

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: Thank you, Jesus!	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: None
THANK-YOU SONG: Kids work in groups to create thank-you songs for Jesus.	SUPPLIES: Pencils	SUPPLIES: Device with video recording capability, device with internet access that everyone can see
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: Praise you, Jesus!	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
EGG HUNT: Kids search for reasons to be thankful on Easter.	SUPPLIES: Pencils	SUPPLIES: Devices with a camera function, plastic eggs, small slips of paper that can fit into the plastic eggs, candy
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: I can share the joy of Jesus!	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
JOY IN JESUS: Kids learn to find the joy Jesus brings at Easter.	SUPPLIES: Pencils	SUPPLIES: Devices with camera, plastic eggs, small slips of paper that can fit into the plastic eggs, candy



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: Thank you, Jesus!

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

Welcome to Digital Media and Technology. It is great to have you all here today. We are going to talk about a very special week today. It is called Holy Week, and it was the last week that Jesus lived on earth. It starts with the day we call Palm Sunday. Does anyone know what happened on Palm Sunday? Give kids time to respond. **Yes, it is the day that Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. What did the people say and do? Let's read about some of the events of Holy Week. We'll read three stories from our Spark Story Bibles: Palm Sunday, The Day Jesus Died, and The Empty Tomb. I'll read them aloud to you, and you can follow along.** Read Palm Sunday (pages 454-459), The Day Jesus Died (pages 476-481), and The Empty Tomb (pages 482-487).

Invite kids to share their impressions of all three stories. What illustrations do they like? What do they have questions about?

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Write a Thank-You Song

Set Up: Before class, think of a simple melody most kids will recognize to use as the basis for your thank-you song. If you like, search for a melody online and play it for the kids.

Activity Instructions

1. **Easter and Thanksgiving actually have a lot in common. During Easter time, we have much to be thankful for. What are you thankful for during Easter?** Listen to kids' responses. **I am thankful that Jesus died for us and rose again. Let's make a thank-you song for Jesus!**
2. **We're going to create a song together. I've got a melody for us, but I need your help coming up with the words. Here's the song.** Play or sing the melody you chose for this activity. **Now that you know the tune, I want you to work together to think of some ways to say thank you to Jesus that we can use to make a song.** Put kids into groups of 3-4 and have them come up with lyrics for the tune. Ask Shepherds to help as needed. When kids have finished, have each group perform their song for the whole class while you or one of the Shepherds makes a video of it. If you can, post the video to your church's social media.
3. **What else does Jesus do for us that you are thankful for?** Listen to kids' responses.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Device with video recording capability

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.

We read a very important story in the Bible today. Jesus died on the cross for each of us. This story tells us that we should tell others the Good News, just as the women who found the empty tomb told their friends. Thank you for coming today. Hope to see you the next time.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Dear Jesus,

There are so many reasons to say thank you to you. We thank you especially for dying on the cross for us. Help us to tell others what you have done for us. In your name we pray.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: Praise you, Jesus!

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

Welcome to Digital Media and Technology! It is great to have you all here today. Our story is about a special week that we call Holy Week, and about Easter. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. What happened that day? Allow kids time to respond. **Our Scripture for this lesson is very long, so we will read just some of the verses. The story begins with Jesus riding a donkey into Jerusalem. People are lining the road and saying, "Hosanna! Hosanna!" Hosanna means "Save us!" It's a word people used only when speaking to God. This made the chief priests very angry because they didn't believe Jesus was God's Son. Then things took a very sad turn. Let's read Matthew 26:47-56 in our Spark Bibles beginning on page 1094.**

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils

Who was the betrayer in this passage? How did he betray Jesus? Another disciple let Jesus down. To find out who it is, let's read Matthew 26:69-75 beginning on page 1095. The next morning, Jesus was taken to the chief priests who took him to Pilate. Pilate did not think Jesus had done anything wrong, so he turned Jesus over to the people. What did the people yell? They yelled, "Crucify him!" What does *crucify* mean? Allow answers. **This means Jesus was nailed to a wooden cross. Hours later, Jesus died. Let's read Matthew 28:1-10 beginning on page 1097 to see how the week ended.** Encourage kids to use their stickers.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Egg Hunt

Set Up: On the slips of paper, write reasons Jesus makes us feel joyful, for example, "Unconditional love" or "Forgives all sin." Put these inside the plastic eggs, and then hide the eggs outside or in a room where kids can run around but you can still keep an eye on them.

