

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: I can keep my eyes on Jesus.</p> <p>ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME? Kids create funny eyes on the computer to remind them to focus on Jesus.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Flashlight</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Song CD (background music)</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Computer(s) with Kid Pix or similar software, paper, printer, CD player, whiteboard or blackboard, dry erase marker or chalk</p>
Upper Elementary		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: Jesus gives me a hand in times of trouble.</p> <p>HELPING HANDS: Kids make greeting cards with pictures of their hands for people who need some good news.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Digital camera and cord/dock for downloading, ping-pong ball</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Song CD (background music)</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Computer(s) with Kid Pix or similar software, paper, printer, markers, CD player, whiteboard or blackboard, dry erase marker or chalk</p>
All Kids		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: When I am afraid, I can trust Jesus.</p> <p>TRUST ME: Kids use AutoShapes program to create a picture of today's story.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Spray bottle full of water</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Song CD (background music)</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Computer(s) with Kid Pix or similar software, printer, paper, CD player, whiteboard or blackboard, dry erase marker or chalk</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: I can keep my eyes on Jesus.

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)

Walking on Water Storytelling

Set Up: Place some obvious objects in the room for the opening activity. For example, use a picture of Jesus, a balloon, or a plant. Be sure the room is dark enough so the flashlight light can be seen.

Activity Instructions

As kids enter welcome them by saying, **"I see you!"** with an emphasis on the word, see. With a flashlight on, darken the room, move the light around the room, and ask kids to follow the light with their eyes. Have some fun by moving the light slow and fast, up and down, or in circles.

Turn the lights back on and play a short game in which the leader looks at something in the room and the kids guess what it is. Give kids a chance to be the leader and use their eyes to look at something while others guess. No pointing!

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Flashlight

Distribute Spark Story Bibles and ask kids to turn to Walking on Water, on page 294. **Put your finger on Jesus. Put your finger on the man climbing out of the boat. Look at their eyes. Who are they looking at?** (pause) **They are looking at the man named Peter. Peter is looking at Jesus. What about the other men? Where are they looking?** (*The other men are looking at Peter.*) **Where is Jesus standing?** (*on the water*) **What do you think Peter is trying to do?** (pause) **Let's read and find out.**

Read the story aloud while kids follow along.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Are You Looking at Me?

Set Up: Make sure all the computers are on with the software you will be using ready to go. Depending on your group, you may want to have the circles ready and waiting on the screen so all they have to do is drag them into place and fill them in.

Activity Instructions

Using Kid Pix or similar program, kids create three circles and use them to create eyeballs for a take-home page.

Before you begin, show kids a copy of the finished product on the computer screen. Move the eyeballs to different places (looking up, looking at each other, and so on). Later, kids can have fun doing the same with their project. Show how to click on a circle and make it different sizes before you begin the project.

Step 1: The Eyes

1. Click on the circle icon. Show the kids how to drag and move the circle to make it big or small. Copy and paste the circle to create two "eyes."
2. Click on the circle icon again. Make a smaller circle and place it inside the first circle. Copy and paste the second circle and place it in the second eye.
3. Using the blotter, fill in the second circle with light blue on both eyes.
4. Click on the circle icon again. Make an even smaller circle. Place it inside the other circles to create the pupil. Copy and paste the smallest circle to use in the second eye.
5. Using the blotter, color the smallest circle black.

Spark Resources

Spark Song CD (background music)

Supplies

Computer(s) with Kid Pix or similar software
Paper
Printer
CD player
Whiteboard or blackboard
Dry erase marker or chalk

Step 2: The Details

1. Click into Auto shapes and find an arch to use as an eyebrow.
2. Create two eyebrows and place them over the eyes.
3. If time allows, use the line to create eyelashes. These could also be drawn in by hand.

Step 3: The Theme

1. Write the words, "Keep Your Eyes on Jesus" on the board for kids to copy. Help them type in the words.

If time allows, show kids how to place their eyeballs in different places so they look in different directions. Kids could make several sets of eyeballs if they get the hang of it.

