

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God hears my prayers.</p> <p>DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR? Kids learn about hearing and God hearing our prayers.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: A tape recorder of sounds or items that you can use to make sounds, Diagram of Ear (page 133), paper and pencils</p>
Upper Elementary		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God hears me when I pray.</p> <p>SOUND SCAVENGER HUNT: Kids go on a scavenger hunt around the church to hear the sounds God made.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Index cards, pencils</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Sound Scavenger Hunt Sheet (page 135), whiteboard or chart paper and markers, pencils or markers, timer</p>
All Kids		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God cares about everything I pray for.</p> <p>ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, MINERAL: Kids work together to write prayers as stewards of God's creation.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Sticky notes, markers, poster board, scissors</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Photos of endangered animal species, fruits, vegetables, and farms or farmers, rocks, bodies of water and other photos of the natural world that God made; assorted stuffed animals, produce (fruits and vegetables), rocks, stones, driftwood, pine cones, etc.; hula-hoops or pieces of rope, index cards, masking tape, markers</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: God hears my prayers.

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.sparksondayschool.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

I'm so glad to see all of you in Science today. Thanks for being here! We've been learning more and more about the Lord's Prayer—the prayer that Jesus taught the disciples when they asked him how they should pray. Pass out Spark Story Bibles. **Let's open our Spark Story Bibles to page 278 and review the story together.** Read The Lord's Prayer out loud, and invite kids to share something they have prayed for.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Set Up: You may want to enlarge a copy of the ear diagram found on page 133 to display in the classroom. If you have a tape recorder, record a variety of sounds. Include things that are very familiar, such as a phone ringing or a dog barking, as well as sounds that may be more subtle, such as pages of a book being turned or bird wings fluttering. Use this list to inspire your choices: an alarm clock, a train whistle, a horn honking, a chime ringing, a blender making a milkshake, a baby crying, computer keys as someone types, a lawn mower or other small engine, an airplane flying over. If you are not planning to record sounds, choose items to bring in that you can use to make actual sounds, such as a cell phone, an alarm clock, a bell, a squeaky dog toy, and so on.

Activity Instructions

Have you ever really thought about all the things you hear in a normal day? It's a lot! When God designed our bodies, God designed our ears with some extra-special capabilities. Our hearing is one of our five senses and a really important part of our lives.

This is a diagram of what the human ear looks like—have you ever seen a diagram like this before? Take a few minutes to look over and name the ear parts on the diagram together. **Now let's close our eyes for a minute and just listen—what do we hear right here in our classroom? Let's try to be as quiet as we can.** Have everyone remain silent for a minute or two and notice the things they hear. The kids may hear a clock ticking, a furnace or air conditioner come on, a phone ring somewhere in the building, someone talking, each other breathing. **Now open your eyes—what did you hear?** Allow kids time to share the things they heard.

All right, now I have recorded some sounds for you to listen to and try to identify. When you hear a sound you want to identify, put your thumb up and we'll see if you know the sound or not. Ready? Play the recorded sounds, encouraging the kids to try to identify the sounds they hear. If you have extra time, you can ask kids to create a picture of the sounds they hear to create a visual record of the sound.

Good job of listening! Hearing is important, and it is important to remember that God always hears our prayers.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

A tape recorder of sounds or items that you can use to make sounds

Diagram of Ear (page 133)

Paper and pencils

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.

Hearing is important—it's one of our five senses! It is pretty amazing that God made our bodies so we can do so many things. And we don't even have to think about how to do them most of the time. When we think about how much we like to hear things, it reminds me how much God likes to hear us, especially our prayers.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Assorted "sound-makers" such as bells or chimes, soda cans with paper clips inside them, musical instruments

Prayer Time

Let's pray together with our sound-makers! I have a bunch of things here for you to choose from. All of them make sounds. Shall we experiment and see what kinds of sounds they make? Great—this is fun!

