

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: Tell everyone Jesus is alive!	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: None
ANGEL CAKES: Kids make an angel out of cake.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Spoons, bowl, plastic knives, plates, forks, napkins, cups, individual round sponge cake, donut holes, whipped topping, colored sprinkles, mini baking chips, flaked coconut, apple juice
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: Jesus brings new life.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers
EGGS IN A BASKET: Kids make eggs in a basket.	SUPPLIES: Egg, pencils	SUPPLIES: Plates, napkins, forks, cups, butter knives, muffin tins, bowls, spoons, oven mitts, oven, cooking spray, bread, spreadable margarine, bacon crumbles, shredded cheese, eggs, apple juice, pencils
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: Jesus is our king.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
KING JESUS CAKES: Kids make king cakes to celebrate King Jesus.	SUPPLIES: Pencils	SUPPLIES: Plates, napkins, plastic knives, aluminum foil, baking sheets, bowls, spoons, oven, oven mitts, cooking spray, tubes of refrigerated cinnamon rolls with frosting, sugar, food coloring (red, yellow, green, blue)



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: Tell everyone Jesus is alive!

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)

Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday Storytelling

Activity Instructions

Welcome to Cooking! If you had some good news to tell someone, what are some different ways you could tell him or her? Allow kids to answer this and the following question. **Would you send an angel to deliver the message? Let's hear some good news in our story!**

Hand Spark Story Bibles out to the kids. Help kids find The Empty Tomb on pages 482-483. **Find a partner. Decide which one of you would like to play Mary and which one would like to play the angel. Act out your parts together during the story.**

Let's talk about the story. Where were the women going? (*to the cave*) Point to the picture on pages 484-485. **Who did the women see inside the cave?** (*an angel*) **What new job did the angel give the women?** (*Tell everyone Jesus is alive.*) **Would you listen to an angel?** Allow kids to respond. **The angel wanted everyone to hear the good news, that Jesus is alive! Just like the women, we can tell everyone Jesus is alive!**

Let's make a special cake as we talk about our story today!

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Angel Cakes

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

Set Up: Place the shredded coconut into a bowl.

Ingredients: (Makes one cake per kid)

- Individual round sponge cake (1 per kid)
- Donut holes (1 per kid)
- Whipped topping (1 large dollop per kid)
- Colored sprinkles (1/2 spoonful per kid)
- Mini baking chips (a few per kid)
- Flaked coconut (two spoonfuls per kid)
- Apple juice (1 small cupful per kid)

Activity Instructions

The women went to the cave expecting to find Jesus. Who did they find instead?

(an angel) **The angel was the first one to tell the women the good news, that Jesus was alive. We're going to make cakes that look like angels as we review the story.** Remind the kids to wash their hands before starting the activity.

1. Give each kid a plate, a fork, and a napkin.
2. **Where were the women going early in the morning?** *(to the cave)* Give each kid an individual sponge cake.
3. **What were the women bringing to the cave?** *(spices to rub on Jesus)* Show kids the sprinkles, chips, and coconut.
4. **What was supposed to be in front of the opening of the cave?** *(large stone)* Have each kid place a doughnut hole on top of his or her sponge cake.
5. **What did the women see outside of the cave when they arrived?** *(The stone was rolled away.)* Have kids roll the doughnut hole off of the cake, letting it rest beside the cake.
6. Give each kid a plastic knife. **Some of the women peeked inside one edge of the cave.** Demonstrate how to cut a small angled piece of short cake off of one side of the cake.
7. **Some of the women peeked inside the other edge of the cave.** Cut a small angled piece off of the other side of the cake.
8. **Who did the women expect to see inside of the cave?** *(Jesus)* **Who did they see instead?** *(an angel)* Show kids how to move the slices of cake to the opposite sides of the sponge cake to make their cakes look like angels.
9. **Let's decorate our angels!**

