

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
<p><b>Lower Elementary</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God makes good come from bad situations.</p> <p><b>FAMINE FEEDERS:</b> Kids save and share food as they snack on bagels and make a bird feeder.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Tablecloth, 3-ounce (90 mL) cups (1 per kid), pitcher, water, towel</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Blueberry bagels, strawberry cream cheese, dried cranberries, baking coconut, plates, napkins, large bowls, wooden craft sticks, tables, storage bags, permanent marker, yarn, scissors, vegetable shortening, bin of birdseed</p>
<p><b>Upper Elementary</b></p> <p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God flips bad into good.</p> <p><b>FLIP FLOP FLAPJACKS:</b> Kids flip, flop, and snack on mini pancakes with sweet toppings.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Flour, chocolate-chip cookie dough, wet wipes, baking sheet with sides</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Pancake mix, ingredients according to box instructions, cooking spray, butter, maple syrup, jam, powdered sugar, soap, water, towels, mixing bowls, dry measuring cups, liquid measuring cups, whisks, tablespoons, hot plates or stovetop, fire extinguisher, griddles, slotted spatulas, plates, forks, spoons, spreaders, napkins</p>



Visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://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.

## All Kids

**WORKSHOP FOCUS:** God brings good out of bad.

**SAVED-UP S'MORES:** Kids craft a sweet snack to learn that God can turn bad to good.

## Open the Bible

**SPARK RESOURCES:** Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles

**SUPPLIES:** Graham crackers, chocolate bars, mini marshmallows, butter, soap, water, towels, bowls, measuring cups, measuring tablespoon

## Activate Faith

**SPARK RESOURCES:** None

**SUPPLIES:** Ingredients from the Open the Bible activity, whole graham crackers, two 9" x 13" baking dishes, oven, oven mitts, microwave-safe bowls, microwave, measuring cups and spoons, spoons, rubber spatulas, knife, serving spatula, napkins, plastic storage bags, dishcloths, dish soap, towels

**Workshop Focus:** God makes good come from bad situations.

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.
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## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Joseph and Pharaoh Storytelling

**Set Up:** Cover a table with a tablecloth and put stacked cups and a pitcher of water on the table.

Greet the kids by name. Gather around the table. **These are cups of joy. Take one and pass the stack.**

Fill your cup: **I am filled with joy today, so I will fill my cup. I am filled with joy because I see your faces, because we are here together to cook, and because . . .** (add other, personal reasons for your joy: "It is sunny outside," "My health is good," "I had a good dream last night," etc.) Hold up an empty cup. **We are not always joyful. Sometimes our cups are dry. Fill your cup to show us your joy. What are you joyful about?** Allow time for kids to answer.

Top off the kids' cups until they spill. **God promises to be with us and fill us up to overflowing with love.**

Show an illustration of Joseph from page 60 in the Spark Story Bible. **In Genesis in the Old Testament, Joseph had an empty cup. Let's see how God filled it!**

**Spark Resources**  
Spark Story Bibles

**Supplies**  
Tablecloth  
3-ounce (90 mL) cups, 1 per kid  
Pitcher  
Water  
Towel

Read Pharaoh's Dreams and Joseph Helps His Family stories from the Spark Story Bible, pages 54-65. **God made good from Joseph's bad situation. What good things happened?** (*Joseph helped Pharaoh. Joseph saved his family and people of Egypt from starving.*) **God filled Joseph's cup and used what spilled over to help others!**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Famine Feeders

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

#### Ingredients

- Blueberry bagels, 1 per kid
- Strawberry cream cheese, 1 smear per kid
- Dried cranberries, 14 per kid
- Baking coconut, sweetened and shredded, a sprinkle per kid

**Set Up:** Make all the supplies accessible so you can easily walk through the Joseph story and make the snack, step-by-step. Put a sign on the snack table: Table of Plenty. Arrange the supplies for the bird feeders (the last six items in the supplies list) in a separate spot, to be revealed at the right time; this will be your Table of Famine. Be sure to make a sign for it, too.

#### Activity Instructions

1. Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water. **Let's wash up!**
2. Begin at the Table of Plenty. Give each kid a napkin and a whole, pre-cut bagel on a plate. Twist the bagel into two halves. Place one on your plate, and the other in a large bowl. Help the kids to follow your example. Collect their bagel halves in the large bowl. **Joseph saved food for seven years, during a time of plenty. He would keep one, and store one.**
3. Give each kid fourteen dried cranberries. Count out seven dried berries, placing one on the plate, and one in another large bowl. Lead the kids to count and divide with you. **For seven years, Joseph saved. One for me (one berry on the plate), one to save (one berry in the big bowl). Two for me, two to share . . .** (and so on, until you count to seven and all fourteen berries have been divided.)

