

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: Jesus gave us new ways to listen and pray.</p> <p>TALKING PIANO: Kids learn to listen and pray using chants.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Pray Chant copies (page 115)</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Piano and accompanist, Talking Piano Notations copies (page 117)</p>
Upper Elementary		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God's message comes in many different ways.</p> <p>BOTTLE BAND: Kids play musical bottles and learn that God's messages come in many different ways.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Paper, pen, scissors, glass soda pop bottles</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Glass pop bottles, pitchers of water, funnel, paper towels, piano</p>
All Kids		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: Prayer to God uses all our senses.</p> <p>PRAYER DRUMMING: Kids make drumming mallets and use their senses to pray.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Hand mirror, hand drum, bread to taste (be aware of gluten allergies), a flower to smell (lily or rose), a whistle, basket</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Markers; leather pieces; jute packaging string; thick rubber bands; wooden dowels; cotton balls; Tibetan singing bowl, Native American flute, or a gong (optional)</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 gave us new ways to listen and 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

Welcome, music learners. Let's get to work and learn new ways to listen and pray.

Do any of you know the Lord's Prayer? Pause. **How did you learn the Lord's Prayer?** Allow kids to share stories. **When Jesus was alive on Earth, his disciples asked him to teach them to pray. That is why it is called the Lord's Prayer. We'll read the story in a moment.**

First, I want to talk to you about chants. Chants are a singing prayer. They are repeated over and over as a continuous prayer. Teach the three-note chant below.

Sing it over and over until the kids understand that the chant is continuous, as is prayer. You may use hand signs to show C in the middle and up to F and back to C and lower to Bflat and back to C. **Good job! Let's hear the story. Each time you hear the word "pray," sing the chant.**

Pass out Spark Story Bibles, read the story out loud on page 278-281. The chant will happen one time on each of the first three pages and twice on the last page. Sing with the kids.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
Pray Chant copies (page 115)

Wonderful job! The story and the chant went together to bring about a new way to pray. Jesus was teaching a new way to pray. How did Jesus tell the disciples to pray? (*don't use big words, loud voices, or long prayers, be alone with God*) **Why did Jesus say to ask only for what we need today?** (*Jesus knew we all want more than we need.*) **Jesus gave us new ways to listen to God and to pray.**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Talking Piano

Begin with the kids sitting gathered around the piano, but make sure there is space for them to move. **We learned a new way to pray through chants. Let's learn a new way to listen. Does a piano talk?** Answers will vary as debate happens. **Just like we need to understand the language of prayer, we need the language of the piano to hear it talk. This language might be new to you. The piano gives us notes that tell us what to do.** Play the notation for "Stand up." **I wonder what the piano is telling us?** Accept kids' responses. **Let's listen again.** Play the notation for "Stand up" again. **Which direction are the notes going?** (*up*) **So "up" might be part of our directions. If we are sitting now, what do we need to do to go up?** (*stand*) Play the notation for "Stand up" again. **The piano is talking and saying, "Stand up."**

Now we know some of the language. Let's try another one. Play the notation for "Sit down." **Does anyone have a good guess as to what the piano is saying now?** Someone will come up with "Sit down." **So listen carefully and do what the piano says.** Play the notation for "Sit down" again. **Everyone should be sitting now. Let's try some more.**

Play the notation for "On your knees." **Any guesses?** Accept kids' responses. **This time the notes on the piano did not go all the way up. What is partway up?** (*You may get someone to say on your knees or squatting.*) **This one is "On your knees." Let's try all three and see if you can follow along. Let's start by sitting.** Play "Stand up," "Sit down," "On your knees," "Stand up."

Hey, you are getting good at listening to the talking piano! While you are standing, let's see how you are doing on listening to the piano. Play "Twirl." **Any guesses?** This one is harder but someone may guess. **This one tells us to twirl. Let's see you all twirl. Now we know four parts of the new language of the talking piano. There's one more to learn.** Play "On your stomach." **Surely someone can guess this one?** Pause. **This one is really tricky. It says, "On your stomach." Can you hear it? "On your stomach." Let's try them all together. Listen carefully to the directions of the talking piano.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Talking Piano Notations
copies (page 117)
Piano and accompanist

Sit down
On your knees
Stand up
On your stomach
Stand up
Twirl
Sit down

Should we try it faster? Kids always want to go faster. Do the same sequence but double time. You may get requests to do triple time, too!

