

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God always listens.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles
HELLO GOD, IT'S ME: Kids have imaginary phone conversations with God about the petitions of the Lord's Prayer.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Telephones, fabric pieces, wigs, beards, cloth bags, index cards, markers
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God knows our hearts.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles
FROM THE HEART: Kids write and present modern day vignettes based on the petitions of the Lord's Prayer.	SUPPLIES: Pencils	SUPPLIES: Sunglasses, handbags, backpacks, keys, cell phones, sports equipment, textbooks, game controller, play money, costume jewelry, bedsheet, classroom chairs, paper, markers, yarn, scissors, tape, From the Heart Writing Prompts (page 99)
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God understands our prayers.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles
ACTIONS INSTEAD OF WORDS: Kids play a game of charades based on the story and petitions of the Lord's Prayer.	SUPPLIES: Picture of a piece of abstract artwork, pencils	SUPPLIES: Bible time costumes, sandals, baskets, play money, kitchen timer, index cards, pen, whiteboard or blackboard and markers or chalk



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: God always listens.

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

Welcome to Creative Drama! What would you do if you had something really exciting to tell someone? Allow kids to respond to this and the following request. **Show me what you do when you have to wait because someone is too busy to listen. In today's story we learn God always listens!**

Hand Spark Story Bibles out to each of the kids. Help kids find The Lord's Prayer on pages 278-281. Encourage the kids to follow along as you read. **Jesus' disciples ask Jesus to teach them something in this story. Stand up or sit down every time you hear the word "God." Listen carefully!** Read the story out loud.

Let's talk about the story. Point to the picture on page 278. **What did the disciples ask Jesus to do?** (*teach them how to pray*) **Who did Jesus say we should think about when we pray?** (*only God*) **What can we ask God to help us do?** (*forgive others, things that are right*) **Do you think God listens to everyone's prayers all of the time?** Allow kids to respond. **Jesus taught the disciples how to pray because prayer is important. Prayer is talking and listening to God. God wants us to pray. God always listens!**

Let's imagine what it might be like to talk to God on the telephone!

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Hello God, It's Me

Set Up: Provide an open area where kids can sit in a circle. Place the fabric, wigs, and beards near the open area. Set some index cards and markers where kids can use them. Write each of the following items on a separate index card.

- How should we pray?
- How should God be treated?
- Talk about the things you need.
- Ask God to forgive you or help you forgive someone else.
- Talk to God about choices.
- What is God in charge of?
- Talk about anything you want. (Write this on two cards.)

Place the cards inside a cloth bag.

Activity Instructions

Before the activity:

Prayer is a special way of talking to God. We don't need to say words out loud. We can think them in our head and feel them in our heart. God understands our prayers and talks to us in our heads and hearts, too. God always listens. We're going to use our imaginations as we pretend to call God on the telephone and have a conversation out loud!

1. Show kids the index cards and markers.
 - a. **Make and decorate a card with your name on it.**
 - b. **We'll put these cards in a bag and use them to decide who will be the caller and who will play God for each phone call.**
2. Lead a practice exercise to help kids become comfortable with the activity.
 - a. Show kids how the phones work.
 - b. Invite volunteers to demonstrate the following conversations.
 - i. **Invite a friend to your birthday party.**
 - ii. **Ask your grandma if she will bake your favorite cookies.**
 - iii. **Ask permission to sleep over at a new friend's home.**
 - iv. **Talk about your friend's new pet.**
 - c. **Did you notice that both people in the conversation took turns talking and listening? We can talk to God just like we can talk to our friends and family members.**
3. Show kids the costume choices. **You may put on one or two costume pieces when it's your turn to have a phone conversation.**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Telephones
Fabric pieces
Wigs
Beards
Cloth bags, 2
Index cards
Markers

Do the activity:

