

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God is always with us.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: None
HOW YOU'VE CHANGED!: Kids make a model of butterfly metamorphosis.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Paper, crayons, scissors
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God sees everything.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE: Kids experience different constraints on their vision.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Cardstock or thin cardboard, paper glasses pattern, pencils, scissors, waxed paper, tape
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God helps us.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
STORING UP: Kids test and create food storage containers.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Newspapers, empty food containers (including juice boxes, cereal boxes, milk cartons), foam trays, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, waxed paper, zippered sandwich bags, cardboard, tape, stapler, medicine droppers, tweezers, water, hair dryer, thermometer, plastic tubs, fingernail clippers or scissors, paper towels



Visit www.sparksondayschool.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 always with us.

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 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 Pharaoh Storytelling

Welcome to Science. Today's theme is change. Where we live, how we look, and even the food we eat can change from day to day. One thing that never changes is God. God is always with us and always loves us. To help us focus on God's presence, we're going to read two Bible stories, and we're going to change how we read them. We're going to start out sitting down. When we read the word "God," we'll stand up. The next time we read the word "God," we'll sit down again. Let's start with the story "Pharaoh's Dreams." It starts on page 54. Read "Pharaoh's Dreams" first, then "Joseph Helps His Family."

How many times did we change our position during today's stories? Five times in "Pharaoh's Dreams." Four times in "Joseph Helps His Family." **If we look again, we'll see that no matter how we changed—standing up or sitting down—God was there at the beginning, middle, and end. God is always there, even if everything else changes.**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

How You've Changed!

Set Up: Fold a piece of paper in half for each child. On each folded paper, draw a kidney bean shape with the flat edge along the fold.

Activity Instructions

In the Bible stories, a lot of things changed for Joseph. As he got older, his looks changed. He lived in a new place. He wore different clothes. He wasn't a shepherd anymore. Joseph was now a very important person. Joseph had changed so much that his brothers didn't recognize him. But the whole time he was changing, Joseph knew that God was with him. And he was still the same Joseph inside. He still loved God, and he still loved his family.

There are some animals that change a lot, too. Many insects change a whole lot in a process called "metamorphosis." In metamorphosis, how the animal looks on the outside changes a lot, but the animal is still the same on the inside. We're going to see how that works.

- 1. Everyone needs a piece of paper and scissors.** Distribute folded paper pieces and scissors. **Keeping the paper folded, cut along the line.**
- 2. This shape looks a lot like an insect egg. Of course, it's way too big! A real insect egg might be the size of a pencil point. When the egg hatches, a baby insect crawls out. It's called a larva. Most insect larvae look a bit like worms. Use one side of the folded paper as the larva. Draw on eyes, a mouth, and maybe stripes or spots.**
- 3. Larvae spend most of their time eating and growing. When they have eaten and grown enough, they know it's time to change. While an insect is changing a lot, it's called a pupa. Larvae make special bags or coats around the outside of their bodies to keep safe while changing. Flip the larva over. On the other folded side, color a bag or coat to keep your larva safe.**
- 4. After being a pupa, insects become adults. Imagine you were breaking out of your pupal coat by opening the paper. What does that shape look like? (a butterfly, a moth) Color your adult insect any way you like.**
- 5. Let's act out the four stages we just learned about. First there is an egg. Curl up on the floor and lie still. Then hatch out of the egg as a larva. Act like you are eating and eating and eating. Find a safe place to become a pupa. Wrap your arms around yourself. Finally, unwrap your arms and fly away as an adult butterfly or moth.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Paper, printer or copier paper,
1 sheet per kid
Crayons
Scissors, 1 pair per kid

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 learned about how some animals change a lot. How they look can change, what they eat can change, and how they act can change. Even though our butterfly changed a lot from egg to larva to pupa to adult, it stayed the same on the inside. Joseph changed a lot, too. But it didn't matter where he was or what he was doing—he still knew that God was with him.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Dear God,

Our understanding of you starts out small, like an egg. We feed and feed on your Word and grow in understanding as we read the stories in the Bible. Sometimes, we need time to be still and think about you. This helps us change so we can better spread your Word. Thank you for being with us through every change we make. Amen.

Workshop Focus: God sees everything.