Now let's pray together, and I'd like you to use your sound-makers to make a special rhythm or pattern to accompany our prayer.

Dear Lord,

Today we thank you for always hearing our prayers.

Sometimes, we forget to thank you as part of our prayers, but it is important for us to remember that we should thank you for all that you do in our lives.

Thank you for Jesus, who taught us so many things, but especially how to pray.

Thank you for this church where we can come to spend time learning more about you with our friends.

Thank you for all of the ways you made our bodies so that we can run and play and sleep and eat and live in the world you made for us.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: God hears me when I pray.

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

Welcome the kids as they arrive for the Science Workshop. When they have all arrived, have them gather together with you in a circle for a moment of opening prayer. **Since our Bible story is about the Lord's Prayer, let's pray it together to start our workshop! Would someone like to volunteer to lead us? Thanks.**

Pass our Spark Bibles to kids. **Let's open to this story in Matthew 6, where Jesus taught the disciples how to pray the prayer we call the Lord's Prayer. You can find it on page 1064. Got it? Good. I'd like you to take turns reading this passage aloud with a partner, starting with verse 5, and then let's take a minute to talk about what we learn from this Bible passage.**

Encourage the kids to read together in review, and have them add a pertinent sticker to their pages if they like. If the kids have questions or wonder about anything from the readings, have them write their questions on an index card and then take a moment to talk about whatever that is together as a group. If you are unsure of what to answer, promise to get back to the group with an answer after you talk with a pastor or spiritual leader at your church. Encourage kids to place a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice in the margin near the passage.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Index cards
Pencils

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Sound Scavenger Hunt

Set Up: Check with the pastor, worship leader, or office staff to make sure you are able to access different parts of the church building and outside grounds during class time. Become familiar with the areas you want to take the kids so they have the chance to hear a variety of different sounds. Make copies of the Sound Scavenger Hunt sheet found on page 135.

Activity Instructions

Shhhh . . . listen! Do you hear what I hear? There are always sounds around us, and sometimes we get so used to them we don't even hear them anymore. Let's brainstorm some of our favorite things to hear and I'll write them on the whiteboard (or chart paper).

Encourage the kids to think of the kinds of things they like to hear: Mom or Dad cheering for them while they play a sport, applause when they perform with their school band, their cat meowing in the morning to wake them up, a favorite CD song on the radio. Be sure to affirm and acknowledge the fun differences we all have in the things we like to hear.

I like our list! And today we're going to explore a bit of our building and grounds, and see what kinds of things we hear. It's sort of a Sound Scavenger Hunt! I have a recording sheet for each of you, and I'd like to you write the things you hear as we walk around our building and listen as carefully as we can. I have extra sheets if you run out of room on your first one.

After checking out different parts of your facility, gather together at the end of class and share the lists that everyone has compiled. Make a grid on the whiteboard or chart paper, and write down the things the kids listed, using tally marks to record how many people heard each particular thing. Look for those unusual things that only one or two people heard to make the point that we all focus on and hear different things.

God made the world and everything in it—all that we hear and see and taste and touch and smell. The wonders of God's world are all around us, and remind us that God is always with us, and that God always knows what we are doing and hears our prayers.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Sound Scavenger Hunt sheet
copies (page 135), at least
1 per kid

Whiteboard or chart paper
and markers

Pencils or markers

Timer

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



Prayer Time

In our worship services, we still pray the prayer that Jesus taught the disciples. Sometimes, we use different versions and different words, but the prayer usually has the same ideas and meanings. What about if we close in prayer today by rewording the Lord's Prayer in our own words?

Have the kids work with you to rewrite the words to this prayer, making it more contemporary and relevant for them. An easy and efficient way to do this is to leave the basic words on the whiteboard and erase and replace any that the kids think of alternatives for. When everyone has contributed to a new-to-you version, gather together and pray the prayer aloud in closing.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Whiteboard or chart paper

Marker

Workshop Focus: God cares about everything I pray for.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Lord's Prayer Storytelling

Cut the poster board into the shape of an open book and tack it to a wall or bulletin board. As the kids arrive, ask them to be thinking about the kinds of things they pray for.