1. Gather the kids, phones, and bags in the open area of the room.
2. Have everyone sit in a circle.
3. Show kids the bags.
 - a. **This first bag is the bag with all of your names in it. First we'll draw the name of someone to be the caller. Then we'll draw the name of someone to play God.**
 - b. **This is the second bag. While our actors are putting on their costumes, we'll draw a topic for them to talk about.**
4. Begin the activity.
5. Use the following questions for each topic to help the actors if they get stuck.
 - a. How should we pray?
 - i. **Do we need to use a loud voice?**
 - ii. **Can we pray at the park?**
 - b. How should God be treated?
 - i. **How is God treated in heaven?**
 - ii. **What makes God happy or sad?**
 - c. Talk about the things you need.
 - i. **What did you do before you came here today?**
 - ii. **Where do you live?**
 - d. Ask God to forgive you or help you forgive someone else.
 - i. **How do you feel when you do something wrong?**
 - ii. **Has anyone ever made you feel sad or bad?**
 - e. Talk to God about choices.
 - i. **What kinds of choices do you make every day?**
 - ii. **What is a really hard choice?**
 - f. What is God in charge of?
 - i. **What is your favorite/least favorite kind of weather?**
 - ii. **Are you afraid of anything?**
 - g. Talk about anything you want. (Write this on two cards.)

Following the activity:

Debrief the activity with the kids. **Would you rather pray the way we do now or be able to talk to God on the phone?** Allow kids to respond. Point to the picture on page 278 of the Spark Story Bible. **Why did the disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray?** (*They thought it was the most important thing Jesus did.*) **What did Jesus say belonged to God in the Lord's Prayer?** (*Everything in the world!*) **Do you think God cares about the things we care about?** Allow kids to respond. **God does care about us. God wants us to pray about everything. God always listens!**

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.

Thanks for coming to Creative Drama! What did Jesus teach the disciples how to do? (pray) Prayer is talking to God. Jesus taught the disciples to think only about God and ask God for the things we need. God always listens! Name some times when you know God is listening to you. Allow kids to respond.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

God can hear us even when we pray without saying words. Let's whisper our prayer. God always listens!

Dear God,

Thank you for teaching me how to pray.

Thank you for always listening.

Listen to what I'm saying now. Pause.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: God knows our hearts.

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 Story

Welcome to Creative Drama! How fast can you say your phone number? Allow kids to respond to this and the following questions. **You can say your phone number fast because you have memorized it and don't have to think about the numbers when you say it. Sometimes we say memorized prayers quickly because we forget to think about the words we are saying. Let's read what Jesus has to say about prayer.**

Have kids sit in a circle. Pass out Spark Bibles, direct kids to find Matthew 6:5-15 on page 1064, and have volunteers read the story aloud. **In this story, Jesus is teaching the disciples the right and wrong way to pray. Say, "Pass" if you choose not to read.**

Let's review. Who were the disciples not to pray like? (hypocrites) Where did Jesus suggest praying? (in your room, in secret) Have kids read Matthew 5:7-8 on page 1064. Invite kids to mark the passage with a Makes Me Wonder, Something I Like or Makes Me Want To Spark Bible Sticker, using a pencil to write their responses in the margin. **What do you think Jesus meant by "empty phrases"?** Allow kids to respond. **God doesn't need to hear our words to know what we are praying about. God knows our hearts.**

Let's write and act some skits about the Lord's Prayer.

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

From the Heart

Set Up: Hang a bedsheet as a backdrop to designate a stage area. Place a couple classroom chairs on the stage. Set the costumes and props where kids can choose among them. Place the supplies where they can be used. Make several copies of From the Heart Writing Prompts.

Activity Instructions

Before the skits:

The Lord's Prayer has been around a long time. Jesus chose the topics or petitions of the Lord's Prayer because they cover just about anything that could go on in our lives. We're going to see how the petitions of the Lord's Prayer still apply to life today by writing and performing short skits.

