

Workshop Focus: We are God’s stewards, just like Adam and Eve.

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: Place the recyclable and nonrecyclable items in a pile on a table in the center of a circle.

Activity Instructions

Welcome kids and invite them to gather around the recyclable and nonrecyclable items. **Today we are going to play a fun game and go on a scavenger hunt to help us learn about God’s creation and our job in it. But first we are going to talk about recycling. Why do we recycle?** (*To preserve resources, to save the Earth, etc.*)

We recycle to help the earth we live in. Let’s try playing a little game to practice recycling. Go through each item in the pile and see if the kids can guess which items are recyclable or not.

A lot of things can be recycled. Discuss the following questions, allowing time for kids to respond. **Was there anything that could or could not be recycled that surprised you? Do you know why it is important to recycle and to help the earth?** Allow time for kids to respond. **Not only is it to keep the world nice, but we take care of the world just like Adam and Eve did, because God asked us to. We are God’s stewards, just like Adam and Eve.**

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Normal recyclable materials
(paper, plastic, cans, etc.)
Unusual recyclable materials
(eyeglasses, cell phones,
rubber tires, etc.)
Nonrecyclable materials (foil
gift wrap, binders, vinyl, etc.)
Pencils

Let's find the creation story in our Spark Bible. Invite kids to take out their Spark Bibles and find Genesis 2:4-25 on pages 3-4. Read aloud or ask for volunteers to help read the story, inviting kids to follow along. Encourage kids to place one or more of the Spark Bible Stickers near their favorite part of the story, marking the date and their reactions in the margin.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Creation Word Game

Set Up: On the chalkboard, chart paper, or whiteboard, draw blanks for each letter for all the following words and phrases: dust, nostrils, breath of life, garden in Eden, river, till, knowledge of good and evil, helper, name, rib, woman.

Activity Instructions

Gather around the chalkboard, chart paper, or whiteboard filled with the word puzzles to solve, and explain the game. **Today we will play a version of hangman. We'll solve word puzzles that will help us piece together the story of creation as it appears in Genesis Chapter 2. We have 11 rounds to play. Your job is to take turns guessing the letters that make up the words. Once we have figured out what all the words are, you will use your Spark Bibles to figure out which verses in Chapter 2 they are from.**

1. Ask kids to guess letters for each word, one word at a time.
2. When all words have been figured out, invite kids to use their Spark Bibles to figure out which verse the words are in.
 - a. Dust (verse 7)
 - b. Nostrils (verse 7)
 - c. Breath of life (verse 7)
 - d. Garden in Eden (verse 8)
 - e. River (verse 10)
 - f. Till (verse 15)
 - g. Knowledge of good and evil (verse 17)
 - h. Helper (verse 18)
 - j. Name (verse 19)
 - k. Rib (verse 22)
 - l. Woman (verse 22)

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Chalkboard, whiteboard, or
chart paper
Markers
Pencils

When you have finished this game, invite kids to use a Spark Bible Sticker to mark the part of the story that is most interesting to them, and encourage them to circle their favorite words.

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Set Up: Make copies of the Scavenger Hunt List from page 44 of this guide (one copy per kid).

Activity Instructions

Now we're going to move around a bit. We all know that God's creation has a lot of different things in it. We're going to go on a scavenger hunt to look for some of the different things God created, but we are also going to look for examples of how we use God's creation.

We are God's stewards, just like Adam and Eve. We are supposed to take care of the world, but often we do things we shouldn't—like littering and leaving the lights on at home. These things waste the resources of God's creation.

1. Divide the kids into teams of 2-4 kids. Ask Shepherds to help supervise the teams.
2. Give each team a basket or bag.
3. Give each kid a Scavenger Hunt List and a pencil.
4. Establish specific parameters so kids will stay safe during this activity, and communicate the rules clearly. (Where can they go? What can they take?)
5. Set the timer for 10 minutes and send kids out to find as many items on the list as they can find. Most of the items can be found both inside and outside. If kids find something on the list that doesn't fit in the basket or bag, have them write down what they found and where they found it on their Scavenger Hunt List.

When everyone returns from their scavenger hunt, allow each team a minute or two to describe what they found.

Look at all the evidence of God and humans we found today. Was it harder to find evidence of God's creation or human creation? Allow time for kids to respond. **We need to remember that it is our job to care for God's creation. Often that means making sure there isn't evidence of our own creation in the world—like litter. What are other ways we can help the earth?** (Pick up trash, recycle, compost, turn off lights and water, etc.)

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Basket or bag (one for each team of 2-4 kids)
Scavenger Hunt Lists (one per kid)
Pencils (one per kid)
Timer

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.

Sit in a circle around the piles of items collected during the scavenger hunt. **Thank you so much for coming to Bible Skills and Games today. I had fun and I hope you did, too. Tell me, what did you learn about the creation story today?** Allow time for kids to respond. **I learned that we are God's stewards, just like Adam and Eve, which means we have a responsibility to help care for the world. What is one way you are going to care for the world today?** Allow time for kids to respond. **Those are great answers, let's keep them in mind as we pray together.**

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Let's pray: Great Creator, your world is so amazing. There are so many colors and textures and creatures out there and they all came from you. Help us to protect your creation and to always see its value. Be with us today as we try to care for your creation by . . . (Give kids time to name their ideas—silently or aloud.) **Thank you for the chance to care for the world you created. We pray all these things in your name. Amen.**

Workshop Focus: We are created in God's own image!