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 Pharaoh Storytelling

Welcome to Science. Today, I am going to need some volunteers. Raise your hand if you'd like to help me today. Allow the kids to raise their hands. **Wow! Look at all the willing volunteers! The first way you can help me is by explaining why you raised your hand when you didn't even know what I was going to ask you to do!** (*I don't know. I like to help.*)

Why do we help one another? (*It makes us feel good. It makes us feel useful. We might need help from someone else in the future.*)

As we read today's Bible stories, focus on who is helping whom, and how. Let's open our Bibles to the story of Joseph and Pharaoh. It's found in the book of Genesis, chapter 39, verse 20. Help kids find the story in Genesis.

Let's review the chain of events. Whose dreams did Joseph help interpret?

(Pharaoh's) Have readers read the following passages starting on page 46:

41:1-8

41:25-27

41:41-43

41:47-49

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

42:1-6

45:1-3

47:1

Now tell the kids that Joseph's father dies and the brothers fear that Joseph will take revenge upon them.

50:15-21

How did Pharaoh help Joseph? *(by releasing him from jail and giving him a job storing grain)*

Joseph used his job to help whom? *(his family and all of Egypt)*

And if we look back in the story, we'll see that Joseph always says it started with God. Encourage kids to mark the story with a sticker.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

A Different Perspective

Set Up: Reproduce the glasses pattern from page 127 of this guide on cardstock or thin cardboard. Cut out the shape, but **DO NOT CUT OUT THE LENS AREAS.**

Activity Instructions

In today's story, Joseph interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh. Would you have interpreted the dreams the same way? *(yes, no, maybe)*

Each of us has a unique way of looking at things, based upon our past experiences, our interests, and sometimes even the time of day! The way we look at things also is influenced by our vision. We know that some people wear glasses. Other people have eyes that are cloudy looking. If we expand our thinking about vision beyond people, we'd discover that animal vision is a lot different. For example, insects have compound eyes. Rabbits have eyes on the sides of their heads. Owls can only look straight ahead. Moles, who spend most of their time underground, can only perceive light and dark and movement. What difference does vision make in how we understand the world? Let's find out.

- 1. Everyone will make a pair of glasses.** Distribute frames. **But you will be given instructions on how to make your lenses, the middle part. Count off by fours.**
 - a. Number ones, cut out the entire lens area. Cover this area with waxed paper and tape it in place. Your vision is like that of a mole.** Distribute scissors, waxed paper, and tape.
 - b. Number twos, use a pencil to punch 10 small holes in each lens area. Your vision is like that of an insect.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Card stock or thin cardboard, 8 ½ x 11" (20 cm x 27.5 cm), 1 per kid
Paper glasses pattern, p. 127 of this guide, 1 per kid
Pencils
Scissors, 1 pair per kid
Waxed paper, 3" x 6" (8 cm x 15 cm), 1 piece per kid
Tape

- c. **Number threes, cut out only the far right half of the left lens and the far left half of the right lens. Your vision will be like that of a rabbit, mouse, and most other small prey animals.**
 - d. **Number fours, cut out only the center of each lens area. Your vision will be like that of an owl, which cannot move its eyes from side to side.**
2. **After your glasses are ready, put them on and walk around the room and greet each other. Make sure you shake everyone's hand. Try to hold a conversation with one person on either side of you. Bend down and tie your shoe. Pick up your Bible and read the first five verses of today's story. If you have trouble doing any of these things, try to find someone who can help you.**
 3. **Let's round robin the glasses. The number ones should give their glasses to the number twos, etc.** Repeat until everyone has had the opportunity to experience all four types of vision.
 4. **Everyone take off the glasses. These glasses limited our vision and made it hard to succeed. How were you feeling as you were trying to see with the glasses on? (*frustrated, laughing, jealous, upset*) Why? (*because the task couldn't be completed without help, because it was harder to see*) Sometimes we can't see God's plan well either. Joseph didn't see God's plan, did he? He was in jail for a long time! But he trusted in God even though he couldn't see or understand it all. Like Joseph, we need to trust God even when we can't see how things will end up.**

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.

In today's story, many people asked for help. Pharaoh asked for help in interpreting his dreams. Joseph's brothers asked him to help feed their families. At one time or another, we all need help. God is ready to provide that help through people who are around us. Sometimes, we don't see these people right away. We have limited vision. We need to remember to take off anything that limits our ability to see the help that God provides. Think of how you felt while wearing one pair of glasses today. Be ready to share that feeling in today's closing prayer.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Dear God,

We know we should keep our faith even when we have trouble seeing what your will is. When our vision is limited, we feel frustrated, helpless, worried, etc. Help us ask others for help when we need it. We know that you will provide for us.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: God helps us.

