

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: Prayer helps me be close to God every day.</p> <p>TOGETHER FOREVER: Kids watch a video clip about characters that become close to each other.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: DVD player and TV, <i>The Parent Trap</i> DVD or <i>The Jungle Book</i> DVD</p>
Upper Elementary		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: I can rely on God whenever I am in need.</p> <p>A PRAYER FOR ALL NEEDS: Kids watch a video where characters must decide to follow their will or God's will.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Whiteboard, whiteboard markers</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: DVD player and TV, <i>Evan Almighty</i> DVD or <i>Field of Dreams</i> DVD</p>
All Kids		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God and I can talk to each other at any time, in any place.</p> <p>ALONE, BUT NOT ALONE: Kids watch a video clip where a character experiences loneliness.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: DVD player and TV, <i>Meet the Robinsons</i> DVD or <i>Home Alone</i> DVD</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: Prayer helps me be close to God every day.

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

When I say, "Let us pray," what do you do? How do you talk to God? Where do you talk to God? Give kids time to respond to each question. **Actually, there are many ways and places where we can pray. Can you think of some other ways and places we can pray?** (*open arms, face up, while singing, while riding in a car, any time and any place*)

Pass out Spark Story Bibles. **Today we'll read a story about a prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray. Open your Spark Story Bibles to page 278.** Read the Lord's Prayer aloud.

What did you hear in this prayer? Give kids time to respond. **When we pray, we can be close to God. We can pray and be close to God every day.**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Together Forever

Set Up: Preview and select the DVD clip you would like to use, and ensure that that content is appropriate for your group. Set up the TV and DVD player 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 DVD.

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

Video Option 1: *The Parent Trap* (1998, G)

Start cue: (Chapter 3, 9:47) Hallie is fencing at summer camp.

End cue: (Chapter 6, 29:44) Hallie says, "Thank you. I told you, I'm brilliant."

Scene set-up: Hallie and Annie are twins who were separated at birth. When they both go to the same summer camp, they discover they are twins and hatch a plan to switch places to meet the parents they've never known.

Activity Instructions for Video Option 1

Watch the clip from *The Parent Trap* together. After the clip, discuss the following questions:

What has happened to Hallie and Annie? (*They were separated at birth, they end up at the same summer camp.*) **How do they discover they're twins?** (*They start talking to each other and show pictures of their parents.*) **Why are they excited to have found each other?** (*They're sisters; neither has ever had a sister before.*) **What do they plan to do after summer camp?** (*switch places so they can meet the other parent*) **What do you think Hallie and Annie feel like when they find each other? Why?** Give kids time to respond.

Why is it important to be with people? Why is it important to be with God?

Give kids time to respond to each question. **How can we be with God every day?** (*through prayer*)

Video Option 2: *The Jungle Book* (1967, G, Animated)

Start cue: (Chapter 8, 21:19) Mowgli is sitting against a rock in the jungle.

End cue: (Chapter 13, 39:27) Baloo says, "Man, that's what I call a swinging party!"

Scene set-up: Mowgli is a young boy who has been raised in the jungle. He wants to stay in the jungle, but Bagheera wants him to go to the man village to be raised by humans. When Mowgli meets Baloo the bear, he thinks he has found safety, but even Baloo can't save him from the monkeys and other dangers of the jungle.

Activity Instructions for Video Option 2

Watch the clip from *The Jungle Book* together. After the clip, discuss the following questions:

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Option 1: *The Parent Trap*
DVD player and TV

Option 2: *The Jungle Book*
DVD player and TV

What does Mowgli want? *(to stay in the jungle)* **What does Bagheera want for Mowgli?** *(to be safe, to go to the man village)* **Who does Mowgli meet that likes to be with him?** *(Baloo the bear)* **What does he learn from Baloo?** *(to be a bear, to eat, to fight)* **What happens when Mowgli is taken by the monkeys?** *(The king wants him to bring fire into the jungle; he is in danger.)* **Why do you think Baloo and Bagheera decide to take Mowgli to the man village?** *(They care about him and want him to be safe.)*

Who cares about you and wants to keep you safe? How do they protect you? What else do they do for you? What did you learn in the Lord's Prayer about what God can do for you?

