

Creation

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<p>Lower Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: It is amazing how God created everything.</p> <p>ANIMAL PARADE: Kids will revel in the creation story by making mixed media animals.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bible</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Pictures of animals</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Song CD</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Paper, pencils, cardstock or lightweight cardboard, newspapers, feathers, scissors, craft glue, assortment of decorating media (tempera paints, markers, crayons, fabric pieces, felt, feathers, glitter glue, wiggly eyes), paint brushes, water cups, CD player</p>
<p>Upper Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: I am a unique part of God's creation.</p> <p>GOD MADE ME: Kids will celebrate the fact that God created them by making life-sized self-portraits.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Hand mirrors, pencils</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Hand mirrors, roll of mural paper, pencils, craft glue, yarn in basic hair colors (brown, black, yellow, orange), assortment of decorating media (acrylic craft paints, markers, crayons, fabric pieces, glitter glue), paint brushes, paper plates, water cups, paper towels, scissors</p>
<p>All Kids</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: I can be a creator with God.</p> <p>CREATURE CREATIONS: Kids will consider the wildly creative act of Creation by creating their own creatures out of clay.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Pencils</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Clay (self-hardening), sturdy paper plates, paper towels, pencils, water cups</p>



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit www.wearesparkhouse.org to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Sparkhouse Digital annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.

Workshop Focus: It is amazing how God created everything.

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.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Creation Storytelling

Set Up: Prior to the workshop, gather as many pictures of animals as you can find. Library books and magazines work well. You could also do an Internet search for pictures and print some of them. Lay the pictures out on a table in front of the kids.

Activity Instructions

Gather around a table and welcome the kids to art. When everyone has arrived, begin. **Look what I have: pictures of some cool animals. Can you name the animals I have pictured here?** Allow kids time to respond. **Can you think of other animals that I don't have pictured on this table?** Allow kids time to respond.

There are many incredible animals: from fish and sea creatures to mammals to birds to bugs. Today's story is about creation and how all these animals came to be. Read Creation, and Adam and Eve on pages 2-13 in the Spark Story Bible. **What did we learn in our Bible story about these animals?** (*God made them, and Adam and Eve named them.*)

It is exciting to think that God made all these animals! It is amazing that God created everything! Today, we are going to celebrate that by creating animal works of art. Then we'll have our own animal parade with them.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Pictures of animals

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Animal Parade

Set Up: Cover a table or other work surface with newspapers and place the art supplies on the table.

Activity Instructions

Now we get to create our own animals using all these exciting materials. Try to be as creative as possible by using many different materials. We'll start by making a plan for our animals.

1. Give each kid a piece of paper and pencil and ask them to quickly draw an animal. It can be any animal they choose. If they want to look at the animal pictures for inspiration, they may.
2. When the kids finish their animal drawings, give them each a piece of cardstock and ask them to draw their animal on it, using up all of the available space. Younger children tend to make their drawings really small so keep after them to fill the whole piece of cardstock.
3. Instruct them to cut out their animal with scissors. Assist the youngest ones if necessary.
4. Help them lay the animal down on the newspaper covered work surface.
5. Instruct them to decorate the animal using as many of the art supplies as possible. For example, feathers can be glued on the birds and felt and fabric pieces glued on to look like fur. Attach these pieces with craft glue.
6. Have them paint all other areas on the animal.
7. For those who finish first, have additional cardstock available so they can make another animal. A smaller one would be best for a second project.
8. When everyone is finished with their first animal, ask them to show it to the class and talk about it. Everyone will applaud after each person's presentation.
Isn't it amazing that God created all these animals? Just making artwork of these animals was a lot of work, wasn't it? God is incredible!
9. **Now let's have our animal parade.** Turn on some celebration music from the Spark Song CD and have an animal parade. Kids will line up, holding their animals, and march and dance around the room. Take turns so that everyone gets to lead the parade with their animal.

