

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God gives us what we need.</p> <p>WATCH WHAT HAPPENS: Kids mime today's story.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bible</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Gloves (preferably white or black), white face paint (optional: cornstarch, cold cream, water), cosmetic sponges, soap, water, paper towels, bedsheet (black or other dark color), large mirror (optional)</p>
Upper Elementary		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: Trusting God sets us free.</p> <p>IT COULD HAPPEN TODAY: Kids rewrite the story with a modern-day feel.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Pencils</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Modern-day clothes, wigs, sunglasses, fake jewelry, cell phones, keys, backpacks, empty beverage containers, empty food containers, baskets, bowls, bags, pencils, paper, scissors, markers, tape, kid-friendly magazines, bedsheet, It Could Happen Today Word List (page 93), It Could Happen Today Story Script (pages 95-96)</p>
All Kids		
<p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God shows us how to live with love.</p> <p>GOD'S TOP TEN: Kids give the Ten Commandments late-night-talk-show style.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Valentine, pencils</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Bible-time costumes, beard, sandals, sportcoat, necktie, pencil holder, pencils, coffee mug, artificial plants, small desk or table, classroom chairs, poster board, markers, bed-sheet, God's Top Ten Skit Script (pages 97-98)</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: God gives us what we need.

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)

Wandering in the Wilderness Storytelling

Welcome to Creative Drama! What is your favorite food? Allow kids to respond to this and the following questions. **Have you ever eaten quail? Quail are wild birds. Let's hear a story about kids who ate quail for dinner!**

Hand Spark Story Bibles out to the kids. Help kids find Manna, Quail, and Water on pages 90-93. Encourage kids to follow along as you read aloud. **When I use a special voice in the story, repeat what I say.** Read the story using different voices with lots of inflection for the dialogue.

Let's talk about the story. Where were the Israelites going? (*to the new place God promised*) Point to the pictures on pages 91-92. **What did God give the Israelites to eat?** (*quail and manna*) **How did God give the people water?** (*God had Moses hit a rock with his staff.*) **Would you like to eat manna and quail every day?** Allow kids to respond. **Manna may not be your favorite food, but the Israelites were happy. God gave them food to eat and water to drink. God gives us what we need.**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Watch What Happens

Set Up: Designate the stage area by hanging the bedsheet as a backdrop. (Optional) Create face paint. Store the paint in an airtight container. Use soap and water to remove.

- Mix 2 parts cornstarch with 1 part cold cream.
- Add 1 part water.

Place face paint, sponges, soap, water, and towels where kids can use them. Set the mirror in an open area of the room.

Activity Instructions

A long time ago, actors would tell stories in the street without using any words. These actors were called mimes. Mimes still perform today. A mime wears gloves and face paint to help people in the audience watch their hand motions and expressions on their faces. Movement is important for mimes because they don't make any sound! We're going to tell the Manna, Quail, and Water story in mime.

Before the story:

1. Gather kids to practice making exaggerated body movements and facial expressions. **Let's practice moving our bodies and faces without making sounds.**
 - a. Have kids face a partner.
 - b. **Use your hands and body to show how you would:**
 - i. **climb a ladder,**
 - ii. **catch a fish, and**
 - iii. **eat a sandwich**
 - c. **Use your face to show how you look when you are:**
 - i. **very tired,**
 - ii. **surprised, and**
 - iii. **grumpy.**
 - d. (Optional) Have kids take turns watching themselves in the mirror.
2. Invite the kids to paint their faces and put on gloves. **Use sponges to paint your face. It may be helpful to have someone else paint your face for you. Be careful not to put paint near your eyes or mouth.** Ask a Shepherd to help with face painting. Remind kids to wash their hands before putting on the gloves.
3. Divide kids into three groups. **Each group takes a turn performing part of the story in mime, while the other two groups watch.**
4. Have the leader or a Shepherd act as narrator.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