Other possible sequences if you have time:

Stand up
Twirl
On your stomach
On your knees
Twirl
Sit down

Well, that sure was fun! Jesus taught us new ways to pray in our Bible story. We learned new language for prayer by chanting. And we learned that we could figure out the language of the piano to hear it talking.

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 taught us a new way to pray. Let's learn another new way to pray.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

We sit and hit our legs twice with our hands, clap twice, pound fists two times with the right hand on top and two times with the left hand on top. While we are doing this, we say the Lord's Prayer, and end with a big "Amen." Use your congregation's version of the Lord's Prayer.

Workshop Focus: God's message comes in many different ways.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Lord's Prayer Storytelling

Write or photocopy the Lord's Prayer onto a sheet of paper, cut into four parts. Roll each part and put it into a clean and dry glass bottle.

Welcome to Music. Today we are going to do some interesting things with glass bottles. What are some of the things that come in glass bottles? (*soda pop, ketchup, wine, salad dressing*) **What about messages? Has anyone ever sent or received a message in a bottle?** Allow kids to share stories.

I've got some bottles here, and I think there are messages in them. Is anyone interested? Pause. **We'll look at these later, but right now I want to talk to you about the way God sends messages in our lives. How does God send messages in the Bible?** (*through people, stories, and the reading of the scripture*) **In our story today, the disciples asked Jesus a question, and he gave them a message about praying.** Pass out Spark Bibles. **Let's open our Bibles to Matthew 6:5-15 on page 1064. Let's take turns reading God's message.** Invite kids to volunteer to read.

Nice reading. Now let's see what messages are in these bottles. Allow kids who did not read to choose a bottle. It can be tricky to get the message out. When all the messages are extracted, have the kids read their parts aloud. **Does anyone**

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles

Supplies
Paper
Pen
Scissors
Glass soda pop bottles, 4

recognize these partial messages? How do they go together? Let's stand in order and read the message again. This is the prayer from our Bible scripture. God sends messages through scripture, and this time the scripture came through a bottle.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Bottle Band

Set Up: Fill enough glass bottles using a funnel so that each kid has a bottle. Put the bottles at intervals along a table. Fill all the bottles to the same place. Leave the empty pitchers for kids to pour water into as they change the notes on their bottles.

Safety Tip: Bottles should be washed in the dishwasher each week after use.

Activity Instructions

We are going to make a bottle band. What do you know about making sound with a bottle full of water? (*You blow across the top of the bottle to make sound; the depth of water and size of bottle make the sounds different.*) **Let's have everyone stand by a bottle and try to blow it. This is your bottle for the rest of class. Please do not share bottles.** Give the kids time to figure this out. **Let's share our techniques for making sound with the bottle. Try any new techniques you just learned.**

If you have made a sound with your bottle, pour a little water out of it and see how the sound changes. Does the sound get lower or higher in your bottle? This will change depending on the shape of the bottle—kids need to understand their bottle. **Let's try matching some pitches with the piano.** Play the notes from low C through middle C, stopping after each note for the kids to blow their bottle and match the pitch. **Okay, we matched a few. Let's try the next octave.** Play notes from middle C to high C, stopping after each note for the kids to blow their bottle and match pitch.

Remember to pour out a little more water to change the pitch. Let's try to line up the notes from lowest to highest at your table. Keep blowing your bottle and match each other. This is pretty hard and will need some supervision. **Once your tones are lined up from low to high going left to right, try to play a nursery rhyme. "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" is good to try.**

Allow kids to continue exploring. Help each table successfully play a song. Success may be simply making different sounds. Each group may not actually complete a known melody, which is just fine. Have groups perform for one another.

Great job! Let's pour all our water into the pitchers and clean up any spilled water so no one slips.

We can make music in new ways. God sends us messages in new ways.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Glass pop bottles, 1 per kid

Pitchers of water

Funnel

Paper towels

Piano

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.

God's message can come in many different ways. It comes in scripture and maybe even as a message in a bottle. Let's pray the Lord's Prayer by standing in a circle facing outwards.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

**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: Prayer to God uses all our senses.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Lord's Prayer Storytelling

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

Place the sensory items in a basket.