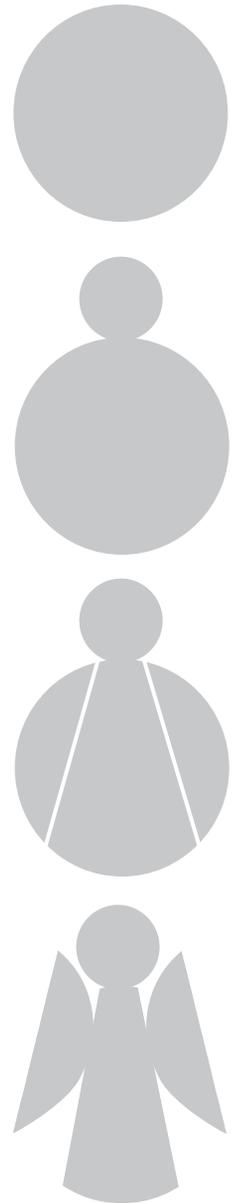
Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Spoons
Bowl
Plastic knives
Plates
Forks
Napkins
Cups

- a. Give each kid a dollop of whipped topping to spread on their cakes.
 - b. Encourage kids to use colored sprinkles to make halos.
 - c. Give each kid a few baking chips with which to create facial features.
 - d. Invite kids to sprinkle coconut on the wings for feathers.
10. **What good news did the angel tell the women?** (*Jesus is alive!*) Hand a cup out to each kid tell them the cup represents Jesus' tomb. Have kids look inside. **Where is Jesus?** (*He's alive!*)
 11. Pour some apple juice in each kid's cup. **What new job did the angel give the women?** (*Tell everyone Jesus is alive.*) Invite kids to raise their cups and give a cheer for Jesus. Then enjoy the cakes!
 12. **Who did Mary bump into as she was leaving the cave?** (*Jesus*) **How do you think the women felt about Jesus being alive?** Allow kids to respond. **Like the women, our job is to tell everyone Jesus is alive!** Remind kids to wash their hands before Wrap Up.



Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

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

Thanks for coming to Cooking! We read about the women finding an angel in the cave. The angel told the women that Jesus is alive. We made angel cakes to remind us to tell everyone Jesus is alive! Who can you tell? Allow kids to respond.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

**When we pray, I'll say a line, and then you say, "Tell everyone Jesus is alive!"
We'll start with a whisper and end with a shout!**

Dear God,

The angel said, *(Tell everyone Jesus is alive!)*

The women started to, *(Tell everyone Jesus is alive!)*

Help me to, *(Tell everyone Jesus is alive!)*

Hurray! *(Tell everyone Jesus is alive!)*

Amen.

Workshop Focus: Jesus brings new life.

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)

Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday Storytelling

Activity Instructions

Welcome to Cooking! Show kids the egg. **What animal is born from this?** (*chicken, bird*) **Have you ever seen a baby animal born?** Allow kids to respond. **New life is an incredible thing to witness. Let's read a story about new life.**

Pass out Spark Bibles, direct the kids to find Luke 24:1-12 on pages 1167-1168. Encourage kids to mark the passage with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice, using a pencil to write their responses in the margin. Have the kids sit in a circle. **I'll read the first verse and you can read the second. We'll continue alternating until we have read the whole passage. If you do not care to read, say, "pass."** Read around the circle, alternating with the kids.

Let's review. Who did the women expect to find in the tomb? (*Jesus*) **Whom did they find instead?** (*two men, angels*) Direct the kids to read Luke 24:7 again. **What did Jesus do?** (*died and came alive*) **If you were Peter, would you have believed the women?** Allow kids to respond. **When Jesus died and then rose again, he conquered death. Because Jesus conquered death, we all have the gift of life after death. Jesus brings new life!**

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Egg
Pencils

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Eggs in a Basket

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

Set Up: Preheat the oven to 375° F [190° C.] Coat the muffin tins with cooking spray.

Ingredients: (Makes 1 egg in a basket per kid.)

- Cooking spray
- Bread (1 slice per kid)
- Spreadable margarine (1 spoonful per kid)
- Bacon crumbles (1 spoonful per kid)
- Shredded cheese (1 spoonful per kid)
- Eggs (medium sized, 1 per kid)
- Apple juice (1 cupful per kid)

Activity Instructions

Why wasn't Jesus in the tomb when the women went to anoint him? (*Jesus was alive.*) **Jesus brings new life. On Easter, many people like to celebrate using symbols of new life. What symbols of new life do we see at Easter?** Allow kids to answer. **We're going to celebrate new life with Jesus by making eggs in a basket.** Remind kids to wash their hands before the activity.

