

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

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Basket, gauze bandage roll, blanket, play money, prop box</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Oblong cake pan, mixing bowl, spatula, electric beater, table knives, cups, small plates, forks, napkins, water pitcher, cake cutter, cake server, cleanup sponges, cake mix, oil, water, eggs, pre-made chocolate frosting, white squeeze frosting, green squeeze frosting, yellow squeeze frosting, red squeeze frosting, butterscotch chips</p>
Upper Elementary	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Gauze bandage roll, water bottle, coin purse, coins, scarves of varied lengths and colors, prop basket, Bible basket</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Cookie sheets, oven, table knives, spoons, small bowl, waxed paper, masking tape, measuring spoons, measuring cup, cleanup sponges, ready-made piecrust roll, batter, cinnamon, sugar, milk</p>
All Kids	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Bible baskets</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Microwavable mixing bowl, microwave oven, mixing spoon, spatula, measuring cups, oblong cake pan, small plates, napkins, cups, mystery clues, mystery recipe, cleanup sponges, chocolate crispy rice cereal, butter, marshmallows, cooking spray, milk, Snack Mystery sheet (page 71)</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: We can love God, love ourselves, and love our neighbor.

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.sparksundayschool.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)

The Good Samaritan Storytelling

Set Up: Place the Spark Story Bibles in a basket near the storytelling area or entrance. If you have a large group, a sturdy box may work better. Bookmark your Bible to today's story found on page 360. Place today's props (gauze, blanket, and money) in a box near where you sit during storytelling time.

Activity Instructions

Gather your group in the storytelling area. Welcome all the kids and Shepherds. Gently remind kids to pick up a Bible if they have not already done so. **Welcome, everyone! Let's see what is in this box I have today.** Take out the roll of bandage. **I wonder what this is about.** Pause for kids' responses then take out the blanket. **What does this have to do with today's story?** (*I don't know, maybe someone is cold.*) Take out the money. **I am really confused. I think we need to open our Spark Story Bibles and read today's story. It's called The Good Samaritan and it's on page 360.** Hold up your Bible so kids can see the picture on page 360. Read the story aloud. As you read, give kids a clue when you are turning your page. **I think I now know why my box had bandages, a blanket, and some money in it. Do you?** (*Yes!*) **Tell me what these props have to do with the story.** (*The Samaritan put bandages on the man, found him a bed, and paid the innkeeper to look after him.*) **Yes,**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Basket
Gauze bandage roll
Blanket
Play money
Prop box

these props remind us of what the Samaritan did for the hurt man. He covered his wounds, found him a place to rest, and paid someone to look after him. The Samaritan showed love for God, himself, and his neighbor by taking care of the hurt man.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Good Samaritan Frosting Fun

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

Ingredients (serves 12)

- Cake mix, 18.25 ounces (517 grams)
- Oil, 1/3 cup (78 ml)
- Water, 1 cup (236 ml)
- Eggs, 3
- Pre-made chocolate frosting, 16 ounces (453 grams)
- White squeeze frosting, 2 8.4-ounce (238 grams) tubes
- Green squeeze frosting, 2 8.4-ounce (238 grams) tubes
- Yellow squeeze frosting, 2 8.4-ounce (238 grams) tubes
- Red squeeze frosting, 2 8.4-ounce (238 grams) tubes
- Butterscotch chips, 12-ounce (340 grams) bag

Set Up: Make the cake ahead of time following the directions on the box. Be sure the cake is cool by the time the kids frost it. Set up the frosting area with all the needed supplies—table knives, cups of water, and frosting.

Activity Instructions

Send kids and Shepherds to wash hands. Gather everyone in the work area. **There is a cake in this pan. It's a yummy cake but . . . it's missing something.** (*Frosting!*) **It's missing its frosting. So, we are going to frost this cake today; however, we are not just going to frost this cake. We are going to use the frosting to create a scene from today's story of the good Samaritan. Let's think about the story for a minute. What happens on the road in today's story?** (*A man was traveling and he was robbed.*) **A man was traveling on a "scary road" and he was robbed and hurt.** Hold up pages 362-363 in the Spark Story Bible. **Look at this picture. How can we make our frosting look like this dirt road using our frosting supplies?** Point to the frosting supplies. (*Make it bumpy, use the butterscotch chips for rocks, etc.*) **Yes! When we frost the cake, we can make the frosting bumpy. We can add chips for rocks. We can even build it higher by layering frosting and chips. First though, we need to just put a thin layer of frosting on the cake.**

