

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<p>Lower Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God is with us no matter how we feel.</p> <p>COLORFUL FEELINGS: Kids make a class book of feelings.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bible</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Computer with painting software, construction paper in fabric in a variety of colors, color printer, printer paper</p>
<p>Upper Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God is with us through both good and bad times.</p> <p>GOD'S VERY NAME: Kids will discuss the meaning of Emmanuel and design word art to remind themselves of God's providential care through good and bad.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Pencils</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bible</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Computer program with word art capabilities, paper or colored cardstock, printer</p>
<p>All Kids</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: We can trust God like Joseph did.</p> <p>AIRBRUSH TRUST: Kids will learn to trust one another as they ponder Joseph's trust in God.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Computers with basic paint program, printer paper, printer</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 is with us no matter how we feel.

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)

Joseph and His Brothers Storytelling

Welcome to the Computer Lab! Today's story is about Joseph. There's a story about Joseph and his brothers in the Bible, and we're going to hear it today. Let's open our Spark Story Bibles!

Distribute the Spark Story Bibles, asking kids to turn to the story of Joseph and his brothers (pages 48-53). **I'm going to read the story and you can look at the story pictures in your Bible.**

Following the story, take time to discuss each of the following questions. **Why were Joseph's brothers jealous of him?** (*Joseph's dad treated him best, he had a special coat, etc.*) **What did they do to him?** (*threw him in a pit, sold him to traders*) **How do you think Joseph felt?** (*sad, scared, angry, etc.*)

Joseph was in a rough situation at the end of the story. But who was with Joseph all along? (*God*) **Even though Joseph was having troubles with his family, God was always there. Do you suppose God was with his brothers, too?** (*Yes*) **God is with us all the time no matter how we feel or what is happening with our families.**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Colorful Feelings

Set Up: Have all computers on and set to the painting program.

Activity Instructions

Gather in a circle on the floor. **Joseph and his brothers experienced all kinds of things together! They loved each other, and sometimes were frustrated, angry, and even jealous of each other.**

1. Ask kids to share stories about the time they spend with family members and friends. Encourage them to talk about times they have felt love and happiness as they laughed and had a great time, then ask them to talk about times they felt frustrated or sad or jealous. Celebrate all stories and the feelings that go with them.
2. **Joseph received a beautiful coat from his dad.** Show the picture of Joseph wearing his special coat from page 48 in the Spark Story Bible, and invite kids to name all the colors in it. (yellow, light orange, dark orange, blue, purple, red, black) Talk about what kinds of feelings Joseph might have had while he wore his colorful coat. (Happiness, sadness, fear, loneliness, etc.)
3. Ask kids to share their favorite colors with the group. Next, show the different colored pieces of construction paper or fabric and spend time talking about feelings and the colors that are sometimes associated with them. For example, green is often associated with jealousy, blue with sadness, red with anger, pink with love, yellow with happiness, and black with fear or loneliness.
4. Move to the computers. **Each of you will create a page or more for a class book about feelings. We'll use color and these words to describe them: When I'm (color), I feel _____. (When I'm yellow, I feel happy! When I'm dark red, I feel frustrated.)**
5. Invite kids to use a choose colors that represent specific feelings like love, happiness, sadness, jealousy, fear, anger, silliness, etc. for them.
6. Help them use the painting software and their chosen colors to create images describing their feelings. Be sure to include this caption somewhere on each page: When I'm (color), I feel _____. (Name of the kid) (Example: Kids might draw a smiling yellow sunshine to go along with: When I'm yellow, I feel happy! Erin; When I'm orange, I feel silly! Thomas; When I'm dark purple, I feel frustrated! Sophie)
7. Kids can create as many pages for the book as you have time for. When everyone is done, print the pages on the color printer. Gather together and

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

Supplies

Construction paper or fabric
in a variety of colors

Computer with painting
software

Color printer

Printer paper

ask each child to share the pages they have created. When everyone is done sharing, display the pages on the walls, or make color copies of each page for each kid and bind them together in a class book of feelings.

