

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<p>Lower Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: Jesus teaches me how to pray.</p> <p>PRAYING HANDS PRINTS: Kids make praying hands prints to remind them of the story.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Construction paper in assorted colors, paper cutter or scissors, markers, wooden dowels or broomsticks, tape</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Print or photograph of Albrecht Durer's <i>The Praying Hands</i>, foam trays, light-colored straw placemats, pencils or pieces of thin dowel, acrylic paints, foam brushes, paper plates, newspaper, markers</p>
<p>Upper Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: I can pray about anything, anywhere, anytime.</p> <p>EMBOSSSED FOIL ART PRINTS: Kids create embossed foil prints to remind them they can pray about anything, anywhere, anytime.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: World globe or map, one or more clocks, a "grab bag" of items (such as a package of cookies, a piece of fruit, a box of bandages, a stuffed animal)</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Inexpensive black picture frames, pencils, paper, aluminum foil, string or yarn, quick-dry glue or several hot glue guns and glue sticks, scissors, masking tape, permanent markers (including black)</p>
<p>All Kids</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God always hears my prayers.</p> <p>TIME TO PRAY COLLAGE: Kids create a collage of things for which they can pray.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: "Quiet" noisemakers such as a chime, jingle bell, train whistle, or rainstick</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Magazines; assorted colors and textures of papers, cardboard and fabrics; scissors; glue sticks; markers or crayons; chart paper or poster board</p>



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content. Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find a downloadable Family Page for this rotation's story filled with ideas for families to use to explore this story and live out their faith at home.

Workshop Focus: Jesus teaches me how to pray.

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.
- Be sure to visit www.sparksundayschool.org to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Lord's Prayer Storytelling

Set Up: Cut the construction paper into strips that are at least 3" x 12" (8 cm x 30 cm). You will need to have one or more dowels, depending on the number of prayer strips each kid completes.

Activity Instructions

Welcome to Art! I'm glad that all of you are here. In our Bible story for today, we read about one time when Jesus taught the disciples to pray. Do you remember what we call the prayer that Jesus taught the disciples? That's right—the Lord's Prayer.

Jesus taught the disciples many things about God and how God wanted them to live. And people everywhere came to hear Jesus teach about God's kingdom—Jesus was a great teacher! We can learn how to pray from the words that Jesus taught the disciples. Pass out Spark Story Bibles to kids. **Let's turn to page 278 in our Spark Story Bibles and take a look at the story of the Lord's Prayer.** Review the story with the kids, then have them continue by writing their prayer thoughts on the paper strips.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Construction paper in
assorted colors
Paper cutter or scissors
Markers
Wooden dowels or
broomsticks
Tape

Jesus taught us how to pray—what are some things you pray for? I'd like you to write one of the things you pray for on a strip of paper, and then let's hang them from this dowel as a prayer banner.

Demonstrate by writing something you pray for on a strip of paper, then wrap one end around the dowel and tape it closed so that it stays on the dowel. The portion of the prayer strip with the wording will hang down from the dowel, and with the addition of everyone's prayer strips, will make a colorful prayer banner to hang in the classroom.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Praying Hands Prints

Set Up: Talk to the butcher or someone in the meat section of your local grocery store to secure one new foam meat tray per kid. Cover the worktable with newspaper.

Activity Instructions

Jesus was a great teacher. He taught the disciples the Lord's Prayer, and we have learned how to pray from what Jesus taught the disciples. This is a famous print by an artist named Albrecht Durer. Can you guess what this print is called? If you guessed something about praying hands, you are correct!

Today we're going to make our own praying hands prints to remind us to always pray as Jesus taught us to.

Show the kids the materials you will use for printing, and help them trace around their handprints on the back or outside of the foam trays. **You will need to press hard, but don't make holes in the foam tray. This will let us use a type of printing technique called a "relief" print.**

Once kids have traced their prints, demonstrate how to use the foam brush to paint over the imprints on the back of the trays. Then carefully flip the trays over and press them down onto the placemats to print. Remind the kids to press firmly, and not to shift the tray because the paint might smear. Lift off the trays to see the completed prints.