Supplies

Gloves (preferably white or black), 1 pair per kid

White face paint (optional: cornstarch, cold cream, water)

Cosmetic sponges

Soap

Water

Paper towels

Bedsheet (black or other dark color)

Large mirror (optional)

Perform the story:

1. Gather the kids near the stage area. Have the first group of kids stand on the stage facing the audience. The narrator stands to the side of the stage while the rest of the kids sit in the audience.
2. **The Israelites have been traveling a long time. Some of the people are starting to wonder how much longer their trip will take. Let's watch what happens!** Remind the kids to move their bodies and their faces but to not make any sounds.
3. Have the narrator read Manna, Quail, and Water on pages 90-93 in the Spark Story Bible. Read two paragraphs of the story, and then switch groups. Read the story slowly enough to allow the mimes to develop their actions.

After the story:

Allow kids enough time to wash their faces, then gather to debrief the activity. **Was it easy or difficult to act without making any sound?** Allow kids to respond to this and the following questions. Point to the picture on page 90. **Why were the people complaining?** (*They were tired and hungry.*) **What did God give the Israelites?** (*manna, quail, water*) **Why do you think God listened to the Israelites? God loved the Israelites just like God loves us. God knows what we need and will always take care of us. God gives us what we need.**

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.

Thanks for coming to Creative Drama! We read a story about the tired, hungry Israelites. We acted like mimes and told the story without any sound. God heard the Israelites' complaints and gave them manna, quail, and water. What are some things you need that God gives you? Allow kids to respond.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Invite the kids to sit in a circle. **During our prayer, I'll pause, and we'll go around the circle. You can name your favorite food or drink to thank God for.**

Dear God,

Thank you for giving the Israelites food and water. Thank you for giving me my favorite food and drinks. *Pause, go around the circle allowing kids to add their favorite food or drink to the prayer.* **Thank you for giving me what I need.**

Amen.

Workshop Focus: Trusting God sets us free.

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)

Wandering in the Wilderness Storytelling

Welcome to Creative Drama. What does the word, “freedom” mean? Allow kids to respond to this and the following question. **Let’s read how the Israelites experienced freedom.**

Pass out Spark Bibles, and have kids find Exodus 16:1-18 and 17:1-17 on pages 77-79. Invite kids to mark the passages with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice, using a pencil to write their responses in the margin. Ask volunteers to read the following passages.

- Exodus 16:2-3
- Exodus 16:11-12
- Exodus 16:13-15
- Exodus 17:2
- Exodus 17:4-6

Let’s review. What were the people complaining about? (*They were hungry and thirsty.*) Direct kids to read Exodus 16:8. **Who were the Israelites complaining against?** (*the Lord*) **What did God give the Israelites?** (*manna, quail, water*) **Do you think the Israelites had a legitimate reason to complain?** Allow kids to respond. **Even though the Israelites were free from slavery to the Egyptians, they were**

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils

still slaves to their bodies because they were hungry. Until the Israelites fully trusted God to give them what they needed, they would be slaves to worry. Trusting God sets us free.

We're going to retell the Israelites' story as if it were happening today.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

It Could Happen Today

Set Up: Set the costumes and props where kids can choose among them. Place the craft supplies where they can be used. Designate a stage area by hanging the bedsheet as a backdrop. Make a few copies of the Word List and Story Script.

Activity Instructions

The Israelites were real people who lived in Bible times. Even though life is different now, we still have some of the same issues. We're going to rewrite the story as if it were taking place today. Then we'll present our new version of the story to each other.

Before the story:

1. Divide the kids into two groups. Assign a Shepherd or leader to each group. **Your group will rewrite this story as if it were happening today, then you will act it out for the other group.**
2. Give the leader of each group a Word List and Story Script. **Your leader will ask the group to think up words for the Word List. Then your leader will fill in the blanks of the Story Script with your words and read your story to you.** Have groups meet in separate areas to keep each story a surprise.
3. Have the kids decide who will play which parts in the story. Decide on the staging. **Use the costumes and props to help you. Use the craft supplies if you need to create an important prop that is missing for your story.**
4. Invite the leader or a proficient reader to be the narrator for each group.

