

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<p>Lower Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God gives us second chances.</p> <p>THE ROAD TO NINEVEH: Kids go on a story walk around the room, acting like Jonah while repeating a refrain.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Fabric pieces, bathrobes, Bible times costumes, toy houses, toy sea life, life preservers, cardboard boxes in assorted sizes, poster board, mural paper, tissue paper, construction paper, glue sticks, tape, kid safe scissors, markers, classroom tables, large dark blankets</p>
<p>Upper Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: I have a God story.</p> <p>THEATER IN THE ROUND, JONAH'S STORY: Kids write and present Jonah's story, and some of their own, through dramatic first person accounts.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Pencils</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Fabric pieces, belts, Bible time costumes, beard, walking stick, sandals, rope, seaweed, shells, artificial plant, backpack, play money, cell phone, dishes, laundry basket, school books, athletic jersey, sports equipment, video game controller, Jonah's Story Writing Prompts (pages 97-98)</p>
<p>All Kids</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God never leaves me.</p> <p>LIVE FROM NINEVEH: Kids present Jonah's story as a live newscast while "witnesses" talk about the presence of God.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Pencils</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Fabric pieces, bathrobes, sandals, beards, sailor caps, wigs, costume jewelry, noisemakers, trench coats, sport jackets, ties, microphone props, cameras, artificial plants, seashells, rope, tarp, sand, cardboard boxes, paper tubes, mural paper, paper, pencils, scissors, tape, markers, bed sheet, classroom table, chairs, Live from Nineveh Skit Script (pages 99-100), video camera (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: God gives us second chances.

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)

Jonah and the Big Fish Storytelling

Welcome to Singing Class! Oops, I meant to say, welcome to Creative Drama. Have you ever messed up and needed a second chance? Allow kids to respond.
Our story today is about a man who needed lots of second chances!

Pass the Spark Story Bibles out to the kids. Help kids find Jonah and the Big Fish on pages 190-193. **Our story is about a man named Jonah. He needed lots of second chances.**

Hold up your hands and pretend they are a boat. Pause for a moment. **Now pretend your hands are a big fish. How could you use your hands to make a person who is walking? Let's use these hand motions as we read our story!**
Encourage kids to follow along as you read.

Point to the picture on page 190. **Where did God want Jonah to go?** (*Nineveh*)
Where did Jonah go instead? (*on a boat*) **How did God save Jonah?** (*A big fish swallowed him and spit him on shore.*) **What would you have done if you were Jonah?** Allow kids to respond.

Jonah messed up and didn't listen to God. God gave Jonah a second chance, and finally Jonah listened. God gives us second chances, too! Let's play the story of Jonah.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

The Road to Nineveh

Set Up:

Designate three distinct areas of the room to represent Nineveh, the boat, and the big fish.

Hang a sheet of mural paper as a backdrop behind Nineveh.

Scatter the toy sea life on the floor in the boat area.

Stand two tables next to each other in the big fish area. Cover them with blankets, leaving the front end open.

- Place the costume pieces and props where kids can choose among them.
- Place the craft supplies where kids can use them.
- Write the following refrain on a piece of poster board.
Nineveh? Nineveh?
I don't want to go!
God says yes,
but I say no!

Activity Instructions

We're going to pretend we are Jonah. We are going to create all of the places Jonah went in the story. Then we'll dress up, learn a rhyme, and go on a story walk!

- Assign kids to create scenery and props for the three story areas. Allow kids to look at Spark Story Bibles for inspiration. **Look through the props to see if any of them belong in your area. Use the supplies to make the rest of the scenery.**

Nineveh — **How can you make houses and buildings? What other things are there in a city? What can you do with the craft supplies?**

Boat — **What supplies could you use to make a big boat? What kinds of things are on a boat? What's in the water?**

Big fish — **What do you think the big fish looked like? What was inside of the fish?**

- Invite the kids to dress like Jonah. **What do you think Jonah's clothes looked like before he went on the boat? How about after? Use the costume pieces and be creative. Make sure you can walk in your costume!**
- Show kids the rhyme on the poster board. **We're going to pretend to be Jonah and say this rhyme a few times during our story.** Practice the rhyme.