#### Spark Resources

None

#### Supplies

Plates  
Napkins  
Large bowls, 2  
Wooden craft sticks, 2 per kid  
Tables, 2  
Storage bags, 1 per kid  
Permanent marker  
Yarn  
Scissors  
Vegetable shortening  
Bin of birdseed

4. Give each kid a smear of cream cheese on a wooden craft stick. Show how to spread the cream cheese on the bagel. Collect the used sticks in the trash.  
**When the years of famine came, the news spread across the land: "Joseph has food in Egypt!"**
5. Hold up the bagel in front of your mouth, making a surprised "O" shape. Open your eyes wide with surprise. Invite the kids to mimic you. **Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to find food. They were surprised to find that Joseph was the leader of Egypt and would give them food!**
6. Top the bagel with the dried cranberries you set aside. Sprinkle a dash of coconut on top of each bagel. **God made good come from Joseph's bad days. His reunion with his family was a sweet ending to a sour story. Sweetest of all was the forgiveness that Joseph offered to his brothers who had treated him badly.**
7. Gesture to the large bowls of dried fruit and bagel halves. **We have all of these leftovers to share. When you are done snacking, come over to the Table of Famine to make a birdfeeder. The birds will feast from your time of plenty!**
8. Pour the leftover berries into a mix of birdseed in a large bin. Write each kid's name on a storage bag with a permanent marker. Knot a loop of yarn through the center of the bagel, smear it on both sides with vegetable shortening, and press it into the bin until it is covered with seeds and berries. Place it in the storage bag to be delivered home.  
**Thanks for sharing your snack!**

## 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.

Sum up the session and close with a prayer.

**Joseph's story shows us that God can take bad and turn it into good. God used Joseph to feed the hungry—even his own hungry family. God uses you to feed the birds! Let's close our snack time together with a prayer. Spread out in your own space and stand facing me. Each time I say "turn" or "turned," take a spin!** Spin as an example. **Please pray with me.**

Spark Resources  
Family Pages



Supplies  
None

## Prayer Time

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**God,**

**You turn** (kids spin) **bad into good!**

**You turned** (kids spin) **famine into feast!**

**You turned** (kids spin) **Joseph from a jailbird into Egypt's leader.**

**Turn** (kids spin) **this into a time of plenty for everyone!**

**Amen.**

Distribute Family Pages to each kid. **Remember to take these papers home for more Spark fun! Hang your Famine Feeder from a tree or fence to feed your feathered friends. Thanks for coming today!**

**Workshop Focus:** God flips bad into good.

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## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Joseph and Pharaoh Storytelling

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

#### Ingredients

- Flour
- Chocolate-chip cookie dough, enough for each kid to have just a spoonful

**Set Up:** Use flour to cover the bottom of a baking sheet that has sides.

As the kids arrive, greet them by name and let them draw designs in the flour. Lead a discussion linking the flour to the Joseph story. **What is this stuff?** (*flour*) **Flour is an ingredient in many recipes. Name some foods that are made with flour.** (*bread, pizza dough, cookies*) **What does flour taste like? Go ahead, taste it.** (*lcky! No way! It's plain, bitter, dusty.*) **On its own, flour tastes bad. Add some sugar, butter, and chocolate chips, though, and it turns into something very yummy.** Give each kid a spoonful of chocolate-chip cookie dough.

Scoop up some flour. **We are going to take flour and "poof!"** (clap your hands together to make a cloud of dust in the air) **turn it into something tasty. God did**

**Spark Resources**  
Spark Bibles

**Supplies**  
Baking sheet with sides  
Wet wipes

**that in today's story. God took something bad and turned it into something good.**

Clean your hands with wet wipes. **In your Spark Bibles, turn to Genesis, the very first book of the Bible, chapter 41, page 46. Today, we will read about Joseph. You may know him as the guy with the coat of many colors, but his story went on from there. Listen for the ways that God used bad to make good.**

Invite readers to read the following passages:

41:14-16

41:17-24

41:25-28

41:41-44

45:1-3

45:4-15

**God used Joseph, who was in jail, to help save an entire country from famine!**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Flip Flop Flapjacks

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

#### Ingredients

- Pancake mix
- Ingredients according to box instructions
- Cooking spray
- Butter
- Maple syrup
- Jam
- Powdered sugar

**Set Up:** Set up several hot-plate burners for simultaneous use or plan to take turns at a stove, two kids at a time. Place a stack of plates, spatulas, cooking spray, and a fire extinguisher near the cooking stations. Arrange sweet toppings and butter on a table near the forks.