Perform the story:

Gather the kids near the stage. Direct the first group to take the stage while the second group sits in the audience. Have the narrator stand to the side of the stage. **The complaining Israelites could easily have been any one of us. Let's see what this story might look like if it were happening today.** After the first group's performance, switch groups and repeat.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Supplies

Modern-day clothes
Wigs
Sunglasses
Fake jewelry
Cell phones
Keys
Backpacks
Empty beverage containers
Empty food containers
Baskets
Bowls
Bags
Pencils
Paper
Scissors
Markers
Tape
Kid-friendly magazines
Bedsheet
It Could Happen Today Word List (page 93)
It Could Happen Today Story Script (pages 95-96)

Following the story:

Gather the kids to debrief the event. **Do you think your story could ever really happen?** Allow kids to respond. **How did God feed the Israelites?** (*God sent quail in the evening and manna in the morning.*) Direct kids to read Exodus 17:5-6 on page 79. Encourage kids to mark the passage with a Something I Like or Makes Me Wonder sticker, using a pencil to mark their responses in the margin. **What did God tell Moses to do so the Israelites could have water?** (*strike a rock with his staff*) **Do you think the Israelites were surprised at what God did?** Allow kids to respond.

The Israelites may have been surprised at how God provided food and water, but the point is they could trust God to provide for them—not because they whined and complained, but because God loved them. Trusting God sets us free.

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.

Thanks for coming to Creative Drama! We learned how God provided manna, quail, and water for the Israelites. We wrote our own story as if it were happening today. The Israelites learned to trust God. Trusting God sets us free.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Invite the kids to pray. **After each line of prayer, respond, "Trusting God sets us free."**

Dear God,

You provided food and water for the Israelites. (*Trusting God sets us free.*)

You provide food, shelter, and clothing for me. (*Trusting God sets us free.*)

Help me to trust you instead of worrying. (*Trusting God sets us free.*)

Amen.

Workshop Focus: God shows us how to live with love.

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)

Wandering in the Wilderness Storytelling

Welcome to Creative Drama! Show kids the valentine. **Someone gave this to me to show me I'm loved. What are some other ways to show love?** Allow kids to respond. **Let's read about some ways to show love to others.**

Hand Spark Story Bibles out to the younger kids, and Spark Bibles to the older kids. Help younger kids find The Ten Commandments on pages 94-99 of the Spark Story Bible. **This is a story about Moses and the Israelites. Pretend you are Moses with your actions during the story.**

Direct the older kids to find Exodus 20:1-17 on pages 81-82 of their Spark Bibles. Encourage kids to mark the passage with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice, using a pencil to write their responses in the margin. Ask volunteers to read the Ten Commandments from the Spark Story Bible.

Let's review. Point to the picture on page 95 of the Spark Story Bible. **What did God ask Moses to do?** (*climb to the top of the mountain*) **What did God give Moses?** (*10 special rules, commandments*) **Do you think the people followed God's rules?** Allow kids to respond. **God gave the people the Ten Commandments to show them how to treat God and others. God shows us how to live with love.**

Let's tell this story in a fun and different way!

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Valentine
Pencils

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

God's Top Ten

Set Up: Place the costumes and props where kids can choose among them. Place the Spark Story Bibles, poster board, and markers where they can be used. Hang a bedsheet as a backdrop to designate a stage area. Set the desk and a few chairs on the stage to make it look like the set of a late night talk show. Make a few copies of the Skit Script.

Activity Instructions

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on the top of the mountain. Moses brought the Ten Commandments down to the people. We're going to pretend Moses and the Israelites are giving the Ten Commandments to us on a late night talk show!

