived, gather around the supplies. **Stack four sugar cubes in a tower on this plate.**
2. Fill a glass with water and dye it with food coloring. Pass the dropper and drip the colored water from the glass onto the plate around the sugar tower. **With each drop, name a sin.** (*murder, impatience, jealousy, gossip, idol worship, disobedience, etc.*)
3. **What is happening to the sugar?** (*soaks in the water, dissolves, crashes*)
4. **Like the sugar soaks in the water and crashes, Jesus soaks in our sins and dies on the cross. But that is not the end of the story! Let's read!**
5. Read the Easter story. In the Spark Story Bible, read The Day Jesus Died, on

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Water
Food coloring
Small plate
Sugar cubes, 4
Medicine dropper
Glass
Water
Spoon
Pencils

pages 476-481, and The Empty Tomb, pages 482-487. In the Spark Bible, read Matthew 27:32-66, pages 1096-1097, and 28:1-10, page 1097. Invite the kids to follow along as you read or take turns reading aloud. Instruct the kids to mark the stories with their stickers.

6. **Jesus dies, but in three days, what happens?** (*He came back to life; God raised him.*) **Where there is death, God brings life.**
7. Drop the sugar cubes into a glass of water and stir until they dissolve. **The two Marys go to the cave where Jesus had been buried. What did they find there?** (*The tomb was empty; Jesus was alive!*) **Where there is sadness, Jesus brings joy.**

The tomb is empty, and our hearts are full!

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Easter Symbol Sugar Cubes

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Ingredients (serves 10):

- Sugar cubes, 32 ounces (960 ml), 24 per kid
- Powdered sugar, 32 ounces (960 ml)
- Milk, ½ cup (120 ml)
- Almond extract, ½ teaspoon (2.5 ml)

Activity Instructions

1. Make sure the kids wash their hands before they handle any food. **Let's wash our hands before we get started.**
2. Lead the kids to cover two baking sheets with heavy waxed paper. **On the day Jesus died, a deep sadness covered the land.**
3. Instruct the kids to lay out the sugar cubes on the edges of the baking sheets. Make sure the kids can reach them from all sides of the pans. **Everyone gathered to see the crucifixion, Jesus on the cross. Who was there?** (*Simon, two bandits, chief priests, scribes, elders, bystanders/crowd, many women, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Jesus, James and John*) **Who was not there?** (*most of the disciples*)
4. On a separate baking sheet, arrange 18 sugar cubes in the shape of a cross. **On the cross, Jesus called out for God. What name did Jesus call God?** (*Eli, which means God.*)
5. Rearrange the sugar cubes of the cross to spell out "Eli." **God was there.**

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Supplies

Hand soap
Water
Towels
Heavy waxed paper
Baking sheets, 2
Mixing bowl
Liquid measuring cups
Measuring spoons
Rubber spatulas
Spoons
Toothpicks
Small bowls
Food coloring paste: yellow, pink, sky blue
Pastry bags
Fine-pointed decorating tips
Dish soap
Dish towels
Cleaning towels
Tongs
Serving plates
Small paper plates
Plastic wrap

6. Guide the kids to prepare the frosting. Mix the sugar with the milk and stir until it is smooth. Add the almond extract to the frosting. **God's presence with us in hard times smooths out the bumps of life. As we smooth out the frosting, name something that soothes you in difficult times.** (*parents, loved ones, music, art, crying, stuffed animals, reading the Bible, praying, talking*) **How is God with us in difficult times?** (*in prayer, in the love of others, in the peace we feel*)
7. Divide the frosting into three bowls. **Jesus was in the tomb three days.**
8. Let the kids use toothpicks to add food coloring paste and stir the frostings to color them yellow, pink, and light blue. **On Easter morning, the two Marys got up very early to go to Jesus' tomb. It was dawn and the sky was yellow, pink, and blue with the sunrise.**
9. Pick up the tray of sugar cubes arranged to spell "Eli," and shake it. **Suddenly, there was a great earthquake. An angel came down from heaven, rolled away the stone that blocked Jesus' cave tomb, and sat on top of it.**
10. **Look at your Bibles. What did the angel tell the Marys?** (*Do not be afraid! Jesus is not here! Go tell the disciples!*) **The Marys left the tomb with fear and joy. As they were running to tell the disciples about Jesus being alive, they saw Jesus for themselves! Alleluia!**
11. Fill several pastry bags with the three colors of frosting. **Jesus filled the Marys with joy and peace. He took away their fear and sadness. On Easter and every day, the tomb is empty, and our hearts are full of the love of Jesus!**
12. **Now, like the disciples, it is our job to tell the story of Easter to everyone we meet. Jesus is alive! We are going to decorate these sugar cubes to remind others of Easter. What Easter symbols can we use to decorate the sugar cubes?** (*flowers, lilies, crosses, Easter eggs, butterflies, etc.*)
13. Help the kids squeeze the pastry bags from the top to push the frosting through the tip to draw designs on the cubes. Pass the bags of frosting until all of the cubes are decorated. There should be two dozen cubes for each kid to decorate.
14. **We will give these beautiful sugar cubes to our church family. We will put them out by the coffee and tea on Easter Sunday.**
15. While the frosting hardens, clean up the workshop space.
16. After the frosting has hardened, have the kids use tongs to move 12 of their cubes to the serving plates. Cover the serving plates with plastic wrap.
17. The kids may move their remaining 12 cubes to a paper plate, wrap them with plastic wrap, and take them home. Be sure to mark the plates with the kids' names. **Fill your sugar bowl with these Easter beauties! Share them with your family as an Easter treat to share the story of Easter and God's love. The tomb is empty, and our hearts and coffees and teas are full!**

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.

On Easter, the tomb is empty, and our hearts are full!

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Cups, 1 per kid

Water to fill one cup

Prayer Time

Give each kid a cup. Start with one cup of water. **The tomb is empty.** (Empty the water into your neighbor's cup.) **Our hearts are full!** Send the water around the circle, having each kid repeat the workshop focus, "The tomb is empty and our hearts are full!"

When the water has traveled all the way around the circle, pray aloud.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for giving your life so that we can have new and everlasting life. Let our lives tell the story of Easter.

Amen.

Happy Easter, friends! May your overflowing hearts spill God's love into the lives of everyone you meet!