Give kids time to respond to each question. **When we pray, we can be close to God every day.**

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.

How and when can we pray to be with God every day? Give kids time to respond.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to sit in a circle with their arms around each other. **Today we sit with our arms around each other to celebrate being together.**

**God who is close to me,
Thank you for giving us a prayer that we can pray any time and in any place.
Thank you that when we pray we can be close to you.
Amen.**

Workshop Focus: I can rely on God whenever I am in need.

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.
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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Lord's Prayer Storytelling

What are some things we need? Write the kids' responses on a whiteboard. Make a distinction between what we need and what we want. (We can live without the things we want.)

Pass out Spark Bibles to the kids. **Today we'll read a story about a prayer Jesus gave his disciples that asks for everything we might need. Let's read Matthew 6:5-15 in our Spark Bibles.** Invite a kid to read the story on page 1064. **Put a Spark Bible sticker of your choice next to the story after you read it.**

What needs are addressed in the prayer? Write the kids' responses on a whiteboard.

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Whiteboard
Whiteboard markers

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

A Prayer for All Needs

Set Up: Preview and select the DVD clip you would like to use, and ensure that that content is appropriate for your group. Set up the TV and DVD player 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 DVD.

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

Video Option 1: *Evan Almighty* (2007, PG)

Start cue: (Chapter 13, 59:42) Evan’s family is eating in a restaurant and watching a TV report about Evan.

End cue: (Chapter 17, 1:20:06) Evan hugs his wife on the ark.

Scene set-up: Congressman Evan Baxter has been told by God to build an ark. Though he tries to resist, God is persistent. Evan’s family doesn’t understand until his wife encounters God in a restaurant.

Activity Instructions for Video Option 1

Watch the clip from *Evan Almighty* together. After the clip, discuss the following questions:

What is Evan trying to do? (*build an ark*) **Why?** (*God tells him to.*) **What do other people think of Evan?** (*They think he is crazy.*) **How does Evan’s wife finally come to understand that she should stand by him?** (*She encounters God in a restaurant; God answers her questions.*) **What happens when Evan and his family ask for help to build the ark?** (*God provides the animals to help.*)

What does the Lord’s Prayer ask for? (*God’s will, daily bread, guidance away from temptation, forgiveness of sins*) **Do you think we can rely on God to provide what we need? Why or why not?** Give kids time to respond to each question.

Video Option 2: *Field of Dreams* (1989, PG)

Start cue: (Chapter 9, 25:00) Joe Jackson says, “Man, I just love this game.”

End cue: (Chapter 15, 44:21) Annie says to Ray, “I’ll help you pack.”

Scene set-up: Iowa farmer Ray Kinsella hears a voice tell him to build a baseball park in his cornfield. When he listens to the voice, famous ball player Shoeless Joe Jackson comes from beyond the grave to play on his field. Although the farm is in financial turmoil, Ray believes he must do what the voice tells him to do.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Option 1: *Evan Almighty*
DVD player and TV

Option 2: *Field of Dreams*
DVD player and TV

Activity Instructions for Video Option 2

Watch the clip from *Field of Dreams* together. After the clip, discuss the following questions:

Who comes to play on Ray's baseball field? (*deceased ball players who were expelled from the game decades ago*) **What does the voice tell Ray to do next?** (*"Ease his pain."*) **How do Ray and Annie react to the voice's new request?** (*Annie is skeptical and scared of losing the farm; Ray is determined to follow the voice.*) **Even though the voice has not let Ray down, Ray and Annie still have reservations. What role does faith play in their decision to follow the voice?** Give kids time to respond.

Tell of a time you were sure you were supposed to do something but were afraid or doubted you could do it. Give kids time to share. **What role does prayer have in times like these? How can we get strength from talking to God?** Give kids time to respond to each question.