If you like, you might want to add your name or some other writing to your placemat. I hope you can keep these placemats on your table at mealtime as a reminder to pray every day.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Print or photograph of
Albrecht Durer's *The Praying Hands*
Foam trays, 1 per kid
Light-colored straw
placemats, 1 per kid
Pencils or pieces of thin dowel
Acrylic paints
Foam brushes
Paper plates
Newspaper
Marker

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've talked about the Lord's Prayer today, and what Jesus taught the disciples about praying. Prayer is an important part of a Christian's life, and an important part of our workshop today.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Have the kids gather with you in the center of the room, making sure they all have a bit of room to move around. Ask them to think about the words of the Lord's Prayer and what types of movements or motions they might incorporate as they pray these words together. Encourage kids to use their own ideas for movement as you pray aloud and ask them to join you.

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
On Earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom
The power,
And the glory are yours, now and forever
Amen.**

Workshop Focus: I can pray about anything, anywhere, anytime.

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

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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.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Lord's Prayer Storytelling

Set Up: Collect an assortment of items to include in the grab bag that reflect things we might pray for or about. Include some of the suggestions in the supplies list, but personalize this list by adding things you know the kids will relate to. Display the globe or map, as well as the clocks in the classroom.

Activity Instructions

Welcome! I'm glad to see you in Art today. We've been studying the Bible story about Jesus teaching the disciples how to pray. What do we call the prayer that Jesus taught the disciples? (the Lord's Prayer) You're right, we call it the Lord's Prayer, because another name for Jesus is Lord. Let's read about it in our Spark Bibles. Pass out Spark Bibles to kids, directing them to find Matthew 6:5-15 on page 1064. Ask a volunteer to read the passage out loud. After reading, invite kids to place a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice in the margin.

Jesus taught the disciples many things about God and living as one of God's children.

He taught that we can pray to God about anything, anywhere, anytime. Here—I've brought some reminders about prayer for us to take a look at. What does the

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

World globe or map
One or more clocks
A "grab bag" of items such as a package of cookies, a piece of fruit, a box of bandages, a stuffed animal

globe or map remind us of? (*We can pray anywhere.*) **How about the clocks?** (*We can pray anytime.*) **And here is a grab bag of things—I wonder what is in here?**

Any guesses? Allow the kids to guess what kinds of things you might find in the bag. Talk about how all of the things they mention are things they can pray about. Then ask volunteers to reach into the grab bag and see what they pull out. As they pull each item out, ask the kids to think about what it reminds them they can pray for or about.

Prayer is an important part of our lives as one of God's children. God wants us to pray about anything, anytime, and anywhere!

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Embossed Foil Art Prints

Set Up: Purchase simple, inexpensive 8½" x 11" (22 cm x 28 cm) black picture frames at a dollar or other discount store. Remove the cardboard from the frames. Familiarize yourself with the embossed foil technique. Collect an assortment of permanent markers (not watercolor markers because they bead up on the foil). Plug in the hot glue guns so they will be ready to use when the kids arrive.

Activity Instructions

All right, this is a fun way to make an embossed foil print! I think you'll like it. First, think about something that can be a prayer reminder for you. Maybe it's tracing around your hands to make a handprint, or writing a special message such as "God hears my prayers." Maybe you want to use the symbols we talked about earlier—a map or globe, a clock, or some item that you pray for or about. What you want to use is up to you, so think about that while I demonstrate how to complete this project.

1. **First, lightly trace the objects, words, or design you want to print onto the cardboard. Make a simple design with few lines for the best effect.**
2. **Cut pieces of string or yarn over the lines.**
3. **Lay a bed of hot glue over the lines, gently pressing the string onto the glue.**
4. **Careful! Don't burn yourself.**
5. **Once you have pressed the string in, tear a piece of foil about 3" (8 cm) larger than the cardboard all the way around. Center the foil over the string-covered cardboard and beginning in the center, press the foil down onto the cardboard.**
6. **Run your fingers gently along the string to create the raised effect.**
7. **Once you have done this with the entire design, fold the foil down and around the back of the cardboard.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Inexpensive black picture frames, 1 per kid
Pencils
Paper
Aluminum foil
String or yarn
Quick-dry glue or several hot glue guns and glue sticks
Scissors
Masking tape
Permanent markers, including black

Now the fun begins! Use the markers to color and decorate your design, without pressing too hard onto the foil. Look how beautiful the colors look on the foil! You might want to color the designs with solid colors, but it is fun to add stripes, dots, squiggles, and other designs, as well.

After kids have finished this colorful work, let them use black marker to add detailed lines or outlines to their designs for added emphasis. Pop the embossed foil art into the frames and enjoy!

