

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: God is with us on good and bad days.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: None
DREAMY DIPS: Kids re-create the Joseph story with snacks and share about good and bad days.	SUPPLIES: Mural paper, markers	SUPPLIES: Dill dip, pretzel rods, pretzel sticks, marshmallow dip, pineapple rings, mandarin orange wedges, blueberries, chocolate dip, mini marshmallows, hand soap, water, towels, plates, spoons, wet wipes, napkins
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God is with us when we are in the pits.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
HOT FUDGE PITS: Kids create a fudgy treat as they recount the story of Joseph in a pit.	SUPPLIES: Pencils	SUPPLIES: Mini chocolate-covered toffee candy bars, hot fudge sauce, vanilla ice cream, whipped cream, chocolate chips, maraschino cherries, hand soap, water, towels, plastic cups, rubber spatulas, microwave, ice cream scoop, muffin cups, baking pan, spoons, forks, serving spoon, napkins, dish soap, cleaning cloths, dish towels, wet wipes
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God is with us on good and bad days.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
MAD MUFFINS: Kids create toaster muffin faces of Joseph's brothers with meatballs, cheese, and sauce to retell the story.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Butter, toaster muffins, meatballs, pasta sauce, shredded cheddar cheese, hand soap, water, towels, oven, baking sheets, butter knives, oven mitts, small plates, bowls, 1 per ingredient, serving spoons, saucepan, napkins, cleaning cloths, dish soap, dish towels



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 on good and bad days.

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.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)

Joseph and His Brothers Storytelling

Lay out a piece of mural paper and markers. Welcome the kids and invite them to draw some of their dreams on the mural paper. **Welcome to the Cooking Workshop, friends! While we wait for everyone to arrive, draw pictures of some of your dreams on this mural paper. What could you draw?** Allow responses. **Maybe you've dreamed about horses or rainbows or cuddly puppies. Draw pictures of your favorite dreams.**

Introduce the story, Joseph and His Brothers. Read the story from the Spark Story Bible, pages 48-53. Point out the illustrations as you read. **Today's story is about a man named Joseph who has special dreams. The story is from Genesis, the very first book of the Bible. Look at Joseph and his brothers. Uh oh! They look angry!**

As you read the story, stop at the descriptions of Joseph's dreams. Ask for some volunteers to help you draw them on the mural paper, too. **Draw a picture of Joseph's dreams on our mural paper. What happened in the first dream?** (*the brothers' grain bows to Joseph's grain*) **What about the second dream?** (*the sun, moon, eleven stars bow to Joseph*) **How did that make the brothers feel? Remember the picture?** (*mad, angry, jealous*) Point out the angry faces of the brothers.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
Mural paper
Markers

They were mean to Joseph. What did they do to him? (*They put him in a pit, sold him to traders, got rid of him.*) **Joseph is having a bad day. Even on our worst days, God is with us. Do you suppose God was with Joseph's brothers, too?** (yes) **Yes, God stays with all of us, no matter if we do good or if we do bad.**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Dreamy Dips

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

Ingredients

- Dill dip
- Pretzel rods, 1 per kid
- Pretzel sticks, 13 per kid
- Marshmallow dip
- Pineapple rings, 1 per kid
- Mandarin orange wedges, 1 per kid
- Blueberries, 11 per kid
- Chocolate dip
- Mini marshmallows, 2 per kid

Set Up: Open the dips and food items. Drain the cans of fruit and clean the berries. Arrange the supplies in 3 different areas of your cooking space:

Dream One—Dill dip, spoons, pretzels

Dream Two—Marshmallow dip, spoons, forks, pineapple rings, mandarin orange wedges, blueberries, wet wipes

In the Pits—Chocolate dip, mini-marshmallows, pretzel sticks

Activity Instructions

1. Tell the kids to wash their hands. **Let's start our cooking workshop with clean hands. Scrub those germs away, chefs!**
2. Explain the activity using the mural from the welcome activity. Hold up the mural. **We already drew Joseph's dreams with markers, now we are going to re-create them with food! When we are done, we will eat the delicious story of Joseph and his brothers.**
3. Pick up a plate and move through three areas of your cooking space to create Joseph's dreams. As you add something to your plate, allow the kids to see it and repeat the action on their own plate.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Mural from Open the Bible
Hand soap
Water
Towels
Plates
Spoons
Forks
Wet wipes
Napkins