Go on the story walk:

- Gather the kids in a neutral area of the room to begin. Have another leader or shepherd carry the rhyme poster. **Okay, Jonahs! Let's get ready for an adventure! I'll tell the story and you act it out with me.**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Fabric pieces

Bathrobes

Bible times costumes

Toy houses

Toy sea life

Life preservers

Cardboard boxes in assorted sizes

Poster board

Mural paper

Tissue paper

Construction paper

Glue sticks

Tape

Kid safe scissors

Markers

2 classroom tables

Large dark blankets

- Read the story of Jonah and the Big Fish from pages 190-193 of the Spark Story Bible. Move to each area of the room as indicated in the story. Pause during the story to allow kids time for dramatic play.
- Prompt kids to repeat the rhyme after the following phrases in the story.

"I want them to change their ways."

"Hmmm, Jonah thought . . ."

. . . he paid to get onto a boat to take him even farther away.

They woke Jonah up.

Suddenly the sea was calm again.

- Change the last line of the refrain to . . . **But I say, okay!** Have kids say the new refrain after the fish spits Jonah out.

Following the story walk:

Gather the kids to debrief the experience. **Which part of the room was your**

favorite place to visit? Allow kids to respond to this and the following questions.

What happened when Jonah was sleeping on the boat? (*A storm came.*) Point to

the picture on page 192 of the Spark Story Bible. **How did God save Jonah when he**

was thrown off the ship? (*A big fish swallowed him and spit him on the beach.*) **What**

do you think Jonah thought about when he was inside the big fish?

Even though Jonah disobeyed God, God still took care of Jonah. God gave Jonah a second chance and then Jonah listened. Just as Jonah received a second chance from God, God gives us second chances, 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.

I'm glad you were here today for Creative Drama! God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, but Jonah got on a boat instead. God saved Jonah. A big fish swallowed Jonah and spit him on shore. God gave Jonah a second chance and Jonah went to Nineveh! Like Jonah, God gives us second chances. When has God given you a second chance? Allow kids to respond.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Invite the kids to stand in a circle. **During our prayer, we'll go around the circle and each say, "Thank you for giving me second chances."**

Dear God, thank you for giving Jonah a second chance. Thank you for giving me second chances. (*Thank you for giving me second chances.*) **Amen.**

Workshop Focus: I have a God story.

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.
- 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)

Jonah and the Big Fish Storytelling

Set Up: Be prepared to share with the kids one way God has impacted your life.

Welcome to Creative Drama! I have a God story to tell you. Share your story.
Everyone who knows God has a God story. A God story is a story about how God has affected your life! Let's hear Jonah's God story.

Jonah's story is long, so we're going to summarize our reading for each other.

Divide kids into four groups. Assign each group to read the following verses from Jonah on pages 1008-1010 in their Spark Bibles and then summarize them for the class.

- Jonah 1:1-6, 11-12
- Jonah 1:15-17; 2:1-2, 7, 10
- Jonah 3:1-3, 6-8, 10
- Jonah 4:1, 5-7, 9-11

Encourage kids to mark their passage with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice, using a pencil to write their response in the margin.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Pencils

What did God tell Jonah to do? (*go to Nineveh*) **What did Jonah do instead?** (*tried to run away from God*) Direct kids to read Jonah 3:4-5 on page 1009 of their Spark Bibles. **How did Nineveh respond when Jonah finally listened to God?** (*They believed God and repented.*) **What do you think you would have done if you were Jonah?** Allow kids to respond.

God affected Jonah's life. God affected the Ninevites' lives. Jonah and the Ninevites have a God story, and I have a God story! Let's tell some God stories!

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Theater in the Round, Jonah's Story

Set Up:

- Clear an area of the room where kids can sit in a circle comfortably.
- Place the costume pieces and props where kids can choose among them.
- Make several copies of the Jonah's Story Writing Prompts.

Activity Instructions

Prepare to tell the stories:

We're going to present Jonah's story from a first person perspective. That means we will have Jonah, himself, tell his own story. We'll also have time for anyone else to tell a God story of their own. God stories don't have to be long or elaborate like Jonah's. A God story is a story about something in your own life that involves God! We all have them!