Before the skit:

1. Invite kids who are proficient readers to play the parts of Dane and Moses. Give each of the actors a copy of the script. **Read through the script. Moses is from Bible times, but Dane is hosting the show as if it were happening today. Create a costume for your character to wear on the show.**
2. Ask a few kids to create cue cards for God's Top Ten. **Find the Ten Commandments on pages 96-97 of the Spark Story Bible. Use the markers to write each commandment on a separate piece of poster board. Write big, so the actors can see to read them on stage. Be sure to number each commandment in order as they are written in the Spark Story Bible.**
3. Have one person be the cue card holder. **Place the commandment cue cards face up, in backwards order, starting with number 10. During the skit, you will hold up one card at a time so the Israelites can read the commandments out loud.**
4. Invite a group of kids to play the Israelites. **You will read each commandment from the cue cards according to the script. You will read them as a group, so practice reading them together. Read slowly enough so everyone can keep up.** Some Israelites may choose to participate with the group even if they are prereaders. **Look through the costumes and props to find something to wear.**
5. Have volunteers add props to the set. **Remember, this is the set of a talk show. The host will sit behind the desk and Moses will sit in a chair next to the desk. The Israelites will stand off to the side of the chairs.**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bible

Supplies

Bible-time costumes
Beard
Sandals
Sportcoat
Necktie
Pencil holder
Pencils
Coffee mug
Artificial plants
Small desk or table
Classroom chairs
Poster board (10 pieces)
Markers
Bedsheet
God's Top Ten Skit Script
(pages 97-98)

Perform the skit:

Gather the kids near the stage. Have the actors stand offstage and wait for their cues. Have the cue card holder kneel in front of the stage off to the side where the Israelites will stand. Everyone else sits in the audience. **It's time for everyone's favorite talk show—Late Night with Dane Betterman!** Encourage kids to clap wildly.

After the skit:

Gather the kids to debrief the activity. **Which part of the skit was the funniest?** Allow kids to respond. Show kids pages 96-97 in the Spark Story Bible. Read the first four commandments to the kids once again. **Who are these commandments talking about? (God) Who are the last six commandments talking about? (other people)**

Invite the older kids to read the section entitled Ten Commandments in the margin on page 81 of their Spark Bibles. **Why do you think God gave us the Ten Commandments?** Allow kids to respond. **God wants us to treat God and each other with love. God knew we would need some help, so God gave us these rules. God shows us how to live with love.**

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.

Thanks for coming to Creative Drama! We read how Moses went up the mountain and God gave him the Ten Commandments. We told the commandments as part of a skit. God gave us the commandments to help us. God shows us how to live with love. What is one new way you can show love to God or someone else?

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Let's close with prayer. Invite the kids to copy your words and actions.

Dear God,
Thank you for the Ten Commandments. (count 10 fingers)
Help me to love you, (lift hands to sky)
And others, (spread arms wide)
With my whole heart. (trace heart on chest)
Amen.

It Could Happen Today Word List

Name of local town _____

Name of famous person _____

Type of buildings _____

Method of travel _____

Complaint 1 _____

Complaint 2 _____

Complaint 3 _____

Complaint 4 _____

Favorite food 1 _____

Favorite food 2 _____

Name of animal _____

Name of popular cereal _____

Name of distant town _____

Favorite beverage _____

Object in a city _____

Piece of athletic equipment _____

It Could Happen Today Story Script

God loved the people from _____ and their leader named
Name of local town

_____. God promised to bring the people where they could build
Name of famous person

_____ and live happily. They had never lived outside of
Type of buildings

_____ before, and they were afraid. But God went with them
Name of local town

as they _____ long and far to the place God promised.
Method of travel – past tense