Spark Resources

Spark Song CD

Supplies

Paper
Pencils
Cardstock or lightweight cardboard
Newspapers
Feathers
Scissors
Craft glue
Assortment of decorating media: tempera paints, markers, crayons, fabric pieces, felt, feathers, glitter glue, wiggly eyes
Paint brushes
Water cups filled with water
CD Player

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

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

I am so glad each one of you came today. You are creative and your animals are wonderful. You can take them home with you today as a reminder that God made every animal.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

For the prayer, tell the kids to think of an animal sound that they would like to make. It can be the animal they created or a different one. Then say this prayer.

God of all, we thank you for creating us and everything else. We are so excited about the animals you have made, animals that make great sounds like this . . . (kids make animals sounds). **What a wonderful, amazing world we live in! Help us to always be grateful for creation. It is amazing that you created everything! Amen.**

Workshop Focus: I am a unique part of God's creation.

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.
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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Creation Storytelling

Gather in a circle on the floor, or around a table and welcome kids. When everyone has arrived, begin. **Who are you? How would you describe yourself to someone who had never met you? Think for a moment about what you would say.**

Put kids in pairs and have them share the answer to this question with one another.

According to God, you are an incredible miracle and a unique part of God's creation. Why? Because God made you. Open your Spark Bible to Genesis 1:26-27 (page 2). Ask for a volunteer to read it.

What does it mean that we are created in God's image? (*That we must look like God.*) **That's incredible!**

Now let's look up Psalm 139:14 (page 675). Ask for a volunteer to read it. **You are fearfully and wonderfully made! Wow!** Have kids place an "I Read It" sticker on one or both of today's passages, and write the date in the margin.

Give each kid a hand mirror. **Sometimes we can be critical of how we look, but God loves the way we look. We are made in God's image. So I want you to look**

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Hand mirrors (one per kid)
Pencils

at your image in the mirror. Look with awe and wonder because what you see is God's handiwork. Give them a moment to really study themselves.

To celebrate the fact that we are all a unique part of God's creation, we are going to make life-sized self-portraits today.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

God Made Me

Set Up: Prior to the workshop, cut the roll of mural paper into lengths approximately the size of the kids. Make sure there are enough for all the kids who will be attending. Squirt small dabs paint in a variety of colors onto paper plates.

Activity Instructions

In art, the term for making a picture of yourself is *self-portrait*. That's what we are going to do today. Some artists make small self-portraits. To be bold, and to celebrate the fact that "God made me," we are going to make ours life-sized, which means it will be exactly the size that you are.

1. **To do this, we'll each need to get a partner to help us trace our bodies on these big sheets of paper.** Help the kids find partners. Give them each a pencil and sheet of paper.
2. **Figure out an interesting pose that will fit on your paper. Put your hands on your hips, or move your legs so it looks like you are running, or perhaps strike a dance pose.** Have kids find their pose and hold it while their partner carefully traces around their body. Be prepared to help students with this step. It is somewhat difficult to get an accurate outline drawn. It works best to have their head facing straight forward so they can paint their whole face instead of just a profile.
3. Have them switch partners so that everyone gets their outline drawn.

Now using the art and craft materials on hand, create your self-portrait within the outline. Use your hand mirror to draw your face as accurately as possible. Paint with these acrylic paints.

4. Help kids create skin tones by blending paints. It helps to blot the paintbrush on the paper towel after rinsing in water between colors. Encourage them to glue on other materials to make the portrait interesting, such as fabric swatches for clothes, yarn for hair, and glitter glue for jewelry.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Hand mirrors (one per kid)
Roll of mural paper
Pencils
Craft glue
Yarn in basic hair colors:
brown, black, yellow, orange
Assortment of decorating
media: acrylic craft paints,
markers, crayons, fabric
pieces, glitter glue
Paint brushes
Paper plates
Water cups
Paper towels
Scissors

5. When it is dry enough to be handled, have the kids carefully cut around the outside edge of the self-portrait. This can be done before it is painted but this will cause the edges to curl.
6. If there is room on the walls of the classroom, tape them up for display. Strong tape will even enable you to tape some to the ceiling. This is best done when portraits are completely dry, perhaps the following day.