#### Activity Instructions

1. Have the kids thoroughly wash hands with soap and water. **Let's wash the cookie dough from our hands before we cook.**
2. Mix the pancake mix according to package directions. Turn the burners to medium heat. As you wait for the griddles to heat, tell more of the Joseph

#### Spark Resources

None

#### Supplies

Soap  
Water  
Towels  
Mixing bowls  
Dry measuring cups  
Liquid measuring cups  
Whisks  
Tablespoons  
Hot plates or stovetop  
Fire extinguisher  
Griddles  
Slotted spatulas  
Plates  
Forks  
Spoons  
Spreaders  
Napkins

story. Each time you say “flip flop,” flip your spatula prop dramatically. **Today we are making Flip Flop Flapjacks to remind us that God flip-flops bad into good in the Joseph story and in our lives.**

**Joseph was in prison.** Look through a slotted spatula prison **But he didn’t do anything wrong. God flipped around the bad situation to make it work for good.**

**Joseph was sent away because of his dreams, but God used his dreams to free him from jail and introduce him to Pharaoh. God flips bad into good! There was going to be a famine, but God gave seven years of plenty to provide enough for saving for the lean times ahead. God flips bad into good! People were hungry and came to Joseph to get food, and that brought Joseph’s family back to him. God flips bad into good!**

3. Give instructions for cooking. **Spray the griddles with cooking spray each time you add new batter to the pan. Make seven mini flapjacks, one for each year of plenty and famine. A spoonful of batter is all you need to make one flapjack.**
4. Each time they flip a flapjack, invite the kids to repeat the key phrase, God flips bad into good!” **You will know it is time to flip the flapjacks when they get bubbly.**
5. Watch carefully as the kids take turns at the burners. Encourage caution and safety. When all are done cooking, cook the rest of the batter and save the leftover flapjacks to share with others or make a giant pancake to tear apart and share.
6. Offer maple syrup, jam, and powdered sugar as toppings for the flapjacks. **These sweet toppings remind us about the sweetest part of Joseph’s story—the forgiveness he offered to his brothers. Forgiveness is mmm, mmmm, good!** Inviting the kids to eat comes in the next section.

## 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.

**Remember the bitter flour from the beginning of our workshop?** Let that remind you of God’s power to bring good out of bad. **You made this yucky, powdery stuff into something delicious! Eat up and enjoy!**

Spark Resources  
Family Pages



Supplies  
Forks  
Napkins

## Prayer Time

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Do a high-five prayer. Hold your hands up in the air, touching them together as you pray. Invite the kids to repeat after you.

**Dear God,** *(kids repeat each line)*

**You flip bad into good!**

**Give us eyes to see your power**

**At work in world.**

**We give you thanks**

**for turning bad into good.**

**Amen.**

**Thanks for flipping and flopping with God and me today!**

**Workshop Focus:** God brings good out of bad.

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)

### Joseph and Pharaoh Storytelling

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

**Ingredients** (serves 48)

- 40 graham crackers
- 12 chocolate bars
- 12 cups (3 L) mini marshmallows
- 12 tablespoons (180 mL) butter, divided into 4 pats
- 6 tablespoons (90 mL) milk

**Set Up:** Place the ingredients in five bowls on one table. Place the remaining five empty bowls on the other table. Label the first table “Table of Plenty” and label the other table “Table of Famine.”

**Activity Instructions**

1. Welcome the kids to the workshop. **It's good to see you, friends! Let's wash our hands because we are cooking today.**
2. **What does the word “famine” mean?** (*nothing to eat*)

**Spark Resources**

Spark Story Bibles  
Spark Bibles

**Supplies**

Soap  
Water  
Towels  
10 bowls  
Measuring cups  
Measuring tablespoon

3. **Mmm, there's a lot of yummy stuff on the Table of Plenty. The Table of Famine has nothing. Which table would you rather sit at for snack time?** *(the one with the food)* **The Table of Plenty, of course! Let's share snacks with the Table of Famine.** Assist the kids to measure and evenly divide the snack ingredients between the two tables. **Now everyone can enjoy a snack!**
4. **In today's story, Joseph had plenty of food and shared it during a time of famine, like you just did. Let's read to get the whole story.**
5. If your group is mostly older, read the story from the Spark Bible, from Genesis 41 on page 46, but before doing so, summarize what has occurred thus far: **Joseph was in jail for something he didn't do, but he interpreted Pharaoh's dream about 7 fat cows being eaten by 7 dying cows. Joseph told Pharaoh that his dream meant the land would have plenty of food for 7 years but then would have famine for 7 years. So Joseph tells Pharaoh to put someone wise in charge of the food, someone who will save some over the first seven years so they have food for the next 7. Pharaoh appoints Joseph.** Now read verses 46-49. If your group is mostly younger, read Joseph Helps His Family from the Spark Story Bible, pages 60-65. Show the illustrations to help them follow the story.
6. **How did Joseph know to save food?** *(He interpreted Pharaoh's dreams and knew a famine was coming.)* **What did he do with the extra food saved for 7 years?** *(He shared it with hungry people.)* **God made something good come from the bad time in Joseph's life.**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Saved-Up S'mores