We're going to tell these stories by dressing in character and standing in the middle of the audience. This is called theater in the round. Let's get started.

- Divide kids into three groups. Assign each group to one part of the Jonah story. **As a group, read your part of the story and decide how Jonah would tell it if he were standing in our room today! Use the writing prompts to help you write what Jonah will say.**
- Have each group select one person to play the part of Jonah. **You will tell your group's part of the Jonah story as if you were Jonah. How will you make your story come alive? Think of how Jonah was feeling. How will you use your body to help tell the story?**
- Invite additional kids in each group to write and share their own God stories. **Remember, a God story has a beginning, a middle, and an end, but it doesn't have to be long. Were you ever sick? Have you ever moved? Have you learned something new? How is God a part of your life?**

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Supplies

Fabric pieces
Belts
Bible time costumes
Beard
Walking stick
Sandals
Rope
Seaweed
Shells
Artificial plant
Backpack
Play money
Cell phone
Dishes
Laundry basket
School books
Athletic jersey
Sports equipment
Video game controller
Jonah's Story Writing Prompts (pages 97-98), 1 copy for every 2-3 kids

- Encourage kids to help the storytellers dress in costume and choose props. **What might Jonah have looked like during your part of the story? What props could give us a clue to someone else's God story?**
- Determine the order of storytellers and inform the kids. **Everyone will sit in the audience until it's time to tell your story. Then you will stand up and trade places with the current storyteller.**

Tell the God stories:

Have all of the kids, except for the first storyteller, sit in a circle. Invite the storyteller to the middle of the circle. **We're about to hear some amazing stories about how God works in people's lives. Listen carefully because each story is very important.** Encourage the storyteller to rotate from time to time, so everyone can see his or her face as he or she tells the story.

Following the God stories:

Gather the kids to debrief the experience. **Isn't God amazing! Which story surprised you the most?** Allow kids to respond. **When did Jonah decide to listen to God?** (*when he was inside the fish*) **When did the people of Nineveh decide to listen to God?** (*when Jonah told them God was about to destroy them*) Direct kids to read Jonah 4:1-3 and answer KNOW IT! and THINK ABOUT IT! from the orange box on page 1009 in their Spark Bibles.

Jonah had a God story, but he wasn't too happy about the people in Nineveh having a God story. God is generous. God wants people to share their God stories so more people can know God. Jonah has a God story, the Ninevites have a God story, and I have a God story!

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.

Thanks for coming to Creative Drama! Jonah got on a boat instead of going to Nineveh. God saved Jonah with a big fish and Jonah went to Nineveh after all. The people of Nineveh repented and Jonah learned God is generous. My story may not be as dramatic as Jonah's, but I have a God story! Who would like to share a quick God story? Allow kids to respond.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to stand in a circle. **Let's share God's peace. When I tell you to during our prayer, touch the person next to you and say, "Peace be with you."**

Dear God,

Thank you for Jonah's story.

Thank you for my story.

Bless us all with your peace. (*Peace be with you.*)

Amen.

Workshop Focus: God never leaves me.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Jonah and the Big Fish Storytelling

Welcome to Creative Drama! Where do you go when you want some time alone?

Allow kids to respond. **Our story today is about a man who went off alone and tried to hide from God!**

Hand Spark Story Bibles out to the younger kids. Help kids find Jonah and the Big Fish on pages 190-193. Invite kids to repeat all of the dialogue in the story with different voices.

Direct older kids to find Jonah on pages 1008-1010 in their Spark Bibles. Ask volunteers to read the following passages after the different parts of the story.

- Jonah 1:3 (Jonah pays to get on the boat.)
- Jonah 1:12 (Jonah says, "Throw me overboard.")
- Jonah 2:10 (The fish spits Jonah out.)
- Jonah 3:10 (The end of the story.)

Encourage the kids to mark one of the passages with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice, using a pencil to write their response in the margin.

