

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: Your faith will grow with love and care.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: None
PERPETUAL GARDEN: Kids make a zippered bag garden.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Zippered plastic bags, seeds, measuring cups, potting soil, water, index cards, markers, big paper sack
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: We can spread the seeds of faith.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
SEED SPREADER: Kids make and test a variety of seed spreaders.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Masking tape, plastic tablecloth (if needed), grass seed, plastic milk jugs, plastic butter tubs with lids, coffee cans with lids, hammers, nails, broom, dustpan, clock or watch with a second hand, whiteboard, markers
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: Faith yields much fruit.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
FRUIT PICKERS: Kids invent ways to pick fruit.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Whiteboard, markers, socks, newspaper, balls, assorted disposable containers (baskets, boxes, tubes, tubs, jugs), string, chenille craft stems, wooden craft sticks, plastic eating utensils, scissors, glue, duct tape, masking tape



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: Your faith will grow with love and care.

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)

Fruit of the Spirit Storytelling

Welcome to Science. Think about your favorite fruit. If your favorite fruit is small like a grape or strawberry, you could hold one between two fingers. Hold pointer finger and thumb on one hand about 1 inch (2.5 cm) apart. **If your favorite fruit is medium-sized, like a peach or apple, you probably need one whole hand to hold it.** Cup one hand with the fingers spread apart. **If it is a watermelon, you'd need both hands!** Act as if a large watermelon was in your arms.

Hold your hands as if they were holding your favorite fruit. Pause while kids "hold" fruit. **Find someone who looks like he or she might be holding a different fruit than you are. Without naming your imaginary fruit, describe your fruit to each other. Is it hard or soft? What color is it? Is it juicy? Is it sweet or tangy? Does your favorite fruit have any seeds? Can you guess each other's fruit? Think about why you like your favorite fruit.**

Let's read Fruit of the Spirit on page 550 in our Spark Story Bibles. You'll hear about a different kind of fruit.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

After reading, ask kids if they could hold the fruit of the Spirit like we pretended to hold our favorite fruits. **Are there other ways people can tell if you are following the fruit of the Spirit?** (*seeing kind acts, not fighting, sharing, smiling, waiting my turn*)

Do you have a favorite fruit of the Spirit? Be prepared to remind them of the nine choices: love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Perpetual Garden

Set Up: On opposing sides of each index card, write one word from each pair of words below. Add drawings as you are able. Make more *good* cards than *bad* ones. Make sure there is at least one card for each kid.

- Sun/Generosity or Love
- Soil/Joy
- Water/Peace
- Seed/Patience
- Hungry Rabbit/Greed
- Lawnmower/Anger

Activity Instructions

Where do the fruits we like to eat come from? (*the store, from plants*) **Fruits grow on all types of plants, including bushes, vines, and trees. Where do bushes, vines, and trees come from?** (*just grow outside, buy them from a plant store, grow from seeds*) **Plants start from seeds, like this one.** Show a seed. **What does this seed need in order to grow into a plant?** (*soil, sun, water*)

Sometimes, bad things happen to seeds or plants before they grow big enough to make fruits. What might happen to hurt a seed or plant? (*An animal might eat it. A tree could get cut down or struck by lightning. Sometimes bulldozers dig them up.*)

1. **Imagine that this bag held your faith—which is everything you believe about God and Jesus.** Distribute empty zippered plastic bags. **Before you know about God, what does your faith look like?** Look in the bag. Look through the bag. Feel around inside the bag. (*It looks empty. There is nothing there.*)
2. **Your faith starts out small—like a seed—when someone first tells you about God.** Distribute a pinch of seeds to each kid. **Put these seeds in your bag. Will the seeds in our bags grow if we leave them all alone?** (*No. We need to put other things in the bag.*)

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Zippered plastic bags, quart size, 1 per kid
Seeds, annual flower or vegetable
Measuring cups
Potting soil, ½ cup (60-70 g) per kid
Water, ¼ cup (120 mL) per kid
Index cards, 1 per kid
Markers
Big paper sack