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.

Jesus calls each of us by name and loves us. Jesus gives us courage when we are afraid to do hard things. We can be like Peter, and keep our eyes on Jesus when we need to be brave.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Darken the room again. Sit in a circle. Shine the flashlight on each individual kid (not in their eyes). Say the following prayer for each kid. The class can say, "Amen" after each blessing.

**Jesus,
Help [Name] keep his/her eyes on you when he/she needs to be brave.
Amen.**

Workshop Focus: Jesus gives me a hand in times of trouble.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Walking on Water Storytelling

As kids enter, take a picture of their hands with a digital camera to use during the Activate Faith part of the lesson. Then use prompts to encourage kids to focus on their hands: for example **“Could you HAND me the Bible?”** and **“Would you give me a HAND with that?”** and **“Let’s give [Name] a HAND!”**

Before starting the story, place a small ping-pong ball on a table. With hands behind their backs, kids try to keep the ball on the table using only their breath. Talk about how important hands are and how we use them to do so many things, including helping each other.

Let’s turn to Matthew 14:22-33 on page 1076 in our Spark Bibles. Listen while I read for a place in the story when Jesus used his hands. When you get to verse 31, ask kids to think about something helpful they could do with their hands and place their Makes Me Wonder sticker there.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Digital camera and cord/dock
for downloading
Ping-pong ball

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Helping Hands

Set Up: Ask a Shepherd or assistant to download the pictures of kids' hands taken at the beginning of the Open the Bible section onto each computer. Make sure all the computers are on with the software you will be using ready to go. Check out the project example at the bottom of this page.

Activity Instructions

Using the pictures taken during the Open the Bible section, kids create a greeting card to send to people going through hard times. Kids can drag the pictures wherever they want on their screen and create their own designs. Remind kids that the paper will be folded in half to make a card, so they should only use the bottom half of the paper. Write "Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him" on the board. Ask kids to include this verse in their card somewhere, so the people who receive the cards will remember they are in Jesus' hands. You could also use a greeting card template in Word.

For fun, see if kids can identify whose hands belong to which kid!

Print the greeting cards and fold them in half. Let kids embellish with markers, if desired.

Spark Resources

Spark Song CD (background music)

Supplies

Computer(s) with Kid Pix or similar software

Paper

Printer

Markers

CD player

Whiteboard or blackboard

Dry erase marker or chalk

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.

Jesus gives us a hand in times of trouble. Today we made cards to help other people know that Jesus will reach out to them. Jesus needs our hands to do God's work.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Kids create a sort of altar by standing up their finished cards in a group. Placing their hands slightly over the cards, kids pray a blessing for the people who will receive them. Ask kids to echo your words. The dots indicate where you should pause.

Dear Jesus,

You held out your hand . . . and helped Peter when he was sinking.

Help our hands . . . to help others, too.

We pray for the people . . . who will receive these cards.

Bless them . . . and lift them up.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Thank kids for offering their projects to others. Collect the cards, put them in a large envelope and arrange for a pastor or care team member to come to class and receive the cards.

Workshop Focus: When I am afraid, I can trust Jesus.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Walking on Water Storytelling

Today's story takes place in a boat during a storm. When we read the story, it's going to be a rocky ride. You might get a little wet! Before we read the story, let's look at some of the pictures and see if we can tell what's going on. Look at the pictures in the Spark Story Bible on pages 294-297. Practice making your face look like the faces you find there. (round mouth, grimace, shock, happiness)

Let's join the disciples in the boat for this story! Okay! Line up! Be sure we have equal weight on each side of the boat. Little ones in the middle. Take time to arrange all bodies in an imaginary boat and then pretend to hoist the sail. Raise your voice above the howling winds as you shout directions. Adult Shepherds or helpers should make windy sounds throughout the rest of the play. The more you get into it, the more the kids will! **Let's shove off! Put on your life jackets. Looks like there's going to be a storm! Man, that wind is blowing!** Look around anxiously. **Wow, this boat is rocking!** Sway bodies back and forth. **Hold on to the sides, we're going to hit a big wave!** Use the spray bottle to spray over their heads a few quick squirts. **Drop anchor! We need to wait this out!** Put in a few more squirts for good measure.