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.

The Lord's Prayer was an example that Jesus used to teach the disciples to pray. We can always pray this prayer, but remember—we can pray about anything, anywhere, anytime! God is always listening to our prayers.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Draw a simple grid on the whiteboard or chart paper. It should include a space for each kid's name and two or three spaces next to their names for them to write in.

Before we pray together today, I'd like you all to come write your names on this chart, and next to your name, write one or more things we can all pray with you for or about.

Great, thanks for putting those things on our prayer list. Now, let's pray together and incorporate those things that you wrote. I'll start, and I will choose someone's name to pray for—then someone else can pray, choosing another person and so on, until everything on our list has been prayed for.

Close this time of prayer together by standing in a circle, linking arms and saying, **"Amen, Amen, Amen!"**

Supplies

Whiteboard or chart paper
Markers

Workshop Focus: God always hears my prayers.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Lord's Prayer Storytelling

Pass out Bibles to kids. **Let's open our Spark Bibles to the story of the Lord's Prayer, page 278 in the Spark Story Bible and page 1064 in the Spark Bible.** Assist kids as needed. **Got it? Good. This is when the disciples had asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, and what to pray for—and Jesus used these words to help them learn.**

One really important to remember about prayer is this: God always hears our prayers! Prayer is really two things—talking and listening. We can talk to God, but we also need to listen for God's answers. Let's pray to start our Art Workshop today by using these noisemakers.

Distribute the noisemakers to kids, and open with a simple prayer. Leave some pauses within the prayer, and point to different kids during each pause to make noise with their noisemaker. Have everyone sit quietly, then continue with the prayer and close it by praying, **Thank you, Lord, for always hearing our prayers! Amen.**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

"Quiet" noisemakers, such as a chime, jingle bell, train whistle, or rainstick

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Time to Pray Collage

Set Up: Collect a variety of supplies for the kids to use when creating their Prayer Collage. Include old magazines as well as assorted colors and textures of papers, corrugated cardboard, fabrics such as burlap, and other items. Decide if you will use chart paper or poster board, and if you will have the kids work together in large or small groups, or work on their own individual collage masterpieces.

Activity Instructions

What are some of the things you pray for? In the Bible story about the Lord's Prayer, Jesus taught the disciples how to pray to God the Father. We know that we can learn from this prayer Jesus taught about the kinds of things we can pray for. We know that God always hears our prayers, and that we can pray about anything, anywhere, anytime. Nothing is too unimportant for us to pray about.

We're going to make Prayer Collages to represent the kinds of things we pray for. Maybe you want to include in your collage people you know, or your pets, or friends. Maybe you want to pray for peace in the world, and for enough food for hungry people. What are some things that you like to pray for? Allow a moment for discussion.

After you think about what you want your Prayer Collage to include, you can write, draw, or add different pictures or items to make your collages. For example, you might want to include pictures of people to represent your family, or you might cut out paper and cardboard to make a 3-D house. White fabric might be folded and cut to make a dove to represent world peace or you might use black paper to make a large cross on the paper. The only limit to your collage is your imagination!

As the kids work on their collages, encourage them to pray for the things they are creating as they work. When the collages are complete, display them in the classroom or somewhere in the hallway or around the building where other people can see them and add their prayers to them.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Magazines
Assorted colors and textures of papers, cardboard, and fabrics
Scissors
Glue sticks
Markers or crayons
Chart paper or poster board

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.

Prayer is an important part of our lives every day. How might Jesus write a prayer for people today that was a bit different than the prayer he taught the disciples?

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Let's all say the words to the Lord's Prayer together.

Great job. Now, think about this: if Jesus were here today, how might he write this prayer to make it fit our time? Would it be a jingle like a TV commercial? Would it be a poem that had only rhyming words? Would it be a rap?

Let's brainstorm how we might take these words, line by line, and rewrite them for today.

Write the words to the Lord's Prayer on the whiteboard or chart paper, then work through them together to make them a bit more contemporary. If you are working with the kids to create a TV jingle, start with a current, common jingle and musical tune, and encourage the kids to lead the way in adapting the tune to the words of the prayer. If writing a rap, have the kid's help you clap a beat then adapt the words accordingly. Be sure to record the prayer on the whiteboard or chart paper, and then use it altogether as your closing prayer today.

Supplies

Whiteboard or chart paper

Markers