Activity Instructions

1. **Easter is when we celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead and giving us new life. What else does Jesus do for us that you are thankful for?** Listen to kids' responses.
2. **Today, we're going to go on an Easter egg hunt to find more reasons why we praise Jesus! In each plastic egg, there's a slip of paper with something we can thank Jesus for. When we finish, you can exchange your plastic eggs for candy.** Lead the kids to the area where you've hidden the eggs. Have the Shepherds help you monitor the kids and make sure the egg hunt doesn't get too rough.
3. When the kids have found all the eggs, lead them back to the classroom. **What do some of your slips of paper say?** Listen to kids' responses. **Let's make a video to share with everyone all the reasons we are thankful for Jesus, especially on Easter!**
4. **I'd like everyone to pick their favorite reason to praise Jesus that you found in the plastic egg. I'll record you reading off the slip of paper, and we can share this video with our church to celebrate Easter.** Record each kid reading from their chosen slip of paper. If you have enough devices, the Shepherds could record some kids too. Be aware that some kids may be camera shy. Encourage them to speak confidently. Post the video to church social media. Make sure all the kids exchange their plastic eggs for candy before they leave.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Devices with a camera

Plastic eggs

Small slips of paper that can fit into the plastic eggs

Candy

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.

Jesus is risen! What wonderful news. Do you know what this means for us? It means all who believe the good news will have life forever. That is the good news! As disciples, we are called to share the good news with others! It was wonderful having you all here today. We hope to see you all here next time.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Gracious God,

Thank you for the gift of Jesus. He is the greatest gift we can receive. Help us to share your love with others through our words and actions. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: I can share the joy of Jesus!

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

Welcome to Digital Media and Technology. It is great to see you all here. Our lesson today is about a very special week for Christians. We are going to talk about Holy Week and Easter. It started on Palm Sunday. Does anyone know what happened on that day? Allow time for answers. **It is the day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people lined the road waving palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna!" Hosanna means "save us" and is used only when talking to God. This made the priests of the day very mad because they didn't believe that Jesus was God's Son. Then things went terribly wrong. Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples, denied by another disciple, and nailed to a cross. He died. Then God raised him from the dead. Let's read from the Spark Story Bible beginning on page 454 to see what else happened that week.** Because the text for today is very long, have younger kids share their Spark Story Bibles with the older ones while you read Palm Sunday and The Chief Priests on pages 454-461 and Jesus Is Betrayed, Christ the King, The Day Jesus Died, and The Empty Tomb on pages 468-487.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Joy in Jesus

Set Up: On the slips of paper, write reasons Jesus makes us feel joyful, for example, “Unconditional love” or “Forgives all sin.” Put the one slip of paper in each plastic egg, then hide the eggs outside or in a room where kids can run around but you can still keep an eye on them.

Activity Instructions

1. **Easter is a holiday for joy. Why do we feel joy on Easter?** (*Jesus died for our sins and rose again*). **Why else might Jesus give us joy?** Listen to kids' responses.
2. **Today, we're going to go on an Easter egg hunt to find more reasons why we feel joyful through Jesus! In each plastic egg, there's a slip of paper giving a reason why we feel joy in Jesus. When we finish, you can exchange your plastic eggs for candy.** Lead the kids to the area you already hid the eggs. Have the Shepherds help you monitor the kids and make sure the egg hunt doesn't get too rough.
3. When the kids have found all the eggs, lead them back to the classroom. **What do some of your slips of paper say?** Listen to kids' responses. **Let's make a video to share the joy of Jesus.**
4. **Everyone pick their favorite joyful reason that you found in the plastic egg. I'll record you reading off the slip of paper, and we can share this video with our church to celebrate Easter.** Record each kid reading from their chosen slip of paper. If you have enough devices, Shepherds could record some kids too. Be aware that some kids may be camera shy. Encourage them to speak confidently. Post the video to church social media. Make sure all the kids exchange their plastic eggs for candy before they leave.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Devices with camera

Plastic eggs

Small slips of paper that can fit into the plastic eggs

Candy

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.

Because God raised Jesus from the dead, we will have life forever. Death is not the end of the story. Jesus died for our sins. What a wonderful gift Jesus has given us. We need to tell others what Jesus has done for us. It was great having you all here today.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for dying on the cross and rising again so that we can have life forever and forgiveness of our sins. Help us to grow in our understanding of what this means for us. Help us to tell others about you and what you have done for us. In your name we pray.

Amen.