8. **Like Joseph and his family, all of us have many different feelings every day. God loves us no matter how we feel!**

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 the Wrap Up.

Please join me in a circle on the floor for a prayer.

We have all kinds of feelings. Sometimes we're happy and sometimes we're sad. Sometimes we're frustrated, and sometimes we're jealous. God is always with us!

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Dear God, we thank you for reminding us that you are with us at all times. There is nothing we can do to drive you away. There is nothing we can do that makes you love us less. Thank you for loving us when we are feeling happy, sad, angry, jealous, frustrated, silly—or any other feeling! Remind us, Lord, that you are here. You are with us . . . no matter how we feel.

Workshop Focus: God is with us through both good and bad times.

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)

Joseph and His Brothers Storytelling

Hi, everyone! Welcome to the Computer Lab Workshop! How is everyone doing?

Pause. **Today we are going to be reading and discussing the story of Joseph and his brothers. Have any of you read this story?** Pause. **We are going to talk about how Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, all because he was seen as the favorite son and because of a dream he had. We will see, too, that God was right there with Joseph, working out God's will, a will that would end up saving not only Joseph's brothers but all of Egypt! Could you all please take out your Spark Bibles and turn to Genesis chapter 37, verses 1 through 28.** Allow time for the kids to locate the story on page 42. Help them if needed.

Joseph was one of Jacob's sons, and his favorite son. This made Joseph's brothers jealous. They were also jealous because of a dream Joseph had one night. Let's read together and hear about the dream, and what Joseph's brothers did to him because of it. Ask the kids to take turns reading, one verse at a time.

Where was God when Joseph's brothers threw him into the pit? *(with Joseph)*

Where was God when the traders bought Joseph? *(with Joseph)* **Where was God when Joseph was made to work as a slave?** *(with Joseph)*

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils

Invite kids to mark the story with a Makes Me Feel sticker, and describe their feelings in the margin. **Today our activity is to design a piece of word art that will remind us of God's presence, in good times and in bad.**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

God's Very Name

We are going to act out different "bad" situations remembering that God is with us in every situation. Split the group into evenly groups of 4. Give each group a scene they are to act out for the whole group. Use the ideas below or make up some of your own.

Examples:

- Kids verbally fighting
- Kids disobeying Mom or Dad
- Kids picking on another child
- Kids hurting an animal
- Kid running away from home
- Kid(s) sad because parent is ill

Let's each find a computer. If your classroom has more kids than computers, pair the kids up but tell them they will each get a turn to make their own word art. We'll make word art to remind us that God is with us in every situation.

1. **The first thing we need to do is open our own documents. Does everyone know how to do this?** Explain where and how to open a blank document if necessary. Pause for however much time is needed. **Does everyone have a blank page in front of them on their screen?**
2. Describe how to set the page format to landscape.
3. Open the word art program. Show the kids the different shapes they can use. Be sure to tell them they can change the color later; they should just choose the shape they want at this point.
4. A box will appear after a shape is selected. Direct students to type in "God Is with Us: Emmanuel." Write this on the board, putting "Emmanuel" beneath "God Is with Us" and omitting the colon.
5. Press enter. Now the kids should see "God Is With Us: Emmanuel" in the shape they chose.
6. Guide them to change the color by highlighting the box and choosing color from the drawing tool.
7. Guide the kids now to enlarge the shape by clicking and dragging the lower right-hand corner of the box.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Supplies

Computer with a word processing program

Note: Use a word processing program in which you are able to make word art.

Paper or colored cardstock

Printer

8. Are they happy with their creations? Allow time for them to play with different shapes and colors and encourage them to add other decorations using clip art or other images.
9. Take turns printing on paper or cardstock.

Your designs are wonderful! Let's make sure you have your design printed and ready to take home with you.

What does Emmanuel mean? (*God is with us.*) **And does God disappear when things are bad?** (*no*) **Where does God stay when things are bad?** (*with us*)

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 the Wrap Up.