Have kids put a thin layer of chocolate frosting on the cake. Show kids how to dip the knives in water to make the frosting smoother. There is not a correct way to make a bumpy frosting road. Leave it up to the kids and the Holy Spirit.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Oblong cake pan, 9 x 13 x 2 inches (23 x 33 x 5 cm)
Mixing bowl
Spatula
Electric beater
Table knives
Cups
Small plates
Forks
Napkins
Water pitchers
Cake cutter
Cake server
Cleanup sponges

When the road is complete, show kids the frosting supplies. **We now have a scary, bumpy road for the man to travel on. What else do we need to make out of frosting to tell the story of the good Samaritan?** (*the man who got hurt, the Samaritan man, the guys who didn't stop, the inn, etc.*) **Here is some squeeze frosting in different colors and some more chocolate frosting. You may use these tools to complete the scene. Let's see who wants to work on what.** Discuss with the kids who will work on what part of the story. Then, turn them loose to create.

When the work is complete, gather everyone and discuss the scene created on the cake. **Wow! Look at the story of the good Samaritan created in frosting! I see a bumpy road, a (fill in what you see), and a (fill in what you see).** Ask the kids to retell the story to you using the cake. **I think it's time to eat this yummy cake. Let's clean up our workspace and then set our table.** Get to work cleaning up and preparing to share a meal. Wash sticky hands.

Gather at the table. Before cutting the cake, say a quick grace. **God, thank you for frosting, thank you for cake, help us love for Jesus' sake. Amen.** Dig in! Use the cake cutter and spatula to cut and serve. Kids may want to cut their own piece of cake with adult support.

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.

Today we read the story of the good Samaritan. We also learned that God gives us love to share. Do you remember whom we are to love? (*God, ourselves, our neighbors*) **As Christians, we love God, love ourselves, and love our neighbor. If that seems like a lot of people to love, always remember our God is in three parts—God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit—and is here to help you.**

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Let's get ready to pray. Take a deep breath and reach for the sky. Let out your breath, fold your hands, and close your eyes.

**Dear Loving God,
Help us always love you,
Love ourselves,
And love our neighbors as ourselves.
When we forget to love any of these three,
Forgive us and help us try again.
Amen.**

Workshop Focus: We can “go and do likewise.”

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.sparksundayschool.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)

The Good Samaritan Storytelling

Set Up: Place Bibles in a basket and set the basket near the entrance or your storytelling area. Place all props in the prop box near where you sit during storytelling. Mark your Spark Bible at page 1145. If you normally read at a table, clear an area in the room for acting out the story, preferably in the round.

Activity Instructions

Welcome, kids and Shepherds! Gather everyone in the storytelling area in a circle. Make sure everyone has a Bible, and ask everyone to have a seat on the floor so that you are all still in a circle. **In today's Bible, Jesus tells a parable. Who remembers what a parable is?** (*a story that teaches*) **Parables are stories that teach us something. Today's story is The Good Samaritan. Find page 1145 in your Spark Bible. Today's parable begins at the bottom right-hand side. Silently read along with me.** Read today's passage. **Tell me about this parable.** (*A lawyer wanted to test Jesus, Jesus told a story to answer the lawyer, the story told was about a man who was robbed and no one stopped to help him, except Samaritan man.*) **Let's dig a little deeper into this story. There is some history we need to know in order to understand this parable. Look on page 1145 of your Bibles. There is a peach or orange section down at the bottom. Let's read this section.** Pick a volunteer to read this section. **So, Jesus is saying that following all the religious**

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Gauze bandage roll (optional)
Water bottle (optional)
Coin purse (optional)
Coins (optional)
Scarves, varied lengths and colors (optional)
Prop box (optional)
Bible basket (optional)

laws of the day sometimes prevented people from following God's greatest commandment—to love our neighbors! What do you think about that? Pause to hear kids' thoughts.

If you have time, act out the parable. Use the props in the prop box. Ask for volunteer robbers, a priest, a Levite, an injured person, a Samaritan, and an innkeeper.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Cinnamon Sugar Piecrust Bandages

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

Ingredients (serves 18)

- Ready-made piecrust rolls, 15-ounce (425 grams) package
- Butter, 1/4 cup (57 grams)
- Cinnamon, 2 teaspoons (9.5 grams)
- Sugar, 1/2 cup (113 grams)

Set Up: Set out the butter the night before so it will soften. Tear sheets of waxed paper and tape them down in the work area to create a specific dough area. Arrange the remaining supplies and tools in the work area. During the storytelling time, preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit (175 degrees Celsius) and take piecrust dough out of the refrigerator so it's at room temperature before using.