Welcome to Music. Today we are going to learn how to pray. Jesus taught the disciples how to pray with all their senses. Who can tell me all five senses? (*seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling, touching*) **Let's look at these things in the basket.**

Let's match these things with the senses they represent. Face the mirror toward the kids. **What sense does the hand mirror represent?** Blow the whistle. **What sense does the whistle represent?** Pass the bread around to be tasted. **What sense does the bread represent?** Hit the hand drum with your hand. **What sense does the hand drum represent?** Pass the flower around to be smelled. **What sense does the flower represent?** (*hand mirror-seeing, whistle-hearing, bread-tasting, hand drum-touching, flower-smelling*) **Each sense is mentioned in the story in some way. Let's listen to the story. Raise your hand if you hear something about praying that has to do with senses.**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Hand mirror
Hand drum
Bread
Flower to smell (lily or rose)
Whistle
Basket

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. Slowly read The Lord's Prayer on page 278 of the Spark Story Bible out loud. **Who would like to share the senses they heard in the story?** Allow kids to share. **Let's look at the pictures, too. When Jesus is talking, what are the disciples doing?** (*hearing*) **And when hands are folded, what are the fingers doing?** (*touching*) **So there are many ways that our senses are used as we pray to God.** Invite older kids to place a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice in the margin near the passage.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Prayer Drumming

Set Up: Put some supplies on either side of tables. Kids stand while doing this project. Cut jute to 15 inch (38 cm) pieces.

Activity Instructions

Our story tells us about prayer. Many religions and cultures use instruments for prayer. There is a Tibetan singing bowl used in prayer. Native Americans of some tribes use flute playing as a form of prayer. Gongs are used to call people to prayer. Shaman or priests in some religions use drums for a form of prayer.

Today we will make drumming mallets. Once we have made the mallets, we can use our senses to drum a prayer.

Demonstrate each step as you give the following instructions:

1. **Write your name on a dowel, using markers.**
2. **Choose a piece of leather. Look carefully at the leather so that you know where it is colored or plain, smooth or rough, thick or thin.**
3. **Gather the leather into a round mallet shape, and put a rubber band around the edges to hold them together. Don't tighten the rubber band very much.**
4. **Stuff the cotton balls into the mallet, using the dowel. When it is very full, push the dowel into the cotton.**
5. **Tie tightly around the rubber bands with jute string. Wrap it around and around, and tie off the end.**

When everyone has a mallet, sit in a circle on the floor. **We are going to pretend that the floor is a drum. Let's use our mallets to drum on the floor. Keep drumming until I say to stop.** Give them a minute to drum. **Can you feel the drumming through the mallet and the floor?** (*yes*) **Can you hear the drumming?** (*yes*) **Stop drumming and smell the leather. How does it smell?** Accept all answers. **Look carefully at your mallet. What do you see?** Accept all answers.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Markers
Leather pieces (available at shoe repair stores or online, 1 per kid)
Thick rubber bands, 1 per kid
Jute packaging string
1 inch (2.5 cm) wooden dowels in 1 foot (30 cm) lengths, 1 per kid
Cotton balls, several per kid
Tibetan singing bowl, Native American flute, or a gong (optional)

Let's drum some more. How does the sound change when you hit lightly? Accept all answers.

Drumming takes all our senses. Praying to God uses all our senses, too.

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.

When we are praying, we use all our senses.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Drumming mallets from
Activate Faith

Prayer Time

Let's do a drumming prayer. We will drum quietly on the floor while we say the Lord's Prayer. Pray together using the version from your faith community.

Pray Chant



Talking Piano

stand up *sit down* *on your knees* *twirl* *on your stomach*

Musical notation for the piece "Talking Piano" in 4/4 time. The piece consists of five measures. The first measure is labeled "stand up" and contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half rest. The second measure is labeled "sit down" and contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a half rest. The third measure is labeled "on your knees" and contains a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a half rest. The fourth measure is labeled "twirl" and contains a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, an eighth note B4, an eighth note C5, an eighth note B4, an eighth note A4, and a half rest. The fifth measure is labeled "on your stomach" and contains a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a half rest. The bass line is mostly silent, with a final measure containing a quarter note G2 and a quarter note F2.