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 the Wrap Up.

Close by asking the following questions. Allow time for kids to talk:

- **This was a very involved art project. How difficult was it for you to do?**
Encourage kids to explain their answers.
- **How difficult do you think it was for God to create you in the first place?**
- **How do you think God is able to make each person unique—with no two people ever exactly the same?**

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

For the prayer, have the whole group walk around the room to each person's self-portrait.

Dear God, you did an amazing job creating [each student's name]. **We cheer for your great work.** (*Group claps, cheers, fist pumps.*) **Thank you for making each of us a unique part of your creation! Amen.**

Repeat for each person.

Give God a final round of applause for all of creation.

Workshop Focus: I can be a creator with God.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Creation Storytelling

Gather in a circle or around a table and when everyone has arrived, begin. **Let's open our Bibles to the story of creation in the first chapter of Genesis.** Help kids find the Creation story on pages 2–7 in the Spark Story Bible and in Genesis 1–2:4a in the Spark Bible (pages 2–3). **Look through this story quickly. What are some of the things it says or you see that God created?** (*Earth, water, sky, land, plants, stars, sun, moon, birds, sea monsters, all living creatures, cattle, creeping things, wild animals, humankind.*)

Wow, that's incredible. Name some of these animals God created. Allow all answers.

How did God think to make all those different animals? God is an artist, a really creative artist with lots of ideas.

God gives us creative abilities, too! When we create things, we are co-creators with God. In this way, God keeps creating the earth through us.

Encourage kids using Spark Bibles to find a Spark Bible Sticker to put by Genesis 1 or 2 in their Spark Bibles.

We'll use our creativity today by creating creatures out of clay.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Pencils

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Creature Creations

Set Up: Prior to the workshop, cut the clay into pieces: one for each student. Make each piece about the size of one or two adult fists. Set each piece on a paper plate and cover with a moist paper towel. Fill cups with water and set around the room, one cup for every four kids.

Activity Instructions

God created so many interesting creatures. Today, we get to create a creature of our own invention. We get to be creators with God.

1. Give each kid a plate with clay.
Play around with your clay. Shape and mold it into an unusual creature. Make something that doesn't exist, something that is totally your own idea. Clay gets firm and difficult to shape after it has been out of the bag for a while. If this happens, just dab a little water on it with your finger. Too much water will make it muddy so just use a little at a time.
2. Allow time for them to experiment with the clay and to try out their ideas. Circulate around the room and compliment them on their innovative ideas.
3. Using a pencil, have each kid write his or her name on the bottom of the sculpture and the paper plate. Help the younger ones so they don't damage their sculpture while doing this step.
4. When they get their creatures finished, invite them to think about what to call their creature. **Your creature needs a name. Imagine it is real. What sounds does it make? What does it eat? Where does it live?**
5. Give each kid an opportunity to show off his or her creature creation by telling its name and all the factors about this creature. The others can ask questions about its nature.
6. After each presentation, the whole group will say in unison: **"And God saw that it was good!"**
7. Allow the sculptures to dry. This may take over a week depending upon the size of the sculptures.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Clay (self-hardening)

Sturdy paper plates

Paper towels

Pencils

Water cups

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.

Have you ever thought about how creative God was before today's workshop?

Allow all responses.

You have each made an amazing creature creation. You have shown how God's creativity works through you. Isn't that exciting? What are other creative things that you like to do? Allow all responses.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

I'm going to say a line of a prayer, called a petition. After each petition, I need you all to say, "I can be a creator with God."

Prayer:

Hello again, God,

I'm excited to learn that you are so creative. Your creativity goes on through us.

(I can be a creator with God.)

I love to create things using the mind that you gave me.

(I can be a creator with God.)

Help me to use my creative gifts for you, to take care of your amazing creation.

(I can be a creator with God.)

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.