

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

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: We can build our lives on God’s Word.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: None
A-PEEL-ING TO SQUIGGLES: Kids make a healthy and happy Squiggles snack.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Sharp knife, cutting board, plates, table knives, toothpicks, star stickers, apples, lemon juice (optional), dried cranberries, bananas, raisins
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: My faith is built on the rock of God’s Word.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
BUILT TO LAST: Kids use ingredients to build a creative structure that will “fall down” in the microwave.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Microwave oven, microwave-safe plates, forks, napkins, pretzel sticks, mini marshmallows, chocolate chips
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God’s love is rock solid.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
EDIBLE ROCKS: Kids work together to make a batch of “edible rock” cookies.	SUPPLIES: A bowl of small rocks, a bowl of sand, wet rag (optional)	SUPPLIES: Oven, measuring spoons and cups, microwave-safe bowl, microwave, can opener, mixing bowls, spatulas, cookie sheets, pot holders, turner, cooling rack, napkins, resealable plastic bags (optional), butter or margarine, well-drained crushed pineapple, brown sugar, vanilla, egg, whole wheat flour, all-purpose flour, baking soda, salt, chocolate chips



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: We can build our lives on God's Word.

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)

House on the Rock Storytelling

Hi, kids! Greet each one by name and invite all kids to join the story circle. **I'm so glad you are here today because we are going to learn an important story that Jesus told. Jesus told stories in order to teach people about God. Those stories are called parables. Today's parable is called House on the Rock. Let's open our Spark Story Bibles to page 282 so we can look at this story.**

While I read it, please look at the pictures. Pay special attention to Squiggles. Point out Squiggles the caterpillar.

Read the story. Stop after "The smart person built a house on a sturdy rock." Have the kids do the action that they see Squiggles doing—pounding a nail on the roof of the house. Read on. Stop when you get to the end of page 283. **There is not a picture of Squiggles now, but let's pretend there is. What face would he make now that we know the house on the rock is still standing after the storm?** (*happy face*) **Let's make that face now with Squiggles.** Encourage them to be silly and really exaggerate this facial expression.

Read on. Stop when you get to the end of page 284. **Oh, no! Look at Squiggles now. How does he look?** (*shocked, sad*) **Let's make that face with Squiggles.**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Read the remainder of the story. **What kind of face do you think Squiggles would make after listening to Jesus tell this story?** (*happy face*) **Let's make that face with Squiggles.**

What do you think makes Jesus happy—when we listen to him or when we don't listen to him? (*when we listen to him*)

That's right. When we listen to Jesus, we build our lives on God's Word just like the person who built his house on the rock. That's what we want to do. What are some ways we can listen to God's Word? (*Read our Spark Story Bibles, go to church and Sunday school, pray.*)

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

A-Peel-ing to Squiggles

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

Ingredients

- Apples, ½ per kid
- Lemon juice (optional)
- Dried cranberries, 11 per kid
- Bananas, 1 per kid
- Raisins, 2 per kid

Set Up: Precut five apple slices per kid and sprinkle slices with lemon juice to preserve them, or ask a Shepherd to slice them during Opening the Bible. Cut one dried cranberry per kid in a half moon shape so they look like a smile. Put out ingredients in an area where they can be easily distributed to kids.

Activity Instructions

Building our lives on God's Word makes Jesus happy. We see in our Spark Story Bibles that it makes Squiggles happy, too. We are going to make a healthy snack version of Squiggles to remind us how we can happily listen to Jesus.

1. Have kids wash hands thoroughly. Give each kid a plate, table knife, five apple slices, and a banana.
2. **First, peel your banana. Now slice your banana into six pieces. The piece cut from the top of your banana should be a bit longer than the other five pieces.** Have Shepherds ready to assist any kids who need help. **Great! The banana will be Squiggles' body. The apple slices will be Squiggles' legs.**
3. Have kids arrange the pieces on their plate beginning with the long banana piece, followed by an apple slice, then a banana piece. Continue to alternate between the two fruits until the whole caterpillar has been assembled (see illustration).

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Sharp knife
Cutting board
Plates
Table knives
Toothpicks, 2 per kid
Star stickers, 2 per kid

4. Give each kid two raisins. **Carefully press these onto the face (the long banana piece). They are Squiggles' eyes.**
5. Give each kid 10 dried cranberries (not the one cut into a smile). **Place these on your plate. Put one next to each end of an apple slice. They are Squiggles' feet.**
6. Give each kid a smile-cut dried cranberry. **Place this right on Squiggles' face. It is his happy smile. He's happy about us listening to Jesus!**
7. Give each kid two toothpicks and two star stickers. Put your star stickers on the ends of your toothpicks then stick them on Squiggles' head. They are his antennae. **Congratulations! Your yummy Squiggles snack is done. Isn't he cute? Why does Squiggles look so happy?** (*because we are listening to Jesus*)

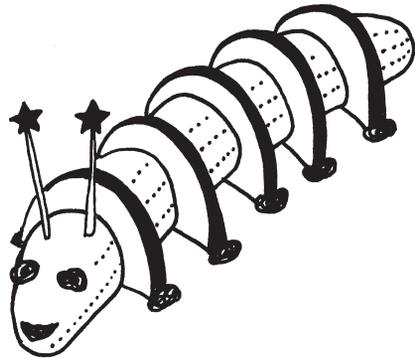
If your Squiggles could talk, what do you think he'd say? Affirm all answers. Encourage them to say it in a funny character voice.