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.

Share with one other person a need you have that you will ask God for. Give kids time to share.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to sit in a circle. Have them pray for the need that was shared with them during Wrap Up.

Provider God,

Hear us as we lift up needs that have been brought up today. Give kids time to pray for the needs of others here. **Thank you for hearing us.**

Amen.

Workshop Focus: God and I can talk to each other at any time, in any place.

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)

The Lord's Prayer Storytelling

One of the greatest gifts we have been given is the gift of prayer. We can pray at any time and in any place.

Pass out Spark Story Bibles to the younger kids, and Spark Bibles to the older kids.

Today we'll read a story about a prayer Jesus taught his disciples. Turn to The Lord's Prayer in your Spark Story Bibles on page 278, or Matthew 6:5-15 in your Spark Bibles. Read the story aloud. **If you have a Spark Bible, put a green Spark Bible sticker next to the story after you read it.**

When are some good times to pray? Where are some good places to pray? Give kids time to respond to each question. Encourage them to discover that we can pray at any time and in any place.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Alone, But Not Alone

Set Up: Preview and select the DVD clip you would like to use, and ensure that that content is appropriate for your group. Set up the TV and DVD player 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 DVD.

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

Video Option 1: *Meet the Robinsons* (2007, G, Animated)

Start cue: (Chapter 15, 57:29) Wilbur says, "Nice catch."

End cue: (Chapter 18, 1:17:48) Lewis says to his younger self, "We are one smart kid."

Scene set-up: Lewis is an orphaned kid who invents a time machine. His son, Wilbur, returns from the future to bring Lewis back into the future. Lewis wants a family but doesn't know that Wilbur's family is his own future family.

Activity Instructions for Video Option 1

Watch the clip from *Meet the Robinsons* together. After the clip, discuss the following questions:

What does Lewis want at the beginning of the scene? (a family) Why does the Robinson family tell him he has to return to the past? (If he doesn't return, he'll never grow up and the family will not exist.) How does Lewis save the future? (He vows to return to the past, make wise choices, and keep moving forward.) What do you think Lewis' future will look like? Give kids time to respond.

Who in our lives can we be with when we feel alone? How can we be with God when we're alone? Is it okay to be alone? Is it okay to be with others? Why or why not? Give kids time to respond to each question.

Video Option 2: *Home Alone* (1990, PG)

Start cue: (Chapter 6, 13:59) Kevin's mom checks her watch and realizes they woke up late.

End cue: (Chapter 10, 36:24) Kevin screams after putting on aftershave.

Scene set-up: Kevin's family is planning to spend Christmas in France. When the family wakes up late, they miscount and leave Kevin home alone.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Option 1: *Meet the Robinsons*
DVD player and TV

Option 2: *Home Alone*
DVD player and TV

Activity Instructions for Video Option 2

Watch the clip from *Home Alone* together. After the clip, discuss the following questions:

How does the family leave Kevin at home? (*They count a neighbor kid instead of Kevin.*) **What does Kevin think has happened to his family?** (*He's made them disappear.*) **What does Kevin do first when he realizes he's home alone?** (*plays, eats what he wants, watches what he wants on TV*) **What does he do the next morning?** (*gets himself ready for the day, behaves as the man of the house*) **What scares Kevin about being home alone?** (*noises, people, neighbors*) **How does Kevin's mom feel about having left Kevin home alone?** (*scared, sad*) **How do you think you'd feel if you were left home alone? What's good about being alone? What's good about being with people? Who can we count on to be with us always when we're alone? How can we know God is always with us?** Give kids time to respond to each question.

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.

What is the best thing about being able to pray to God at any time and in any place? Give kids time to respond.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to sit in a circle for the closing prayer.

God who is always nearby,

Remind us that we can pray at any time and in any place. Give us words to speak and ears to hear. Help us grow in our relationship with you every time we pray.

Amen.