1. Divide kids into five groups.
 - a. **Each group will write about one thought or petition of the Lord's Prayer.**
 - b. **Read your petition from a Spark Bible. Think about what it means.**
 - c. **Write a short skit that could happen today, where your petition would apply.**
2. Give each group one or two writing prompts.
 - a. **Use this as a guide to help write your skit. Think about the questions, and answer them as a group.**
 - b. **Ask for help if you get stuck.**
3. Assign each group one of the following petitions. Ask kids the questions following each petition if they get stuck.
 - a. Matthew 6:9
 - i. **How does God want to be treated?**
 - ii. **Do you know anyone who uses bad language?**
 - b. Matthew 6:10
 - i. **What does God want for people?**
 - ii. **What is heaven like?**
 - c. Matthew 6:11
 - i. **What are some things you use every day?**
 - ii. **What would it be like to be homeless?**
 - d. Matthew 6:12
 - i. **How do you feel inside when you know you've done something wrong?**
 - ii. **Has anyone ever done or said something that hurt you?**
 - e. Matthew 6:13
 - i. **What is a very difficult choice you have had to make?**
 - ii. **How do you decide what is right and what is wrong?**

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Supplies

From the Heart Writing

Prompts (page 99)

Sunglasses

Handbags

Backpacks

Keys

Cell phones

Sports equipment

Textbooks

Game controller

Play money

Costume Jewelry

Bedsheet

Classroom chairs

Paper

Markers

Yarn

Scissors

Tape

4. Have kids decide who will act in their skit.
 - a. Show kids the costumes and props. **Which of these things will work in your skit?**
 - b. Show kids the supplies. **Use these to make anything else that will be helpful for us to understand your skit.**
5. Give kids a few minutes to practice their skits.

Perform the skits:

Gather the kids near the stage. Have the group presenting the first petition take their places on stage. Invite all other groups to sit in the audience. **The Lord's Prayer is a complete prayer that still has meaning today. Let's watch how each of the petitions still applies.** Begin the skits. Pause after each skit to allow the groups to change places.

Following the skits:

Gather the kids to debrief the activity. **What will you think about the next time you pray?** Allow kids to respond. Have kids read Matthew 6:5 on page 1064 of their Spark Bibles. **What does Jesus say about people who pray only to be seen by others?** (*They have already received their reward.*) **What does God ask us to do for others?** (*forgive them*) **God doesn't need fancy words or big spectacles when we pray. God wants us to pray from our hearts. God knows our hearts.**

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.

Thanks for coming to Creative Drama! We learned Jesus taught the disciples how to pray. Who did Jesus say not to pray like? (*hypocrites*) **Where did Jesus suggest praying?** (*in your room, in secret*) **Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer, and it still applies today. God doesn't want prayers with big fancy words; God wants us to pray from the heart. God knows our hearts.**

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to rewrite the Lord's Prayer in their own words. Write the prayer on the board. Have kids stand and pray the new prayer in closing.

Supplies
Whiteboard or blackboard
Markers or chalk

Workshop Focus: God understands our prayers.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Lord's Prayer Storytelling

Welcome to Creative Drama! Choose a few volunteers. Show them the picture.

Tell the rest of the group what this is a picture of. After kids have described it, show the picture to the rest of the group. **Is this the picture you imagined?** Allow kids to respond. **Sometimes we don't know or have the words to describe what we see or think, or what we are feeling. Let's read how Jesus taught the disciples to talk to God.**

Hand Spark Story Bibles out to each of the younger kids. Help kids find The Lord's Prayer on pages 278-281. **Act out the story as we read it together.**

Direct older kids to find Matthew 6: 5-15 on page 1064 of their Spark Bibles. Invite kids to mark the passage with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice, using a pencil to write their responses in the margin. Invite volunteers to read Matthew 6:9-13 when you get to the Lord's Prayer on page 280 of the Spark Story Bible. Read the story out loud.

Let's review. Point to the picture on page 278 of the Spark Story Bible. **What did the disciples ask Jesus to do?** (*teach them to pray*) **Who did Jesus say we should think about when we pray?** (*only God*) **Do you think Jesus expected us to use the**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Picture of a piece of abstract artwork
Pencils

exact same words every time we pray the Lord's Prayer? Allow kids to respond.
Jesus taught the disciples to think about what they were praying rather than trying to use fancy words. God understands our prayers.

Let's use actions instead of words to review this story!