Let's say a quick prayer before we eat.

**Jesus,
Thanks for telling stories that help us build our lives on God's Word.
Amen.**

Now you may eat your creation. Enjoy!

As kids eat, continue a discussion about ways we can listen to Jesus and follow what he tells us to do.



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.

Today, we enjoyed building and eating a funny, healthy snack. And we learned that when we listen to Jesus, we are building our lives on God's Word, just like the person who built a house on the rock.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Let's close with prayer. We'll pretend that we are Squiggles, and we'll do a happy caterpillar dance whenever you hear me say, "When we listen to you, you are so happy."

Hello, God,

Wow, we are so glad we got to hear Jesus' parable about the house on the rock.

We learned that when we listen to you, you are so happy. (dance)

We learned from our snackable Squiggles how important it is to hear and obey

God's Word. When we listen to you, you are so happy. (dance)

Help us build our lives on your Word so we can have the strength of the house built on a rock. When we listen to you, you are so happy. (dance)

Thanks for this fun lesson.

Amen!

Workshop Focus: My faith is built on the rock of God's Word.

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)

House on the Rock Storytelling

Thanks for being here today! We are going to investigate a parable that Jesus told. Who can remember what a parable is? *(a story that teaches a lesson)*

Open your Spark Bible to this parable. It is found in Matthew 7:24-28 (page 1066). Invite kids to follow along in their Bibles as you read the passage.

Whenever I stop, I want you to start making sounds that the text describes. Read the passage, stopping briefly in verse 25 after each of these phrases: "rain fell," "floods came," "the winds blew and beat on that house," and "founded on rock." Then stop briefly in verse 27 after each of these phrases: "rain fell," "floods came," "the winds blew and beat against that house," and "it fell—and great was its fall!"

Have kids choose a Spark Bible Sticker to place near the text.

Jesus is talking about how the foundation of our life matters. What do you think the foundation of a strong rock symbolizes? *(God's Word)*

What do you think the foundation of unstable sand symbolizes? *(everything else, things that don't last or can't help us in the storms of life)*

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

What can you do to build your life on the rock God's Word? (Read my Spark Bible, do what God tells me to do, worship, love, serve, have faith, pray.)

Invite kids to place other stickers in their Spark Bibles to reflect their interpretations and feelings.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Built to Last

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

Ingredients (a handful or more of each ingredient per kid)

- Pretzel sticks
- Mini marshmallows
- Chocolate chips

Set Up: Lay out supplies and ingredients. Try this activity ahead of time to determine how long the creations will need to be microwaved in order for them to fall apart but not so long that they burn. Measure the inside of the microwave so you can tell the kids how big their structures may be to still fit inside.

Activity Instructions

We are going to do an experiment to test out the importance of having a firm foundation. You're going to have the opportunity to build a fantastic creation with marshmallows, pretzels, and chocolate chips and see if you can get it to withstand the power of the microwave!

1. Have kids wash hands thoroughly. Give each one a microwave-safe plate and a stash of the three food ingredients.
2. **Carefully attach the pretzels to one another with the marshmallows. Push the chocolate chips into the marshmallows for decoration. In the time allowed, see if you can make a structure that is solid but as big as possible.**
3. Give the kids about 10 minutes to build their structures. Circulate around with the Shepherds and encourage kids to build them as big and elaborate as possible, while still being able to fit in the microwave.
4. Gather the whole group together for the microwaving part. Allow each kid to show off his or her creative structure. Have the whole group applaud it. Then stick it into the microwave and cook until it falls into a heap. Invite them all to shout, "Oh, no!" when they see it crash. Request that kids wait to eat until everyone has microwaved their creation.
5. Continue until all of the creations have been microwaved.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Microwave oven
Microwave-safe plates
Forks
Napkins

Your pretzel structures are a mess! How did you feel about your creation when it fell? Allow all answers. Acknowledge the frustration they may express.

Hand out forks and napkins, then invite them to eat their messy—but still tasty—creations.

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 build our lives on anything other than God's Word, a mess is bound to happen. That's why Jesus wants us to listen to God's Word and obey it. Then we can have a rock solid foundation that is much stronger than these collapsed snacks we made.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Let's stand in a circle for prayer. Whenever I say, "Built on the rock," I will clap on the word *rock*. Then the person on my right will clap his/her hands and say, "Rock." Then the next person will do it, and so on until the whole circle has clapped. Try to do this quickly.