_____ was hard and tiring. Along the way, the people became
Method of travel ending in -ing

hungry. They complained to _____. “ _____!”
Name of famous person Complaint 1

one boy cried. “ _____,” whined a girl. “ _____,”
Complaint 2 Complaint 3

the girl's stomach growled. The people missed their dinners of

_____ and _____.
Favorite food 1 Favorite food 2

The people from _____ didn't know God heard them
Name of local town

complaining. That evening, something strange happened. Tiny

_____ appeared everywhere! God had sent the
Name of animal – plural

_____ so the people could eat _____.
Name of animal – plural Favorite food 1

The next morning, the ground glistened with fresh dew. After the sun dried the dew, something covered the ground. It looked like _____ rained down
Favorite food 2
from heaven. It was _____ ! _____ looked like
Name of popular cereal Name of popular cereal
seeds and tasted like _____. The people ate and ate. Every day God
Favorite food 2
sent _____ and _____ so they had food to eat.
Name of popular cereal Name of animal – plural

The people from _____ kept _____ toward
Name of local town Method of travel ending in -ing
_____. After a while they ran out of _____.
Name of distant town Favorite beverage

Even though God had given them food when they were hungry, the people still
complained. “_____,” sobbed a kid. The people were thirsty. This
Complaint 4

time God told _____ to hit a _____ with his
Name of famous person Object in a city

_____. When he did, _____ gushed out of the
Piece of athletic equipment Favorite beverage

_____. The people had more than enough to drink. God gave
Object in a city

_____, _____, and _____
Favorite food 1 Favorite food 2 Favorite beverage

to the people from _____ every day. God took care of them, just
Name of local town

like God promised.

God's Top Ten Skit Script

(Dane runs out onto the middle of the front of the stage and thanks everyone for coming to the show.)

Dane: Thank you, thank you. Thanks for coming tonight. It looks like you're a better audience than last night—but, hey, any audience is better than no audience. Ha, Ha!

(Dane takes a seat behind the desk and starts fidgeting with a pencil.)

Dane: Well, we've got a great show for you tonight. Our first guest is quite a man of honor. You'll remember him from the Plagues in Egypt and the Parting of the Red Sea. People, put your hands together and help me welcome Moses!

(Dane stands and claps as Moses walks onstage, waves to the audience, and shakes Dane's hand. Dane and Moses both sit down.)

Dane: Welcome. It's good to see you again. Hey, the last time I read about you, you were on your way up to some meeting on a mountain. Who calls a meeting on a mountain?

Moses: Yeah, well that was God.

Dane: God? *The* God?

Moses: Is there any other?

Dane: Well, uh . . .

Moses: In fact, that's why I'm here tonight. God gave me a list of 10 things God wants people to do. So I thought I'd share it with your audience.

Dane: Wow! God's got a Top Ten List?

Moses: Yep, and I brought some of my people with me to help share it.

Dane: Awesome! Come on out, Israelites!

(The group of Israelites stands in an open area of the stage facing the cue card holder.)

Dane: Well, here you have it, ladies and gentlemen—God's Top Ten list! Number ten!

(The group of Israelites reads each commandment after Dane calls out the number.)

Dane: Number nine! *(commandment read)* Nu-u-umber eight! *(commandment read)* Oh, I like that one.

Moses: You can tell God put some thought into this.

Dane: Number seven! *(commandment read)* Number six-x-x. *(commandment read)* Number five! *(commandment read)* That one might get tough.

Moses: Do you really think so?

Dane: We'll talk later . . . number four! *(commandment read)* Oh, it looks like things have taken a shift!

Moses: Yep. God wrote some commandments about how to treat others and some about how to treat God.

Dane: I see. Makes sense . . . number three! (*commandment read*) Number two-o-o. (*commandment read*) And, ladies and gentlemen, God's number one commandment . . . (*commandment read*)

(*Lots of cheering and applause.*)

Dane: Great list. No wonder you wanted to share it. It's kind of long, though. Is there any way to shorten it?

Moses: Well, it's about love. Love God and love others. With this list, God shows us how to live with love.

Dane: That is fantastic! Well, too bad we're out of time. Thanks for joining us. And thanks for bringing your people with you. Let's give them all a big hand! Good night, everybody!