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Actions Instead of Words

Set Up: Clear an area of the room where kids can sit and see the board. Place the costumes and props near the open area. Write each of the following on a separate index card and on the board.

- The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray.
- Jesus said, "Don't be like the people who use big words and loud voices."
- Jesus said, "Find a place where you can be alone."
- God is important here on Earth and in heaven.
- Ask God to give you what you need each day.
- Forgive all of my sins and help me forgive others.
- Help me do what's right, not wrong.
- Everything in the world belongs to God!

(Optional) To increase the level of difficulty of the game, add the following statements to the list on the board, but do not create index cards for them.

- Prayer is the most important thing of all.
- When you pray, think only about God.
- The disciples never forgot what Jesus taught them.

Activity Instructions

Before the game:

During Bible times, Jesus spoke a language called Aramaic. Even though Jesus taught the disciples how to pray with a model prayer that covers everything, it is unlikely we will ever use the exact same words as Jesus, to pray the Lord's Prayer. Jesus himself said thinking about God is more important than using big fancy words. God understands our prayers.

We're going to take turns using actions instead of words to tell the Lord's Prayer. We're going to play a game of charades!

1. Divide the kids into two teams of mixed ages, or play all together as a class if the group size is small.
2. Show kids the index cards.
 - a. **Each team will send one player to the front.**
 - b. **Teams will take turns choosing an index card.**
 - c. **I'll whisper what's on the card into the ear of each actor.** Allow actors who are able, to read the card as well.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles

Supplies

Bible-time costumes
Sandals
Baskets
Play money
Kitchen timer
Index cards
Pen
Whiteboard or blackboard
and markers or chalk

3. Show kids the costumes and props.
 - a. **Actors have 30 seconds to choose a costume or prop and think of how they might act out their phrase before their turn begins.**
 - b. **Actors then have 30 seconds to act out their phrase before teams may start guessing what they are acting out.**
4. Direct kids' attention to the board.
 - a. **Here are some possible things the actors may be acting.**
 - b. **Try to figure out what the actor is doing by watching their actions, not just reading the board!**
 - c. **Once someone guesses correctly, play stops and teams choose new actors to play the next round.**
5. Do a warm-up exercise with the whole class.
 - a. **Without words, pretend you are buying your favorite dinner at a restaurant.**
 - b. **Pretend you are building a snowman.**
 - c. **Pretend you are trying to convince your parents that you have just seen a spaceship fly past the window.**

Play the game:

Gather the team in the open area of the room so both teams can see the board. Have the actors perform on opposite sides of the area so teams can concentrate on their own team member. **Let's get ready to play the first round of charades!** Have teams send their actors forward and begin the game.

Try to balance the game by having the actors chosen from each team be close in age.

Following the game:

Gather the kids to debrief the activity. **What was the most difficult thing to act out? What was the easiest?** Point to the picture on page 278 of the Spark Story Bible. **Why did the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray?** (*They thought it was important.*) Direct the older kids to read Matthew 6:8 on page 1064 of their Spark Bibles. **Why don't we need to use many, many, words when we pray?** (*God already knows what we need.*) **What will you think of the next time you pray the Lord's Prayer?** Allow kids to respond. **Prayer is talking to God. God wants us to pray. God knows what we need even if we can't think of the right words to say. God understands our prayers.**

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 Wrap Up.

Thanks for coming to Creative Drama! What did the disciples ask Jesus to do?
(*teach them to pray*) **Jesus taught them the Lord's Prayer. Jesus said not to put on a show when we pray, but think only about God. God understands our prayers.**
Finish this sentence: I know God understands when . . . Allow kids to respond.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Invite the kids to pray. **During our prayer, I'll pause and you can talk to God in your heart.**

Dear God,
Thank you for sending Jesus to teach me to pray.
This is what I want to tell you right now. Pause.
I know you understand.
Amen.

From the Heart Writing Prompts

What is your petition?

What are some important words in this petition?

What are some important ideas in this petition?

Are these ideas still important today?

Describe a time when you thought about these ideas at home, with friends, or in school.

Write your skit.