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

#### Ingredients

- Ingredients from the Open the Bible activity
- Whole graham crackers (enough to cover the bottom of the baking dish)

**Set Up:** Preheat the oven to 350° F (177° C). Use the Table of Plenty and Table of Famine from the Open the Bible activity as work stations. Make supplies accessible to both tables.

#### Activity Instructions

Lead the kids through the steps of the recipe as you walk through the Joseph story.

1. Make "crusts" of graham crackers. Toast them for two minutes at 350° F (177° C): **Pharaoh's dreams told Joseph that there was going to be a famine in the land of Egypt that would last for seven years. There would be seven years of nothing but barren land. Lay down some barren land of graham crackers to cover the bottom of the pan.**

#### Spark Resources

None

#### Supplies

Two 9" x 13" (23 cm x 33 cm) baking dishes  
 Oven  
 Oven mitts  
 Microwave-safe bowls, 4  
 Microwave  
 Measuring cups and spoons  
 Spoons, 2  
 Rubber spatulas, 2  
 Knife  
 Serving spatula  
 Napkins  
 Plastic storage bags  
 Dishcloths  
 Dish soap  
 Towels

2. While the crusts are toasting, break up the remaining graham crackers and all of the chocolate bars into large chunks and set aside in separate bowls: **Joseph interpreted the Pharaoh's dreams and knew that he needed to save food to be ready for the time of famine. Joseph was prepared. Prepare the ingredients for the next step of the recipe. Break the leftover graham crackers and all of the chocolate bars into chunks. Set them aside, just as Joseph set aside food to get ready for the famine.**
3. Melt marshmallows, butter, milk, and chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl for one minute and stir until smooth: **Back at home, Joseph's family was experiencing a meltdown. They were out of food, out of money, out of hope. They traveled to Egypt to beg for food. Melt 3 cups marshmallows, 3 tablespoons butter, milk, and half of the chocolate for one minute and stir. Be sure to cover the bowl with a napkin before microwaving.**
4. Spread the melted mixture over the graham crackers in the pan with a rubber spatula: **Spread the mixture in the pan, like Joseph spread the food to all of the hungry people.**
5. Melt three tablespoons butter in a microwave-safe bowl for 10 seconds (don't forget the napkin!): **Joseph's heart melted like this butter. He was able to forgive his brothers for all of the mean things they had done to him. Joseph provided all that his family needed.**
6. Toss the graham crackers chunks, chocolate chunks, and the rest of the marshmallows with the melted butter. Pour evenly to the top of the pan. Hold up the pan for all to see the dessert: **Though life was bumpy and hard for him, Joseph received a sweet ending to his story from God. Pour on the bumps of Joseph's life to finish your Saved-Up S'mores.**
7. Bake for six to eight minutes in the preheated oven. Allow time to cool. While the dessert is baking and cooling, work together to clean the cooking area: **Let's make something good from this bad mess—a sparkling cooking area!** Cut the cooled desserts into four dozen pieces. Serve one to each kid on a napkin. Pack the leftovers in plastic storage bags.
8. Give each kid an extra serving in a plastic storage bag: **We saved extra snacks to share with our families, just as Joseph fed his family. Please take a snack to feed a hungry loved one. Tell him or her the story of Joseph and his family.**

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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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 cooking! God made something great come from Joseph's bad days. God used Joseph to feed the hungry during a time of famine. Only God can make something good out of something so bad!**

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

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**We can say whatever we want to God in prayer. In the prayer, I will pause for you to pray. Please pray with me.**

**Dear God,**

**On Joseph's bad days, he was in prison and separated from his family.**

**On our bad days, things like this happen:**

Invite the kids to say aloud what their bad days hold. You may need to start.

**You made Joseph a leader who could save people from being hungry.**

**Please hear our prayers of thanks for the good things you bring to us:**

Invite the kids to say aloud petitions of thanksgiving for good in their lives.

**God, you are so good! Amen.**

Distribute the Family Pages as the kids depart. **God goes with you when you leave the church! Take home these pages to think more about the Joseph story at home. God is working good in you!**