3. **What are the things we need for the seeds to grow?** (*sun, soil, and water*)
When the kids mention soil, put about ½ cup (60-70 g) potting soil into each bag. When they mention water, add ¼ cup (120 mL) of water. Zip the bags shut. **When you get home, be sure to put this bag in a sunny place.**
4. **If we planted our seeds outside instead of in a bag, what could keep them from growing?** (*not enough rain, pulled out of the ground or cut, getting eaten*)
5. **Growing fruit is like growing faith: some things help it to grow and some things hurt it. We know our faith needs love, joy, peace, and patience to grow. Greed, anger, and fighting are very hard on our faith.**
6. **I've made cards with good and bad things for fruits and for faith.** Show one set of cards and read each one. **We're going to play a game. I'll put all of the cards in a sack. One at a time, each of you will draw a card to put in a clear plastic bag. To succeed in growing our fruit and our church, we need a bag full of only good things. If you draw something bad—like a hungry rabbit/greed or the lawnmower/anger—we have to put all the cards back in the paper sack and start over again. Let's see how long it takes before we get a bag full of good things. Let's see how long it takes us to get our seeds of faith growing and bearing fruit.** Play the game until you get a successful round that has sun, seeds, water, and soil, with no hungry rabbits or lawnmowers in the clear bag.

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.

Taking care of your zippered garden can remind you of today's story. Just like your seeds need good things like sun, water, and soil to grow and bear fruit, your faith needs good things like love, generosity, and patience. Give your garden and your faith what they need, and they will both grow and bear beautiful fruit.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

**Dear God,
Help us show our seeds the love and care they need to grow. As we watch them grow, we will think about all the wonderful things that faith gives us.
Amen.**

Workshop Focus: We can spread the seeds of faith.

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)

Fruit of the Spirit Storytelling

Welcome to Science. If you were having a party, how would you invite your best friend? (*call her, text him, talk to her at school, send him an invitation*) **What are some other ways, past and present, that people have communicated with each other?** (*smoke signals, Morse code, ham radio*) **What are some advantages and disadvantages to your favorite method of communication?** (*fast speed = advantage, slow speed = disadvantage, blocked or lost e-mail messages = disadvantage, can see their emotions = advantage, can't see their emotions = disadvantage*)

Today, we're going to be exploring how God's message can be delivered to others. We'll start by reading about the fruit of the Spirit. Find Galatians 5:16-26 on page 1293 in your Spark Bibles. Follow while I read. Put an I Wonder sticker by something you're not sure about.

How did Paul give his message to the Galatians? Here's a hint: read the orange box at the top of page 1288. (*He wrote them a letter.*)

What message did Paul send to the Galatians? (*God's world is one where people live in ways that are good for all.*)

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Seed Spreader

Set Up:

- Use the masking tape to make a grid with 6" (15 cm) squares on a sweepable surface (tile, concrete, or plastic tablecloth). The number of squares will depend on the size of your group and the space available.
- Draw a grid like the one below on the whiteboard where you will enter information to record the seed-spreading results.

Seeding method	Time to plant	Accuracy
Hand seeding		
Milk carton seeder		
Tub seeder		

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Masking tape
Solid-color plastic tablecloth (if needed)
Grass seed
Plastic gallon milk jugs (empty and clean)
Plastic butter tubs with lids (empty and clean)
Coffee cans with lids
Hammers
Nails
Broom
Dustpan
Clock or watch with a second hand
Whiteboard
Markers

Activity Instructions

Why do plants make fruits? (*for us to eat, to protect the seeds, so animals will carry the seeds from one place to another*) **Fruits are delivery packages. They help spread seeds to new places, sometimes far away. With most fruits, there is really no way to control where the seeds end up. So you might have a mulberry tree trying to grow in a flowerpot, or a pumpkin sprouting in the base of a tree branch. Most of us buy a lot of our food from stores. Some of that food comes from farmers, who have developed ways to plant seeds exactly where they want them so they can tend them. Name some ways seeds get spread around? (*planted by hand, planted with tractors and a planter*) **Maybe you have seen seed spreaders. People use small push spreaders to scatter grass seeds on their lawn. Farmers use much larger seed planters pulled behind big tractors. Let's test several methods of spreading seeds.****

1. **This is our seed plot.** Show the grid. **Imagine that each square represents a different part of your life. One square might be your family. Another square could be your neighborhood. There might be one square for school and another for sports.**
2. **The seeds will represent the actions of our faith. Determine the number of seeds you want to plant on the entire grid.**
3. **First, let's try it seeding by hand. How quickly and accurately can you spread the chosen number of seeds in each square?** Give each kid a plastic tub with

seeds. Time how long it takes for each kid to seed the grid. For each kid, record the time, assess for accuracy, then sweep seeds off the grid and let the next kid go.