1. Give each kid a plate and knife. **Where did the women go early in the morning?** (*to the tomb*) Show kids the muffin tins.
2. Give each kid a slice of bread and some spreadable margarine. **Who did the women see inside of the tomb?** (*two men in dazzling clothes, angels*)
 - a. Direct kids to cut the edges off of their slices of bread.
 - b. Have kids butter the tops of their bread.
 - c. Help kids place their bread inside a muffin cup like a pie crust.
 - d. Place the bread in the oven for 3 minutes.
3. While the bread is toasting, invite a volunteer to read Did You Know in the orange box on the bottom of page 1167 of the Spark Bible. Remove the bread from the oven.
4. **Who were the women at the tomb?** (*Mary, Joanna, Mary, and others*) Invite kids to put a spoonful of bacon crumbles on top of their bread.
5. **What did the angels tell the women?** (*Jesus has risen!*) Help kids gently crack an egg and pour it into their bread. Have kids sprinkle some shredded cheese on top of their eggs.
6. Bake the eggs for 10-13 minutes. Invite kids to help clean up while the eggs bake.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Plates
Napkins
Forks
Cups
Butter knives
Muffin tins
Bowls
Spoons
Oven mitts
Oven
Pencils

7. **What did the women do after they learned Jesus was alive?** (*ran to tell the disciples*) **Did the disciples believe what the women told them?** (*no*)
8. Ask kids to read Luke 24:12 on page 1168 of their Spark Bibles. Encourage kids to mark the passage with a Something I Like, Something I Don't Like, or Makes Me Wonder Spark Bible Sticker, using a pencil to write their responses in the margin. **What did Peter do when he heard the story?** (*checked it out for himself*)
9. Pour a cup of juice for each kid as the eggs are cooling.
10. **The angels, the women, the apostles, including Peter, were the first people to learn what we know today, Jesus brings new life! What does "new life in Jesus" mean to you?** Encourage kids to discuss their answers while enjoying their snack. Remind kids to wash up before Wrap Up.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

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

Thanks for coming to Cooking! We read the story of the first Easter. Angels told the women Jesus was alive. The disciples did not believe the women until Peter saw for himself. Jesus brings new life! We made eggs in a basket as a symbol of new life. What are some other symbols of new life? Allow kids to respond.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to hold hands in a circle. **As we pray, slowly lift your hands in celebration of Jesus rising from the dead!**

**Dear God,
Thank you for Easter morning!
We believe Jesus rose and conquered death.
We celebrate Jesus' resurrection!
Jesus brings new life!
Amen.**

Workshop Focus: Jesus is our king.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday Storytelling

Activity Instructions

Welcome to cooking! What do you think it's like to live where a king or queen is in charge? Allow kids to respond. **Today we're going to read a story about a king!**

Hand Spark Story Bibles out to younger kids and Spark Bible out to older kids. Help kids find Palm Sunday on pages 454-459. Encourage kids to follow along as you read. **When I say, "Jesus" you say "He's our king!" When I say, "donkey" you say, "clip-clop." When I say, "palms" you wave your arms.** Read the story.

Direct the older kids to find Luke 19:28-40 on pages 1159-1160 in their Spark Bibles. Encourage the kids to follow along as best they can. Have kids mark the passage with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice, using a pencil to write their responses in the margin.

Let's talk about the story. Where was Jesus going? (*Jerusalem*) Point to the picture on page 456 of the Spark Story Bible. **What did Jesus ride on?** (*a donkey*) Have the older kids read Luke 19:38 on page 1159 of their Spark Bibles. **What did the people call Jesus?** (*King*) **What kind of king do you think Jesus is?** Allow kids to respond. **The religious leaders and the people thought Jesus wanted to be a**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Pencils

king who ruled with power. But Jesus came to be a king of peace and love. Jesus is our King!

Let's make something to celebrate King Jesus!