Who is this story about? (*Jonah*) Point to the picture on page 191 of the Spark Story Bible. **Where did Jonah go to try and hide from God?** (*on a boat*) Direct the

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Pencils

older kids to read Jonah 2:1-2. **Did God ever leave Jonah?** (*no*) **How do you think it made Jonah feel to know God would never leave him?** Allow kids to respond.

Jonah was in a storm, in the sea, and inside of a big fish. No matter where Jonah went God was still with Jonah. God never left Jonah and God never leaves us.

Let's interview some people who may have been around during Jonah's adventure.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Live from Nineveh

Set Up:

- Place the costume pieces and props where kids can choose among them.
- Place the craft supplies where kids can use them.
- Hang the bed sheet as a backdrop to designate the stage area. Place the table with two chairs to the front off side of the stage.
- Make several copies of the Live from Nineveh Skit Script.
- Become familiar with the use of the video camera. (optional)

Activity Instructions

Before the skit:

We're going to pretend there is a newscast with two reporters and two "on the scene" news crews reporting the happenings in Jonah's life.

- Invite some kids to be part of the stage crew. Give the kids copies of the script. **You will be creating the set. The set will include the seashore with a boat, a large fish in the water, and the town of Nineveh on the land. Try sketching what the set might look like. Use the props and craft supplies to help create the set.** Encourage kids to create news cameras and television station signs with the supplies. Have a shepherd available for assistance as needed.
- Invite volunteers to play the following parts in the skit: Jan, John, Justin, Joan, Cameraperson #1, Cameraperson #2, Captain, Fisherman, and Party People. Give everyone a script. **Read through your script and ask if you have any questions. Look through the costumes and props to create a costume for your character.**
- Recruit a volunteer to record the skit with the videocamera. Arrange for future viewing of the skit. (optional)

Perform the skit:

Gather the kids near the stage. Begin with Jan and John at the table and Joan and Cameraperson #1 at the seashore. Have the other actors stand off stage until their scene. The rest of the kids sit in the audience. **I'm told there have been some late breaking news developments on the other side of the world while we've been in class. Listen carefully as we bring you live coverage of the day's events!**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Fabric pieces
Bathrobes
Sandals
Beards
Sailor caps
Wigs
Costume jewelry
Noisemakers
Trench coats
Sport jackets
Ties
Microphone props
Cameras
Artificial plants
Seashells
Rope
Tarp
Sand
Cardboard boxes
Paper tubes
Mural paper
Paper
Pencils
Scissors
Tape
Markers
Bed sheet
Classroom table
Chairs, 2
Live from Nineveh Skit Script
(pages 99-100), 1 per kid
Video camera (optional)

Following the skit:

Gather the kids to debrief the experience. **What was your favorite part of the skit?**

Allow kids to respond to this and the following questions. **Where did God want**

Jonah to go? (*Nineveh*) Point to the picture on page 192 of the Spark Story Bible.

Where did Jonah wind up? (*inside a fish*)

Direct the older kids to read Jonah 1:17 and 2:10. Encourage kids to mark one of the passages with a Makes Me Feel, Makes Me Wonder, or Reminds Me Of Spark Bible

Sticker, using a pencil to write their response in the margin. **Who was in control of the fish?** (*God*) **How does it make you feel when you know God is in control?**

Allow kids to respond.

Jonah tried to control the situation by ignoring and running away from God. God showed Jonah that God was in control and God would never leave Jonah. God never left Jonah just like God never leaves us!

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received them, and come together for Wrap Up.

Thank you for coming to Creative Drama. We told Jonah's story like a newscast.

We recalled how Jonah tried to hide from God and wound up inside a big fish.

Jonah finally listened and went to Nineveh. God never left Jonah and God never leaves us. Where are some of the most unusual places you and God have been?

Allow kids to respond.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Repeat, "God never leaves me" after each line of our prayer.

Dear God,

**You were with Jonah on the boat,
in the sea, and inside of the fish.**

God never leaves me.

God never leaves me.

Thank you for never leaving Jonah.

God never leaves me.

Thank you for never leaving me.

God never leaves me.

Amen.

Jonah's Story Writing Prompts

The Beginning **Jonah 1:1-16** (page 1008 in the Spark Bible)

Where was Jonah?