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

Welcome to Science. Most of us think of scientists as working in labs that are full of all sorts of things. They have storerooms with equipment, chemicals, and gear to help them do their experiments. A lot of what we'll be doing and thinking about today centers on storing things we need. One thing that is very important for us to store is the Word of God. As we read today's story—Look! Even "stor-y" has the word "store" in it—I'd like each of you to pick one part that you'd like to store in your brain and heart. Just put your finger by it so you don't forget where it is. When we're done, we'll each share the part we plan on storing inside ourselves. Let's open our Bibles to the story of Joseph and Pharaoh. Have readers read the following passages starting on page 46 of the Spark Bible, while everyone else looks at the pictures in the Spark Story Bible, on pages 54-65.

41:1-8

41:25-27

41:41-43

41:47-49

42:1-6

45:1-3

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

None

What part of the story do you want to remember? Encourage the older kids to use a sticker to mark their favorite part and ask the younger kids to tell a caregiver about their favorite part.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Storing Up

Set Up:

- Use the newspapers to create work areas for groups of three to four kids.
- Place a plastic tub of water, a medicine dropper, paper towels, tweezers, and fingernail clippers in the middle of each work area.
- Place the hair dryer and thermometers in an area away from the water.
- Place the empty food containers in a central area.
- Keep the foam trays, aluminum foil, waxed paper, plastic wrap, sandwich bags, cardboard, stapler, and tape out of sight until needed.

Activity Instructions

After he interpreted Pharaoh's dream about the upcoming famine, Joseph was given the job of obtaining and storing grain for seven years. What does it mean to store food? (*keep it from spoiling or getting rotten, keep it dry, keep animals out of it*)

What do we use to store food today? (*chemicals, plastic, refrigerators*)

We're going to test a few modern storage methods to see how well they work.

1. **Form groups with three to four members and find a work area.**
2. **Each group should pick one type of container to test** (juice boxes, cereal boxes, milk cartons, and others). **See if it would keep food dry, cool, and away from animals. Use the medicine droppers to make rain, the hair dryer to act like the hot sun, and the nail clippers, as animal teeth and claws. Put a thermometer inside to detect temperature changes. Place paper towels inside to detect water leaks.**
3. Give the groups several minutes to test their containers. **Before we move on, carefully take your container apart to see what it is made of. Scrape the container to see if there is a thin coat of wax or plastic on it. Cut it to see if there are any hidden layers sandwiched in the middle. How does it work for storing food or beverages, and what would you change?**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Newspapers
Empty food containers (juice boxes, cereal boxes, milk cartons, etc.)
Foam trays
Aluminum foil
Plastic wrap
Waxed paper
Zippered sandwich bags
Cardboard
Tape
Stapler
Medicine droppers, 1 for every 3 kids
Tweezers, 1 for every 3 kids
Water
Hair dryer
Thermometer
Plastic tubs, 1 for every 3 kids
Fingernail clippers or scissors, 1 for every 3 kids
Paper towels

4. Pull out the other materials. **Now use the knowledge you have gained to design the perfect storage package. As a group, decide what type of food you want to store and for how long. Use the materials provided here to create a package that will keep food dry and cool and not let any animals in.**
5. After the groups have completed their packages, ask them to give a presentation explaining what type of food they were trying to store and the features of their package. Would their package store food safely for seven years?

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.

A famine is a horrible experience. During famines, people who have not prepared go hungry and may die. Joseph knew from experience how important it was to be prepared for hard times. He had developed a strong faith in God when he was young and in his father's care. That faith helped him survive being sold by his brothers and being jailed. When God sent the timely message about the famine, Joseph prepared by storing grain. I'd like everyone to think of something—a song, a Bible verse, a Bible story—that could inspire you and remind you of God's presence in hard times. Invite kids to share the things that would inspire them during hard times.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Dear God,

The stories we read in the Bible teach us to prepare ourselves for the future. One way we can prepare is by strengthening our faith in you. You are always with us, and you can turn bad times into blessings. Each of us has chosen something that will help us remember your presence when we are going through hard times. Thank you for being with us, and thank you for the inspirations you provide. Amen.

Paper Glasses Pattern