4. Scoop a spoonful of dill dip onto one side of a plate. Stick a pretzel rod in the center of the dip. Surround the rod with 11 thin, pretzel sticks in a circle, leaning toward the center, as if in a bow. **The first dream was about stems of grain. Joseph's grain is in the middle, and the grain of the 11 brothers bows down to Joseph's bundle of grain. It was a dream with a message for Joseph.**
5. Spread a spoonful of marshmallow dip onto the other side of the plate. Draw a smiley face in the fluff with your finger. Clean up with a wet wipe. **Joseph was in his own second dream.**
6. Add a pineapple ring "sun," mandarin orange wedge "moon," and 11 blueberry "stars" to the marshmallow dip, around the picture of Joseph. **In this dream, the sun was his father, the moon was his mother, and the stars were his brothers. They were all bowing to Joseph, as if he was king. It was a dream with another message for Joseph.**
7. Add a small scoop of chocolate dip to the plate. **The brothers were so mad about the dreams, they threw Joseph into a dark pit.**
8. Place 2 mini-marshmallows in the pit, as Joseph's eyes looking out. Stick 2 pretzel stick arms up and out of the chocolate, as if Joseph is reaching out of the pit. **Joseph's sad eyes looked out of the pit. He reached his arms up to God to pray, "God, help me." It was a bad day, but God was with Joseph!**
9. As you eat, invite the kids to share about a good and bad day. Remind them that God is with them, in good and bad times. **That sounds like a great day! God is with you on the best days! That sounds like a bad day! God is with you on the worst days!**

Clean up together after everyone has a chance to eat.

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.

We have good days, like Joseph. We have bad days, like Joseph. God is with us in our ups and downs in life. Let's thank God for that great news! I will leave some space in the prayer for you to add whatever you want to say. Here we go!

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Dear God,

Thanks for being with us in our ups and downs in life.

Thanks for the things that happen on our good days: *(Kids add here.)*

Thanks for the things that happen on our bad days: *(Kids add here.)*

We thank you, God, for being with us on all of our days!

Amen.

As the kids leave, give them a blessing and a high five. **May God give you a great day today! God is with you no matter what! Thanks for snacking with me!**

Workshop Focus: God is with us when we are in the pits.

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.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)

Joseph and His Brothers Storytelling

Welcome to the Cooking Workshop! Gather in a group, sitting on the floor. Explain the game. **I will call out different statements. If you agree, stand up. If you don't, sit down.**

Read the statements and allow time afterwards for the kids to respond by sitting or standing.

I love soccer.

Pizza is best with pepperoni.

All of my grandparents are still living.

The accordion is my favorite musical instrument.

I jump out of bed in the morning, ready to greet the day!

Batman is better than Spider-Man.

Chocolate is the best flavor of ice cream.

My life requires a cell phone.

I don't argue with my parents.

Cooking is fun!

Whew! That was a lot of ups and downs! In today's story, we meet Joseph.

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils

Joseph's life is full of ups and downs, just like our lives.

I will read the story of Joseph and his brothers Spark Bible. Encourage the kids to record their reactions in the margins, and use stickers to note the part of the story that is most interesting to them. **Turn to Genesis 37:1-28 on page 42. Genesis is the first book of the Bible. It is full of adventure!**

When was Joseph "up"? (when he had two cool dreams after his dad gave him the coat) **When was Joseph "down"?** (when his brothers were mad at him, in the pit, as a slave) **A pit is about as low as you can get. Poor Joseph! He was "in the pits," but Joseph wasn't alone. We'll learn more as we cook!**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Hot Fudge Pits

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

Ingredients

- Mini chocolate-covered toffee candy bars, 1 per kid
- Hot fudge sauce, 4 spoonfuls per kid
- Vanilla ice cream, 2 scoops per kid
- Whipped cream, 2 squirts per kid
- Chocolate chips, 2 per kid
- Maraschino cherries, 1 per kid

Set Up: Scoop vanilla ice cream into muffin cups, 2 scoops per cup, 1 cup per kid. Put the cups of ice cream in a baking pan and freeze until use. Make the other ingredients accessible in the workshop space.