Activity Instructions

Send everyone to wash hands. Gather kids and Shepherds in the work area for today's activity. Reread this portion of today's text: **"But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them"** (Luke 10: 33-34, NRSV). Pause. **A stranger bandaged another stranger's wounds.** Pause.

To help us remember the Samaritan's act of empathy and kindness, we are making bandages today. Not just any bandages; these are edible bandages made from piecrust dough and slathered with butter and sugar and cinnamon. The piecrust dough reminds us of the bandages the Samaritan used to help the injured man. The butter we use today reminds us of the oil the Samaritan used to help the injured man, and the cinnamon sugar reminds us of the wine the Samaritan used to help the injured man.

1. Have kids unroll the piecrust dough rolls and make sure they are flat on the surface.
2. Mix the cinnamon and sugar in a bowl.
3. Cut the piecrust dough into 1-inch-wide (2 cm) strips using the table knives.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Supplies

Oven
Cookie sheets
Table knives
Spoons
Small bowl
Waxed paper
Masking tape
Measuring spoons
Measuring cup
Cleanup sponges

4. Spread butter on each pie dough strip.
5. Carefully sprinkle cinnamon sugar on each strip with a spoon.
6. Roll up the finished dough strips.

As kids take turns making their bandages, discuss today's story. Use conversation starters such as: **I wonder what the Samaritan used for bandages. Why do you suppose the Samaritan poured oil and wine on the man's wounds?**

Place rolled bandages on a cookie sheet and bake for 8 to 10 minutes.

Clean up the work area while bandages are baking and set up the table for snack. When bandages are ready, sit down together and say grace. **Dear God, may the gift of warm food we receive today remind us to "go and do likewise." Amen.**

Munch away on edible bandages while chewing on Jesus' words to "go and do likewise." **What did Jesus mean when he said to the lawyer "Go and do likewise"?** (Luke 10: 37 NRSV) *(We can take care of people who are different than we are, we pass by people who need our help every day, etc.)*

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 said, "Go and do likewise." What did we decide today about this command? What ideas did we come up with? *(Help people at school, don't ignore problems, give money to people who need doctors, etc.)* **We can "go and do likewise." We can take care of other people who need care in big and small ways. Getting a friend a bandage is a small way. Giving money for doctors in a very poor country is a big way of caring for other people.**

Prayer Time

Let's get ready for prayer. Take a slow breath in. Breath out slowly. Breath in one more time. Breath out again. Keep breathing slowly and listen to our prayer today.

Dear God,
You ask us to love our neighbors as ourselves. But there are so many neighbors who need help! Give us the love and energy to "go and do likewise."
Amen.

Spark Resources
 Family Pages



Supplies
 None

Workshop Focus: In God's eyes, everyone is a neighbor.

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)

The Good Samaritan Storytelling

Set Up: Place Bibles in baskets near your entrance or storytelling area. Mark your Bibles for today's story (Spark Story Bible, page 360; and Spark Bible, page 1145).

Activity Instructions

Welcome, kids and Shepherds! Gather everyone in the storytelling area and sit down. Make sure everyone has a Bible. **Hello, everyone! We have a lot to do today, so let's get right to our story. Open your Spark Story Bibles to The Good Samaritan on page 360 of the Spark Story Bible, or if you are using the Spark Bible—that's the one with the stickers—open your Bibles to Luke 10:25-37 on page 1145. I'm reading today's story from the Spark Story Bible first.** Read today's story first in the Spark Story Bible and then in the Spark Bible. **How would you feel if you were hurt and no one helped you?** (*awful, lonely, sad, etc.*) **When we are hurting and no one helps us, it feels yucky inside and out. Does anyone remember what prompted Jesus to tell this story of the good Samaritan?** (*the lawyer who wanted to get to heaven*) **Jesus teaches the lawyer with a story we call a parable. Jesus teaches the lawyer that in God's eyes, everyone is a neighbor. Loving neighbors take care of each other. Normally, Samaritans and Jewish people in Jesus' time did not like each other. But this Samaritan decided to be a good neighbor and help the hurt Jewish man. How do you think the lawyer felt**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Bible baskets

after hearing this story? (*confused, thoughtful, etc.*) **What Jesus said was probably new and confusing to the lawyer who was trying hard to follow the Jewish law. At the end of our reading today, Jesus tells the lawyer to go and help all people.**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Need Your Neighbor Snack Mystery

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

Ingredients (serves 12)

- Chocolate crispy rice cereal, 4 cups (920 grams)
- Butter, 3 tablespoons (43 grams)
- Marshmallows, 10 ounces (285 grams)
- Cooking spray
- Milk, 1 gallon (4 liters)

Set Up: Copy today's clues and the recipe from Snack Mystery sheet. Copy each clue and the recipe separately onto half a piece of paper. Have the clues with you during storytelling time. Ask nine people from your congregation to join in the fun by carrying or holding the clue item in a public place in your church building during your session.