Strong and powerful God,

Thank you for Jesus' parable of the House on the Rock. It teaches us that we want our faith built on the rock (clap) . . .

When the storms come, we do not want our lives to fall apart, like the house built on the sand and our creative snacks that fell apart in the microwave. Help our faith be built on the rock (clap) . . .

Your Word is that rock. Help us hear your Word and obey it so that our lives are built on the rock (clap) . . .

Amen!

Workshop Focus: God's love is rock solid.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

House on the Rock Storytelling

Greet each kid by name and thank everyone for attending. **Today, we are going to hear a story that Jesus told. He told this story to teach an important lesson. That kind of story has a special name. Do you know what that is?** (*a parable*)

Open your Spark Bibles to Matthew 7:24-28 (page 1066). Spark Story Bible readers, turn to page 282. Invite readers to read the passage from the Spark Bible. Then, have everyone look at the story illustrations in the Spark Story Bible.

Invite older kids to place a sticker in their Spark Bibles around this passage. Encourage them to invite the younger kids to help them choose an appropriate sticker. Pass around the bowl of rocks, then the bowl of sand. Invite each kid to put his or her fingers in the bowl and carefully feel each. You may want to have a Shepherd follow the sand bowl with a wet rag to prevent sand from getting on the floor.

Now that you have felt each, describe the difference between rock and sand.

Affirm all answers. **Why would the rock be a better place to build a house?** (*It is stronger/solid/safe.*)

Jesus wants us to build our lives on rock instead of sand. What does he mean by this? (*God's Word is a solid, strong foundation, like a rock.*)

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

A bowl of small rocks
A bowl of sand
Wet rag (optional)

We can trust that God's love is rock solid. No matter what storms may come, God will always love us and hold us close.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Edible Rocks

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

Ingredients (yields 24-30 cookies)

- ½ cup (113 g) butter or margarine, plus more for greasing the cookie sheets
- ½ cup (98 g) crushed pineapple, well-drained
- 1 cup (220 g) brown sugar, packed
- ½ teaspoon (2.5 mL) vanilla
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup (120 g) whole wheat flour
- 1 cup (125 g) all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon (5 g) baking soda
- 1 teaspoon (6 g) salt
- ½ cup (54 g) chocolate chips

Set Up: Preheat the oven to 375° F (190° C). Lay out supplies and ingredients. Melt the ½ cup (113 g) butter in the microwave. Open the can of crushed pineapple and drain. Brief Shepherds on this activity so they know who will assist with which tasks. This will help reduce the preparation time.

Activity Instructions

As a reminder of the rock-solid love God has for each one of us, we are going to make rocks we can eat. Actually, they are cookies. Rock-solid cookies. Let's get started!

1. Have kids thoroughly wash their hands.
2. Ask two to three kids to grease the cookie sheets.
3. Instruct two to three kids to measure brown sugar into a mixing bowl, then take turns stirring in the melted butter with a spatula.
4. Meanwhile, instruct two to three other kids to measure vanilla and crack the egg into an extra measuring cup. Have them add it to the main mixing bowl and take turns stirring it with a spatula.
5. At the same time, instruct two to three other kids to measure out the whole wheat flour, all-purpose flour, soda, and salt into the extra mixing bowl and stir together. Then add it carefully into the main mixing bowl and stir until everything is moistened.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Oven
Measuring spoons and cups
Microwave-safe bowl
Microwave
Can opener
Mixing bowls, 2
Spatulas, 2
Cookie sheets, 2-3
Pot holders, 2
Turner
Cooling rack

6. When this is complete, instruct any remaining kids who have not yet had a task to add pineapple and nuts. Take turns stirring until these ingredients are just mixed in.
7. Have all kids share the duty of dropping teaspoons of cookie dough onto the greased cookie sheets.
8. Bake each sheet for 7 minutes. Remove cookies from sheet with a turner and place on cooling rack.
9. While cookies are baking, kids can work together to clean the work area.

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.

Give each kid a cookie on a napkin. **I want you to examine this edible rock cookie.**

Tell me how it reminds you of the parable we just read. (*It is hard like the rock where the man built his house. It is rock solid like God's love.*)

Now bite into it. What's it like to eat a rock? Allow all answers. Remind them to bite carefully.

Allow each kid to have a second cookie. If there are more cookies, have kids take some home in the resealable plastic bags. **When you share these cookies with the people at your home, I want you to tell them this parable and how rocks remind us of God's love.**

Prayer Time

Let's pray. Whenever you hear the phrase "rock solid," make fists with both your hands, hold them up in front of you, and repeat, "Rock solid."

O God of strength,

We are so glad Jesus taught us to be wise. We want our faith to be rock solid.

(Rock solid!)

We thank you for the yummy, edible rock cookies we made today. They remind us that you can help our faith be rock solid. *(Rock solid!)*

We want to hear your Word and obey it so that our lives are built on the rock of your Word. Thanks for making our faith rock solid. *(Rock solid!)*

Amen!

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Napkins
Resealable plastic bags
(optional)