Activity Instructions

1. Tell the kids to wash their hands. **Wash up, cooks! We must de-germ before we touch food.**
2. Distribute a plastic cup to each kid. **Joseph's mad brothers threw him into a pit until they sold him as a slave. We are going to make these cups into Hot Fudge Pits.**
3. Give each kid a chocolate-covered toffee candy bar. **We know the pit has sharp rocks at the bottom. Break the candy into sharp shards and toss them into the bottom of the cup pit. As you add each piece of candy, think about the things that make you hurt worse when you are "in the pits." Ouch! It hurts to feel left out. It hurts when friends say mean things. It hurts when parents break a promise.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Hand soap
Water
Towels
Plastic cups, 16 oz. (500 ml)
Rubber spatulas
Microwave
Ice cream scoop
Muffin cups, 1 per kid
Baking pan
Spoons, 1 per kid
Serving spoon
Napkins
Dish soap
Cleaning cloths
Dish towels
Wet wipes

4. Heat up the hot fudge sauce in a microwave for 1 to 2 minutes. **The argument between Joseph and his brothers heated up. What makes an argument worse?** (*unkind words, faces, actions*)
5. Demonstrate the next step for the kids. **The sides of the pit were muddy and slippery. Spread the hot fudge sauce on the inside edges of the cup with a rubber spatula.**
6. Retrieve the ice cream scoops from the freezer. Give each kid a muffin cup of ice cream. Toss the vanilla ice cream into the cup. **Joseph could not escape; his brothers threw him in the pit.**
7. Squirt 2 dollops of whipped cream on top of the ice cream. Place a chocolate chip in the center of each pile of cream to make Joseph’s eyes, peering out of the pit. **Joseph could barely see out of the deep, muddy pit. His eyes were wide with fear and sadness.**
8. Stick a spoon down into the ice cream so that the handle sticks up above the edge of the cup. **Joseph reached his arm up to the heavens and cried out to God, “Help me!”**
9. Top the sundae with a cherry. Point out how the cherry’s juice oozes onto all parts of the sundae. **Joseph was at the lowest point of his whole life. God was with Joseph in the pit. Joseph felt God’s love surrounding him.**
10. Raise your cup in a toast and invite the kids to do the same. **A toast to our ups!** Drop your cup down low. **A toast to our downs!** Grab your spoon. **God reaches for us in all the ups and downs of our lives. Thanks, God! Amen.**
11. When all have enjoyed their sundaes, clean up the cooking 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 the Wrap Up.

Invite kids to share a story about someone who helped them when they were in the pits. To get the conversation started, share a story of your own. When everyone has had a chance to share, gather in a circle for prayer.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Dear God,

You are the cherry of love in the pits of our lives.

Thank you for being with Joseph through the ups and downs of his life.

Thank you for being with us when we are up *(raise arms up)*

and when we are down. *(plop down to sit on the floor)*

Your love lifts us out of the pits. *(stand up again)*

Amen.

Send the kids off with a smile and a wink. **See you again soon! Thanks for cooking today!**

Workshop Focus: God is with us on good and bad days.

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.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)

Joseph and His Brothers Storytelling

Welcome the kids to the workshop. **I am glad to see your happy faces! Thanks for coming to the Cooking Workshop!**

Now, you need to wipe off those happy expressions and think about a time when you felt mad. What makes you mad? Each time someone says something that makes you mad, too, stand up and growl. Between each comment about what makes them feel angry, pause for the kids to sit back down to ready themselves for the next comment. (*get hurt, toy breaks, someone says unkind things, make a mistake, parents tell me what to do, unfairness, etc.*)

Lead into the Bible story. **Do you ever get mad at your brothers or sisters? The story we will read today is about some mad brothers.** Point at the pictures in the Joseph and His Brothers story on pages 48-53 Spark Story Bible. **Let's read the story from Genesis and find out why they are so mad.**

If the group includes younger kids, read from the Spark Story Bible. If the group is older kids, read Genesis 37:1-28, from the Spark Bible, page 42.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