Welcome to Science! We're talking about the Lord's Prayer today. Let's get to it!

Pass out Spark Story Bibles to the younger kids, directing them to find page 278, and Spark Bibles to the older kids, directing them to find Matthew 6:5-15 on page 1064. Read The Lord's Prayer on page 278 of the Spark Story Bible out loud. Invite older kids to place a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice in the margin by the Lord's Prayer.

Give each kid a sticky note and marker, and ask them to write or draw the things they pray for on it. **Once you've written some of the things you pray for, come up and put them on this open book. Can we arrange the things you've written in categories such as things at home, people I know, people who are ill, and so on? Great job—I can see you all have important things to pray about. And the good news is—God cares about everything we pray for!**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Sticky notes
Markers
Poster board
Scissors

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Animal, Vegetable, Mineral

Set Up: Collect a good variety of items that fit into the categories of animal, vegetable, and mineral. Calendars often have photos of these items and make good visuals for the kids. Set the items and the photos on a table in the center of the meeting space, keeping them jumbled up rather than in categories. Plan to have at least three hula-hoops or pieces of rope laid out in a circle to put on the floor in the center of the room. Divide the index cards and set them, as well as the markers and tape, near the hoops on the floor.

Activity Instructions

Look at all of the things I have brought in to Science today. Can any of you see what these things might have in common? Let's see if we can sort them out and figure out why I brought them. I have three spaces for us to sort into, so let's do it!

Encourage the kids to work together to begin sorting things out, putting all animal, all vegetable, and all mineral-related things together. Once they are sorted, ask one of the kids to write the words "animal," "vegetable," and "mineral" on an index card to label each hoop.

All of these things are part of God's wonderful world. We're lucky to live in God's world! But living in God's world in God's family also means that we need to take care of God's world. What are some of the ways we can take care of, say, animals? How about things we eat, like vegetables and fruits? What about the things we see in the world around us, like these rocks and pieces of wood and plants?

Allow time for the kids to share their thoughts and ideas. If you know of ways that your church congregation is "green" and a good steward of the world, share that information with the kids. **You have all come up with good ideas about how we can take good care of the world God made and all of the things in it. One of the other things we can do is pray. Let's divide into three groups and write a prayer for each of these things—animal, vegetable, and mineral. We can give the prayers we write to the church office or our pastor, and it can be part of a newsletter or bulletin, or on our church website.**

Designate groups for the kids to work together, making sure to pair some of the younger kids with the older ones. Help them to write prayers for endangered animals; for world hunger, crops and those people who grow the crops; for people who take care of the earth; and for those who have been involved in recent natural disasters. Have them write their prayer sentences or phrases on index cards and then tape them together on the back with masking tape to make a foldout prayer. You may want to include these prayers as part of your closing time today.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Photos of endangered animal species, fruits, vegetables, and farms or farmers, rocks, bodies of water and other photos of the natural world that God made

Assorted stuffed animals

Produce (fruits and vegetables)

Rocks, stones, driftwood, pine cones, etc.

Hula-hoops or pieces of rope

Index cards

Masking tape

Markers

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 know that our prayers are important to God! We can always have a prayer conversation with God!

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Prayers written during
Activate Faith (optional)