Set up the activity area for cooking today's treats and have all snack supplies ready for table setters.

Activity Instructions

Introduce today's activity at the end of storytelling. **In God's eyes, everyone is a neighbor.** Pause and repeat today's workshop focus. **In God's eyes, everyone is a neighbor. I want you to remember that. You may need it today.** Hold up the clues. **I have here in my hand some clues. These clues will help us make our snack today.** (*What's our snack today?*) **I don't know what our snack is today. It's a mystery! All I know is that in order to solve the mystery, we will need the help of our neighbors.** (*What neighbors?*) **Our church is filled with neighbors today.**

Divide kids up into small groups. Groups of younger kids will include a Shepherd as well. Give each group one or two clues, depending on the size of your group. Give these final instructions before sending everyone on their way to solve the mystery. **You may go anywhere inside the church today to find a neighbor. These neighbors will have an item we need to make our snack. When you find the neighbor with your clue item, kindly ask the neighbor for the item. Remember to say thank you!**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Microwavable mixing bowl
Microwave oven
Mixing spoon
Spatula
Waxed Paper
Measuring cups
Oblong cake pan, 9 x 13 x 2 inches (23 x 33 x 5 cm)
Small plates
Napkins
Cups
Snack Mystery sheet (page 71 of this guide)
Cleanup sponges

If people are worshiping at the same time, remind the kids to be respectful and/or to find only neighbors outside of worship. **When you have gathered your clue items, meet me back here so we can get started making the mystery snack. Let the fun begin!**

As kids return with the items, try to figure out what you are making. When everyone is back, get started making today's treats using the recipe clue.

1. Place butter and marshmallows in a microwave-safe bowl and microwave on high for 3 minutes.
2. Stir the mixture until smooth.
3. Pour in the cereal and mix together.
4. Grease the spatula and cake pan.
5. Pour mixture into the cake pan using the spatula.
6. Press the mixture down into the cake pan smoothing the top.

Clean up the work area, wash sticky hands, and prepare the table for snack. Gather to cut the bars and eat the snack together. Say this quick grace. **God is great! God is good! Let us thank him for our food (and neighbors)! Amen.**

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.

Gather kids again in a quiet voice. Make sure everyone has an extra cereal bar to share with a neighbor. **We solved a mystery today! We solved the mystery of who our neighbors are. Who are our neighbors? (Everyone!) Yes! In God's eyes, everyone is a neighbor.**

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Put your hands together with straight fingers. Now push your hands together. Push. Now release. Did you hear that big breath that came out of all us when we stopped pushing? (Yes!) Proceed in a quiet and slow voice. Take a calm breath in, fold your hands, and close your eyes. We are ready to pray. Repeat after me please.

Dear God,

Your eyes see everyone as a neighbor.

Help our eyes see what you see.

Amen.

Snack Mystery

Mystery Clue #1: Find a neighbor carrying a mixing bowl.

Mystery Clue #2: Find a neighbor holding a box of cereal.

Mystery Clue #3: Find a neighbor holding a bag of marshmallows.

Mystery Clue #4: Find a neighbor carrying a stick of butter.

Mystery Clue #5: Find a neighbor with a cake pan.

Mystery Clue #6: Find a neighbor with a roll of wax paper.

Mystery Clue #7: Find a neighbor with a spatula and a mixing spoon.

Mystery Clue #8: Find a neighbor with measuring cups.

Mystery Clue #9: Find a neighbor holding a recipe.

Mystery Recipe

Chocolate crispy rice cereal, 4 cups (920 grams)

Butter, 3 tablespoons (43 grams)

Marshmallows, 10 ounces (285 grams)

Cooking spray

Place butter and marshmallows in a microwave-safe bowl and microwave on high for 3 minutes. Stir the mixture until smooth. Pour in the cereal and mix together. Grease the spatula and cake pan. Pour mixture into the cake pan using the spatula. Press the mixture down into the cake pan, smoothing the top.