Why were the brothers mad? (*jealousy, Joseph's dreams and coat*) **What were the dreams about?** (*Joseph was the king over his brothers, the brothers bowed to Joseph.*)
This story teaches us that no matter what mood we are in or kind of day we are having, God is with us! Invite older kids to mark the story with a sticker.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Mad Muffins

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

Ingredients

- Butter
- Toaster muffins, ½ per kid
- Meatballs, 1 per kid (2 halves)
- Pasta sauce, 4 spoonfuls per kid
- Cheddar cheese, shredded

Set Up: Preheat the oven's broiler. Butter the muffins and broil, open-faced on the baking sheets, for 5 minutes or until golden brown. When they are done, place the muffin halves on individual plates. Slice the meatballs in half, then warm them in sauce over medium heat. Stir occasionally.

Put the other ingredients in individual bowls with spoons for assembly during the workshop.

Activity Instructions

1. Lead the kids to wash up before they cook. **Wash your hands, cooks! It's time to get creative in the kitchen!**
2. Give each kid a plate with a warm and browned muffin. **These may look like ordinary toaster muffins, but these are Joseph's brothers! You get to make their faces!**
3. Review the story. **Do you remember from the story what the faces of the brothers are showing?** (*anger, mad, mean*) **That's right, these brothers are angry at Joseph . . . grrr!** Growl and scowl to make a mad face. **See what my face looks like when I am mad? When I count to three, make a mad face at your neighbor. This is your chance to be inspired to make a Mad Muffin. Observe each other carefully! 1-2-3 . . . grrr!** (Growl and scowl at each other.)
4. **Oh! Look at those angry eyebrows and eyes! See those angry mouths! Use the meatballs, sauce, and cheese to make your Mad Muffins.**
5. As the kids work, create a Joseph muffin. Use meatball eyes, eyebrows and hair of cheese, a sauce circle mouth and cheeks.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Hand soap
Water
Towels
Oven
Baking sheets
Butter knives
Oven mitts
Small plates, 1 per kid
Bowls, 1 per ingredient
Serving spoons, 3 per ingredient
Saucepan
Napkins
Cleaning cloths
Dish soap
Dish towels

6. When everyone is finished, retell the story using the snacks as props. **Before we eat, let's tell the story again.** Hold up the Joseph face. **Joseph had a dream. His brothers were wheat and they bowed down to him.** Instruct the kids to hold up their muffins and repeat your words. **"That makes us mad . . . grrr!"** (*Kids repeat.*) Hold up the Joseph face again. **Joseph had another dream. His parents and brothers bowed down to him.** Instruct the kids to hold up their muffins and repeat your words. **"That makes us mad . . . grrr!"** (*Kids repeat.*) **The brothers threw Joseph into a pit.** Drop the Joseph muffin and plate, face up, into the "pit" bowl of leftover meatballs and sauce. **"Oh no! God, why are they doing this to me?"** Instruct the kids to hold up their muffins and repeat your words. **"Good-bye!" Ha, ha, ha!** (*Kids repeat and laugh an evil laugh.*)
7. Point at the plates under each of the muffins. **Did anyone notice that through this whole story, each brother and Joseph is surrounded by a plate? That plate is God! God is with Joseph when he is happy and dreaming. God is with Joseph in the pit. God is even with the brothers, even though they are being mean and feeling mad. God is with us on our good and bad days. Thanks, God!**

Let's eat! I must rescue Joseph from the pit so I can eat him, too. Yum! While you eat, invite kids to share what they dream of being when they grow up. After you eat, clean up the workshop space.

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.

Gather in a tight circle for a closing prayer. **Listen carefully to each part of the prayer, the petitions. Turn and face outside this circle. If you agree with the petition, take 2 steps forward. Let's pray!**

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Dear God,

We are like Joseph and his brothers.

God, sometimes we feel angry. *(Kids step forward.)*

God, sometimes we feel like we are in a pit. *(Kids step forward.)*

God, sometimes we feel jealous. *(Kids step forward.)*

God, sometimes we have good days. *(Kids step forward.)*

God, sometimes we have bad days. *(Kids step forward.)*

No matter where each of us stands, you promise to be with us. Bring us closer to each other and you. Help us feel your love on our good and bad days.

Amen.

Give hugs or knock knuckles as you bless each kid by name. **God is with you!**