Prayer Time

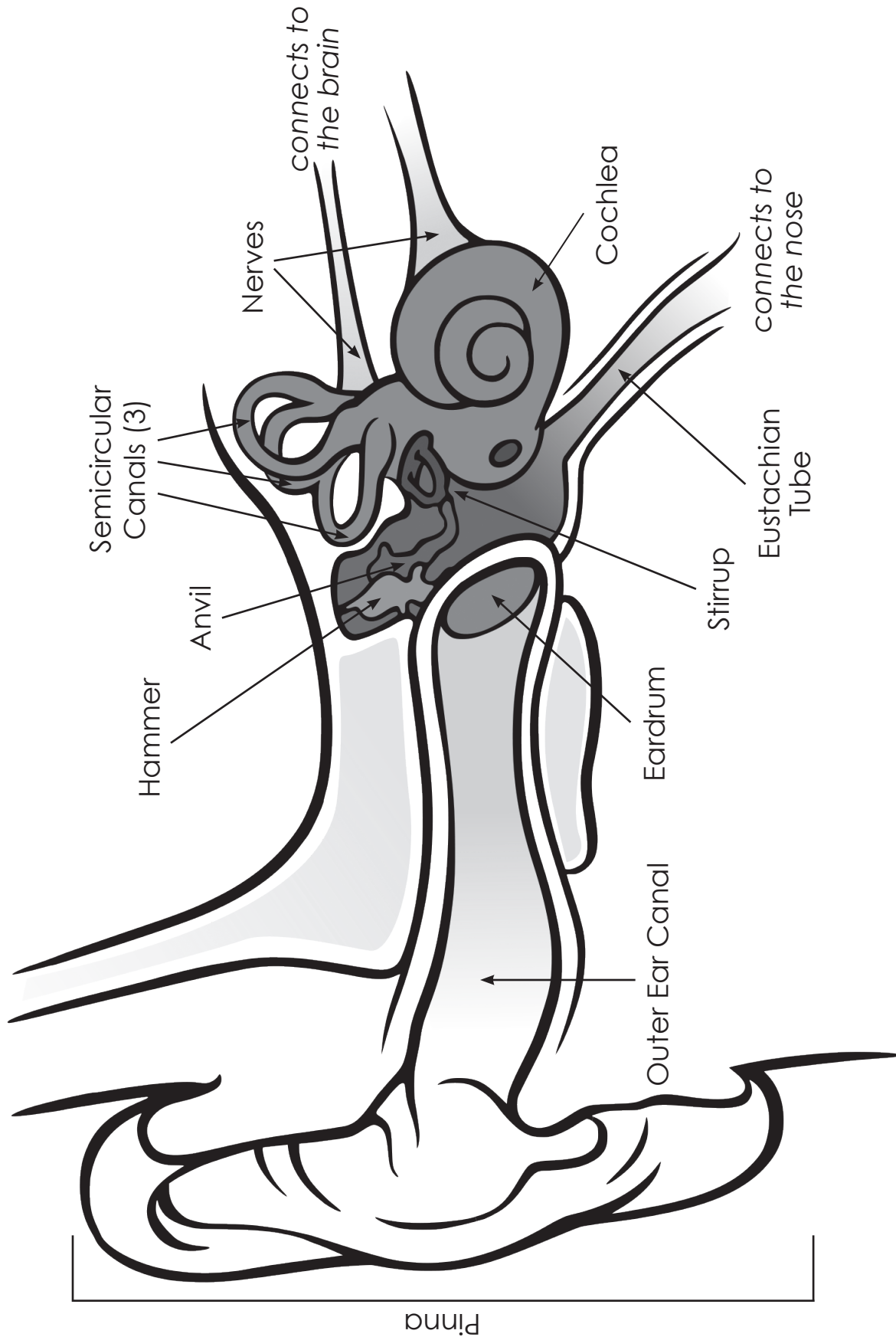
Gather the kids together in a circle and link arms or hold hands for your closing prayer. Ask an older kid who was part of each group (animal, vegetable, or mineral) to read aloud the prayer his or her group wrote. If you would rather, say this prayer in closing:

Dear Lord,

The earth and all that is in it are yours! You have made all things good and wonderful for us to live with and to enjoy. Guide all those who are caretakers of all that you have made, and help us to do all that we can, even what seems like the smallest of things, to treat the world with respect and love. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Diagram of Ear



Sound Scavenger Hunt Sheet

Where I Am	What I Hear