Well, that's how it was for Peter and the disciples. They were scared. Their boat was so small and the sea was so big. Who could help them? Let's find out!

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Spray bottle full of water

Take time for older students to choose their stickers from the back. Let a younger student hold the stickers by placing them on their fingertips. Kids may place their stickers as you read the story from Matthew 14:22-33 on page 1076 in the Spark Bible.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Trust Me

Set Up: Make sure all the computers are on with the software you will use ready to go. Write the words, "I Can Trust Jesus" on the board.

Activity Instructions

Using the drawing program, kids use AutoShapes to create a picture of today's story. Explain that you are first going to make the waves, then the boat and finally put in the lightning. Give the directions one at a time. Encourage them! Say the words, "**Trust me!**" as much as you can, as you give them directions. No need to hurry!

Put the kids into teams that include both a younger kid and an older kid. Younger kids can help choose colors or click on the icon. Older kids can do the design piece.

Step 1: Background

1. Click on the rectangle. Click on the corner of the rectangle and pull so that the rectangle takes up about half the page or more.
2. Click on the blotter and fill in the rectangle with light blue.
3. Optional Advanced Step: To create a border, click on the edge of the rectangle, and then click on the three-lines icon. Choose the thickest line.
4. Optional Advanced Step: Click on the border you just created, and choose a coordinating color by clicking on the paint brush icon.

Step 2: Waves

1. Create waves by using the line icon. Draw the line and click at the peak of the wave. Draw the line down and click at the bottom of the wave to hold the place. Repeat across the page.
(Option: An easier version would be to create the waves using overlapping circles.)
2. Copy and paste the wave line two or three times and arrange the line on the paper as you want.
3. Using the blotter, click on the line and then choose a blue color to fill the tops of the waves. (See example on page 57.)

Spark Resources

Spark Song CD (background music)

Supplies

Computer(s) with Kid Pix or similar software
Printer
Paper
Whiteboard or blackboard
Dry erase marker or chalk

Step 3: The Boat

1. Using AutoShapes click on the half moon shape. Click on the yellow dot at the point to turn the shape so that it resembles the body of a boat. Choose a color to fill it in.
2. Click on the triangle and place it above the first shape to form the sail. Choose a color to fill it in.
3. Connect the two shapes with a thick straight line.

Step 4: Lightning

1. Use AutoShapes to find the lightning bolt.
2. Place it on the page and use the blotter to fill it in with a color.

Step 5: The Theme

1. Using Word Art, type in the words "I Can Trust Jesus." Write the words on a whiteboard or blackboard so kids can see what to copy. Using Word Art, type in the words.
2. Hit ok and drag the words to the place on the paper you want them to be.

Print to take home.

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 our story today, the disciples were in a small boat during a storm. Jesus helped them not to be afraid. When we're afraid, we can trust Jesus.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Cake pan full of water
Small bowl in the middle of
the pan (with some water)
Small towel

Prayer Time

Bring out the pan and small bowl and fill them with water. **In our church, our small boat looks like this:** hold up small bowl and towel. **When we are baptized,** (scoop hand into water), **Jesus is there. He promises to be with us through our whole lives. For our prayer, we are going to remind ourselves of our baptism** (scoop the water again) **and that Jesus is always with us, especially when we are afraid. We can remember Jesus by making a cross sign.** Model the prayer on yourself or an adult helper before you start. Be sensitive to the fact that not all kids are baptized.

Kids dip their fingers into the water and mark a cross on each other's foreheads.

When I am afraid (put fingers into the bowl of water)

I can trust Jesus (make the sign of the cross),

Amen.