Invite everyone to share their word art, and ask kids to share a story about a time they knew God was with them (when they were comforted by a parent or friend, when they saw something beautiful, when they were celebrating, etc.). **God is always with us, in bad times and in good times.**

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Gather in a circle for this prayer.

Dear God, send your peace . . . (*Dear God, send your peace*)

To everyone whose hearts are mad or sad . . . (*repeat*)

Remind us that you are with us . . . (*repeat*)

When times are good and when times are bad . . . (*repeat*)

You are Emmanuel! (*repeat*)

Amen. (*repeat*)

Workshop Focus: We can trust God like Joseph did.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Joseph and His Brothers Storytelling

Hi, everybody. Welcome to the Computer Lab workshop! Today we are going to hear the story of Joseph and his brothers. Do you know what happened between him and his brothers?

Today I'm going to read the passage for you, and you can listen. Follow along in Genesis chapter 37 on page 42 if you're using the Spark Bible, and follow along with the pictures in the Joseph and His Brothers story on page 48 in the Spark Story Bible. If weather is appropriate for the occasion, take the group outdoors to a nice open area where they can be surrounded by nature as they listen. If indoors, take them to a quiet place for listening.

Who is Joseph's father? (Jacob) Can you tell me about the dream that Joseph had? (sheaves of grain bowed to Joseph; sun moon and stars bowed to Joseph) Do you think it was fair for Joseph's father to act the way he did? Or his brothers? What would you have done? While everyone is together, have kids using the Spark Bible put an "I Read It" stickers in their Spark Bibles near the story.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Airbrush Trust

Set Up: Open the paint program on each of the computers before kids arrive.

Activity Instructions

1. Invite each kid to find a computer. If there are not enough computers for each kid, pair an older kid with a younger kid at each screen. **How many of you have played with the paint program? Allow responses. Today we're going to spend just a few minutes investigating all we can do with the colors and shapes in this program, and then we're going to create a picture and invite our neighbors to add to it. Ready?**
2. **Select the airbrush tool. With this tool you can make any shape you wish. You can write a word, draw a flower or a star, and make it any color or combination of colors that you want.** Allow several minutes for the kids to experiment.
3. **Now, clear your screens. I want you to use the airbrush tool and create one shape with one color that represents you the best. For instance, I might draw an orange flower petal because my favorite color is orange and I love rose petals. Or, I might draw an orange "K" because my name begins with "K."**
4. **After you've created your image, I want you to get up and go to the next computer and create that same image on your neighbor's screen. We'll keep moving from computer to computer, allowing someone else to add to our image, trusting that the final picture will be beautiful, just as Joseph trusted that God would bring a beautiful thing out of all his ups and downs.**
5. Walk around the room praising the pictures as they progress. If color printers are available, allow kids to print their creations. Remember to print 2 copies if the image was created by a pair.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Computers with basic paint program
Printer paper
Printer

Send

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 the Wrap Up.

To finish our time together, we are going to say a prayer together. When Joseph was abandoned by his family and going through a difficult time, he could have easily felt like he was all alone. But he trusted that God was with him, and he would never be alone.

We are going to do a call-and-repeat prayer today, so you will just repeat after me. We'll do this prayer in a backwards circle. To start this, everybody should stand in circle, touching shoulder to shoulder with their neighbors. Allow time. **And now you are going to stay in the same place, but turn around and face away from the circle. We will be saying our prayers like this. You still feel support from the rest of the group, and you know they are there, even if you cannot see them.**

Prayer Time

Let's pray.

Dear God, thank you so much for giving us families and community. *(Repeat.)*

For always being there for us. *(Repeat.)*

And for giving us comfort. *(Repeat.)*

Help us to trust you. *(Repeat.)*

And help us always remember to have faith. *(Repeat.)*

We want to be faithful to you, too. *(Repeat.)*

In your name we pray. Amen.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None