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

As kids arrive, invite them to join you in a circle on the floor. **God made the whole world! Wow! Today we're going to hear about how God created everything—and created us in God's own image. What do you think that means?** Allow time for kids to respond. Answers will vary. **Being made in God's own image means that we are a reflection of God. Isn't that awesome? What an honor to share our likeness with God.**

Before we get to our games today, let's read the story from the Bible. I need your help, though! We're going to play a mirror game as I read the story. Pair kids up. Assign one as the leader and the other as the follower. Explain that as you read from the Bible, the leader will create actions to go along with the story. The follower will mirror the actions of the leader.

Read the story from the Spark Bible (Genesis 1:1—2:4, pages 2-3) dramatically and encourage kids create fun actions. Give kids the opportunity to mark the story with a Spark Bible Sticker. If your group is predominantly younger, you can read the Creation story from pages 2-7 of the Spark Story Bible.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Pencils

Great job! It's wonderful to hear how God created everything—including all of us. And it's great to hear that we are created in God's own image. We are reflections of God!

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Creation Team Tag

Move to an open area. **We just learned that God created everything in the whole world—including us! We learned something special about how we are created. What did we learn?** (*We are created in God's image.*) **That's right! Let's play a game of tag to remind us all about creation and that we are made in God's image.** Ask Shepherds to help keep everyone safe during this game!

Explain that there will be one tagger who will tag another member of the group. When tagged, that person must stop and the tagger must say, "You are made in God's image and you are good!" Then both players must link arms and continue to tag other people, following the same process. The game continues until all people have been tagged and everyone is linked together.

When everyone is linked, I will ask a question. At that time, run to your Bibles and figure out the answer. It will help for you to pair up with someone of a different age, so that you can use both Bibles.

Use the following questions. Continue play as long as time allows. Create more questions if you desire.

1. What did God create on the second day? (*day and night*)
2. In whose image were people created? (*God's image*)
3. What word did God use to describe creation? (*good*)
4. On what day did God create people? (*the sixth day*)

Guess the Sculpture

Set Up: Write the following sculpting ideas on the scraps of paper: image of God (make a few of these), fish, bird, dog, cat, giraffe, elephant, bear, snake, shark, monkey, pig, camel, lizard, lion, sheep, tree, flower, bug. Put the scraps of paper into a basket.

Activity Instructions

Gather around a table or another hard surface. **Today we've been talking about the fact that God created everything in the whole world. And God created us**

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Pencils

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Clay or dough (variety of colors)
Basket
Small pieces of paper
Marker

in God's own image. Awesome! Let's play a sculpting game that will help us remember all about creation.

Explain that a kid will choose a sculpting idea from the basket and begin to sculpt that thing out of the clay or dough. The group will have to guess what the person is sculpting. When a person guesses successfully, they take over as the new sculptor.

There's one twist, though. If you think that a person is being sculpted, don't say, "person," say, "image of God!" Ask the shepherds to help as kids need it during this game.

The game continues for as long as time allows. If a few kids are getting the answers right all the time be sure to call on some people who haven't answered yet to spread the opportunities around.

When everyone has had a chance to sculpt, compliment the group on their creative work. **That was some wonderful sculpting you kids did. Isn't it amazing, though, that only people get to be the image of God? All the animals and plants of God's creation are great, but only we get the lucky title of image of God. It is quite a responsibility to live up to, don't you think? In what ways does being made in God's image change the way we live?** Allow kids time to respond, accepting all answers.

It is a big responsibility to be made in God's image, and we can all try to live as God wants us to by listening to God's word and caring for others in the world.

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.

Thank you so much for playing our games today. I hope you had fun. I did! I'm glad we could learn about creation. It is cool to be made in God's image! Think about someone who you don't always get along with. Do you think you can see the image of God in that person? We can pray that God will help us treat them as images of God, too.

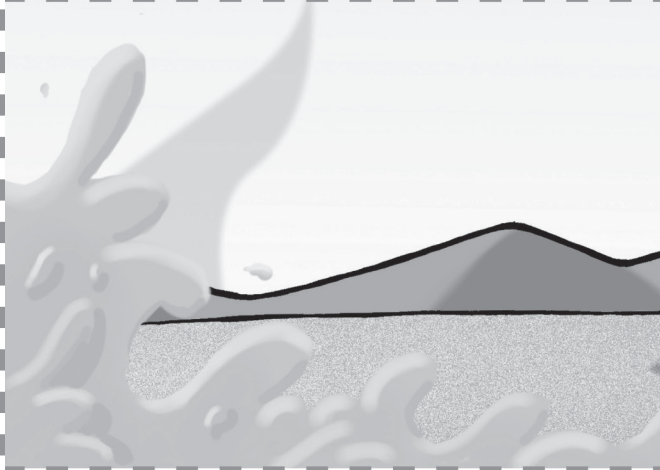
Prayer Time

Let's pray: God of all creation, thank you so much for sharing your image with us. Help us to live up to your image every day and to see that you make all people worthy of love and respect. Please help us especially see that . . . (Invite kids to name people from the above activity in their head or quietly out loud) . . . are all made in your image, too. Help us to be nicer to them because you made them, too. Thank you for helping us do your will. Amen.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None



**God
rested!**

Creation Matching
Memory Cards
Page A

**Day
1**

**Day
2**

**Day
3**

**Day
4**

**Day
5**

**Day
6**

**Day
7**

Creation Matching
Memory Cards
Page B

Scavenger Hunt List

God's creation

1. Something pointy

2. Something colorful

3. Something hard

4. Something soft

5. Something growing

Our creation

1. Something shiny

2. Something recyclable

3. Something littered

4. Something paper

5. Something reusable