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

King Jesus Cakes

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

Set Up: Preheat the oven to 400° F [204° C]. Separate the cinnamon rolls from the frosting containers. Divide the sugar into three bowls.

Ingredients: *(Makes 8 cakes with frosting.)*

- Cooking spray
- Tubes of refrigerated cinnamon rolls with frosting (2 eight-count tubes)
- Sugar (1 cup [237 ml] divided into thirds)
- Food coloring (red, yellow, green, blue)

Activity Instructions

Jesus came to be a king of peace and love. For many years, between the holidays of Christmas and Easter, people have celebrated Jesus with a special kind of cake called a king cake. The king cake originally represented the visit of the wise men to see Jesus. Later the cake began to represent King Jesus, himself. We're each going to make our own king cake. Remind kids to wash their hands before starting the activity.

1. **Where were Jesus and his disciples going?** *(to Jerusalem)* Give each kid a square of aluminum foil to work on.
2. **What holiday were they going to celebrate?** *(Passover)* Help kids lightly pass over their foil sheets with cooking spray.
3. **What did Jesus send the disciples to get?** *(a donkey)* Give each kid a cinnamon roll. Encourage kids to squish and roll the dough into the shape of a donkey ear.
4. **What did Jesus do when the disciples brought the donkey to him?** *(rode it)* Give kids a second roll of dough to add to their first.
5. **What did it start to look like when Jesus and his disciple traveled down the road to Jerusalem?** *(a parade)* **Roll both pieces of your dough together into one long thin rope, kind of like a parade!** Help kids roll their dough between their hands until it becomes one long rope.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Plates
Napkins
Plastic knives
Aluminum foil
Baking sheets
Bowls
Spoons
Oven
Oven mitts

6. **What were some of the people shouting as Jesus rode by?** (*Hosanna, here comes God's king!*) **Let's make a crown for King Jesus!** Demonstrate how to form a ring with the dough on a piece of foil. Help kids pinch the ends of their dough together firmly.
7. Bake the cakes for 8 minutes. Allow them to cool for 1-2 minutes.
8. Create the colored sugar while the cakes are baking and cooling.
 - a. Show kids the bowls of sugar and the food coloring. **Three colors are traditionally used on King Cakes. Each color has a different meaning.**
 - b. Put a couple drops of red and blue food coloring into a bowl of sugar. Invite a volunteer to mix the sugar. **Purple is the color of the church season called Lent. It reminds us of the time Jesus spent going to and dying on the cross.**
 - c. Put a couple drops of green food coloring into the next bowl. Invite a volunteer to mix the sugar. **Green is the color of hope for new life with Jesus. What else is green in our story today?** (*palms*)
 - d. Put a few drops of yellow food coloring into the next bowl. Invite a volunteer to mix the sugar. **Gold is the color that reminds us of Easter morning and the gift of eternal life we now have with Jesus!**
9. Give each kid a plate, a napkin, and a plastic knife.
10. Place king cakes on plates. **What did the people do with their coats and palms as Jesus came down the road?** (*spread them on the ground, waved them*) Have kids spread frosting on top of their cakes.
11. **The religious leaders didn't understand what kind of King Jesus was. What did the religious leaders tell Jesus?** (*Tell the people to be quiet.*) **What did Jesus tell the leaders?** (*If the people were quiet the stones would start to shout.*) Demonstrate how to sprinkle some of each of the three colors of sugar on top of the cakes.
12. **The people celebrated Jesus as he rode into town. We celebrate Jesus, too. Jesus is our king!** Enjoy the cakes. Remind kids to wash their hands before Wrap Up.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

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

Thanks for coming to Cooking! We read about Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people waved palms and celebrated Jesus as king. The religious leaders wanted the people to be quiet. We made King Jesus Cakes to celebrate Jesus. Jesus is our king! What would you do if you saw King Jesus riding down the street? Allow kids to respond.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Invite the kids to stand. **We're going to praise Jesus with our bodies at the end of our prayer.** Show kids how to do the "wave." One kid bows and stands while others copy, one at a time, like a wave.

Dear Jesus,
We praise you!
We love you!
You are our king!
Praise Jesus!
Amen. (*wave*)