What was Jonah doing?

What was God doing?

Who else was around?

What happened?

How did Jonah feel?

What did Jonah learn?

What happened next?

On a separate piece of paper, write Jonah's God story.

The Middle **Jonah 1:17—3:9** (pages 1008-1009 in the Spark Bible)

Where was Jonah?

What was Jonah doing?

What was God doing?

Who else was around?

What happened?

How did Jonah feel?

What did Jonah learn?

What happened next?

On a separate piece of paper, write Jonah's God story.

Jonah's Story Writing Prompts

The Ending **Jonah 3:10—4:11** (pages 1009-1010 in the Spark Bible)

Where was Jonah?

What was Jonah doing?

What was God doing?

Who else was around?

What happened?

How did Jonah feel?

What did Jonah learn?

What happened next?

On a separate piece of paper, write Jonah's God story.

My God Story (Tell what happened at the beginning, middle, and end.)

Where was I?

What was I doing?

What was God doing?

Who else was around?

What happened?

How did I feel?

What did I learn?

What happened next?

On a separate piece of paper, write your God story.

Live from Nineveh Skit Script

Jan: Are we on? Oh . . . We interrupt your local programming to bring you some late-breaking news!

John: That's right, Jan. People on the seashore have been reporting some strange weather patterns and large fish sightings. We now take you live to our crew on the scene . . . Joan, can you hear me?

(Joan and Cameraperson #1 are shooting live on shore near the boat. Joan calls the Captain over for an interview.)

Joan: We're here live at the seashore where a huge boat has just docked. The boat looks rather beat up even though the weather appears to be calm right now. Let's see if we can get any more information on what happened.

(The Captain wanders by)

Joan: Captain, one moment!

Captain: *(looking shaken)* Yes . . .

Joan: Can you tell the people at home what happened out there?

Captain: It was very strange. We picked up this passenger named Jonah. All of a sudden, this storm came up out of nowhere . . . I thought we were going to lose the boat. Finally, this guy Jonah said to throw him overboard and the storm would stop. He said God was making it storm!

Joan: Did you?

Captain: Of course! And, wouldn't you know, as soon as Jonah hit the water, the storm stopped! Jonah was right. God was in the storm and on my boat. We thanked God for protecting us all the way into port!

Joan: What happened to Jonah?

Captain: I'm not sure. Ask that fisherman over there. He looks like he's seen something incredible, too!

(The Captain leaves and the Fisherman joins Joan.)

Joan: Sir, have you seen Jonah? Can you tell me what happened?

Fisherman: Well, I don't know the guy's name, but early this morning I was minding my own business, fishing for dinner. All of a sudden, the biggest fish I've ever seen comes to the shore and spits some guy out of his mouth!

Joan: Out of his mouth? How did the guy survive?

Fisherman: Well, I didn't want to get too close *(pinches his nose)*, but I heard him mumble something about God. Can you imagine, God inside of a fish! Now I've heard everything!

Joan: Do you know where the man went?

Fisherman: He mumbled something about Nineveh. Like I said, I didn't get too close.

Joan: Well, there you have it. Jonah's on his way to Nineveh. This has been Joan your eyewitness reporter on the scene. Jan?

(Justin and Cameraperson #2 take the stage near Nineveh with the Party People in the background.)

Jan: Thanks, Joan. We've just received word that our roving reporter Justin is on the scene in Nineveh. Justin, what can you tell us?

Justin: Thanks, Jan! Hey, hey you guys, over here! *(motions for the Party People to come over)*

Party People: *(looking confused)* We're sorry, we just heard, we're heading home to put on our sackcloth. Yeah! Tell God we're . . . uh . . . sorry and all.

Justin: *What are you talking about?*

Party People: Haven't you heard? Jonah's been all over town telling people God wants us to change our ways or he's gonna destroy the city! Yeah, and we like God and all, and we like our city, so we're repenting!

Justin: Amazing! We still haven't found Jonah, but obviously God is in this city! Back to you John!

John: What an incredible story. God seems to be everywhere, especially with Jonah. Stay tuned for further Jonah updates throughout the day. We're now returning you to your regular program.