4. **Imagine having to seed a field that is a mile long on every side! Now's your chance to create a seed spreader that will work faster, but just as accurately. Find a partner or two to work with.**
5. **Materials we have available include the plastic tubs you used earlier, plastic milk jugs, or coffee cans. You can also use a hammer, nails, and masking tape. Start by making the holes small because you can always make them bigger. You can test your design two times and make adjustments. Then, we'll do a final trial and record everyone's results.** Allow teams to select materials and get to work. The general method is to use the nail to punch holes in the bottom and/or sides of the containers. Holes can be made bigger by twisting the nail, or they can be covered using masking tape. Keep the broom handy for cleaning the grid between trials.
6. **We'll record how each seed spreader does.** Time each team. Record the results on the chart.
7. **Which seed spreader did the best job? Does best mean the fastest or spreading the most seeds? Or getting the seeds in the right place?** Ask kids in each team to say something they liked about another team's seed spreader.

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.

Let's think about what we did today. If the seeds of faith are spread throughout every part of our lives, we will reap the fruit of the Spirit. If the seeds of faith are missing from some parts of our lives, we might suffer from envy, unhealthy competitiveness, or acting conceited. Paul used letters to tell people about the fruit of the Spirit. How can you spread the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control that come with having faith? (Answers will vary.)

Prayer Time

**Dear God,
Help us plant seeds of faith in all parts of our lives so that others may enjoy the fruit of the Spirit that we enjoy.
Amen.**

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Workshop Focus: Faith yields much fruit.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Fruit of the Spirit Storytelling

Welcome to Science. I'd like you to name something that is real, but invisible. One example would be air. If the air is clean, we don't see it, but it is very real. What else can you think of? Answers will vary.

There are many things that are real, but invisible. Emotions are real, but we can't touch happiness or wrap it up in a box. Sound is also something that is invisible, but real. Sometimes, scientists look for ways to visualize the invisible. We can't see sound, but people have invented machines that take sound and turn it into waves on a screen or marks on paper.

Today, we're going to see how it is easier to understand things when we make the invisible VISIBLE. So, what invisible things am I talking about? If kids have been a part of the Fruit of the Spirit rotation for several weeks, they may be able to answer this. **Turn to Fruit of the Spirit on page 550 in your Spark Story Bible or to Galatians 5:16-26 on page 1293 in your Spark Bible. Let's find out together. Put stickers beside verses you want to remember.**

What things in today's reading are real but invisible? (*fruit of the Spirit, love, peace, patience . . .*) **Even though we can't see any fruit of the Spirit, we can feel each of them.**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Fruit Pickers

Set Up: Place all the materials in a central area.

Activity Instructions

In today's story, Paul is telling the Galatians about all the good things they will have if they do the things that follow God's way. The things he mentioned—like kindness, generosity, and patience—are not things you can pick up with your hands. But he called them fruit . . . fruit of the Spirit. When we say *fruit*, we usually think of things like bananas, watermelons, and kiwis. Those fruits are visible. They are also good things we will have if we take care of the plants the right way.

I have two challenges for you today. The first is to make something that looks like (represents) one fruit of the Spirit. The second challenge is for you to use other materials to make a fruit picker that could be used to harvest that fruit.

1. **Get in groups of 3-4 kids. Each group will decide which fruit of the Spirit they are going to make. Look in your Bibles if you need help remembering the choices available. When you decide on a fruit of the Spirit, write it on the whiteboard so everyone is working on a different fruit of the Spirit.**
2. **Use the materials to design a fruit of the Spirit model. Would your fruit be big or little? Hard or soft?** Encourage groups to use balls, socks, boxes, markers, etc., to make model fruits. Some possibilities include a heart for love and a ring for faithfulness.
3. **If you wanted others to be able to harvest your fruit, what could they use? Make a fruit of the Spirit picker for your fruit.** Some possibilities include a pincher/tongs to pick up the ring, a box with a hole in the top to catch the ball. Offer encouragement, suggestions, and an extra set of hands as needed.
4. Call kids together. **I'd like each group to tell us about their fruit of the Spirit model and their fruit picker.** Thank each group for the efforts today.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Whiteboard
Markers
Socks
Newspaper
Balls
Disposable containers plastic
strawberry baskets, various
sized cardboard boxes,
various sized cardboard
tubes, plastic jugs)
String
Chenille craft stems
Wooden craft sticks
Plastic eating utensils
Scissors
Glue
Duct tape
Masking tape

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.

Paul used familiar images to help his big ideas make sense and stick in our brains. The model fruits and fruit pickers you made helped us to create a visual memory of today's story. Now, whenever we see or pick fruit, we might connect it to the good that everyone experiences when we live in the ways of the Holy Spirit. We enjoy the many types of tasty fruit that God created. God also offers abundant harvest when we live by each fruit of the Spirit.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Dear God,

We love all the fruits you give us, both the tasty kinds (like strawberries and cantaloupe) and the spiritual kinds (like peace and self-control). Thank you for your love and generosity.

Amen.

