

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<p>Lower Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God wants us to help.</p> <p>THEY CAN'T HELP HELPING OTHERS: Kids will watch a video clip that illustrates The Good Samaritan story, with one character offering help when it's needed most.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Blindfold</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: DVD player and TV, <i>Scholastic Video Collection: Goggles</i> OR <i>Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!</i></p>
<p>Upper Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God says, "Here's some love. Pass it on . . ."</p> <p>HELP IS ON THE WAY—GOD'S WAY: Kids will watch a video clip that illustrates The Good Samaritan story, with one character offering help when it's needed most.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Whiteboard, whiteboard marker</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: DVD player and TV, <i>Amazing Grace</i> OR <i>Napoleon Dynamite</i></p>
<p>All Kids</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God wants us to help each other.</p> <p>YOU CAN'T SPELL "SAMARITAN" WITHOUT "SMART": Kids will watch a video clip that illustrates The Good Samaritan story, with one character offering help when it's needed most.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Cue cards that contain exclamations of a wounded man, such as "Owww!" "Augghhh!!!" "Help me!!!" "My foot!" "HELLLLLLPPPP!!!!!"</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: DVD player and TV, <i>The Ultimate Gift</i> OR <i>WALL-E</i></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 wants us to help.

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: Have the blindfold and open seat ready by the front of class.

Activity Instructions

Gather in a circle and begin when everyone has arrived. **Welcome to Video! Today we are going to talk about the good Samaritan. He appears in a story Jesus tells about helping people. In Jesus' time, people did not like Samaritans very much. But in Jesus' story, the Samaritan does something wonderful to help a person who is in big trouble.**

Has anyone ever helped you when you were in big trouble? Who were they and what did they do? Allow kids time to respond. **Let's turn to The Good Samaritan on page 360 in the Spark Story Bible.** Invite kids to follow the action.

As you can see, Jesus really wants us to help our neighbor! So how do we do that? Let's learn with this activity. And guess what? You get to help ME!

Instruct kids to take the open seat and move it somewhere in the classroom after you have gone out into the hall. Once outside the classroom, tie a blindfold over your eyes. Students will then try to guide you back to the open seat and get you to sit down. They'll do this by using voice commands, but without touching you.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
Blindfold

When you are safe in the seat and have the blindfold off, say: **Wow, that's a relief. I couldn't have made it without you. It looks like we have a classroom full of excellent Samaritans! Give yourselves a big hand for giving me a big hand!**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

They Can't Help Helping Others

Set Up: Preview and select the DVD clip you would like to use. Set up the TV and DVD player in your space, making sure that everyone in the room will be able to see it. If desired, prepare a snack for the kids to enjoy while they watch the DVD. Ask Shepherds to help you with this. *Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

Video Option 1: Scholastic Video Collection: Goggles (from the DVD *Noisy Nora . . . and More Stories About Mischief*, 2007, animated)

Start cue: (Chapter 1, 0:00) Start of video (pick "Goggles!" from the episode selection on menu)

End cue: (Chapter 1, 5:40) End of episode

Scene set-up: When Peter and Archie find a pair of motorcycle goggles, a gang of big boy bullies knocks Peter down. Though Archie is smaller, Peter protects him, and together they outsmart the bullies.

Activity Instructions for Scholastic Video Collection: Goggles

Move to the area where you will watch the video. **Today we're going to learn how the good Samaritan helped someone who was beaten up and left on the side of the road. He came to the aid of someone who really needed his help! Likewise, Peter is a great friend to Archie, who is a lot smaller. When they find a pair of motorcycle goggles and get cornered by a gang of bullies, Peter could've run away or turned against his friend to save himself. Has anyone ever seen a bully at school? What do you think of bullies?** Allow kids time to discuss.

Watch what Peter does in this video, and how he protects his friend and helps him when he needs it the most.

Show "Goggles!" using the cues above for starting and stopping points.

Following the clip, discuss the video using these questions: **Does Peter let Archie face the bullies alone, or does he stand with him?** (*He stands with him.*) **When the bullies hit Peter, does he stop looking out for Archie?** (*No!*) **Why is Peter like the good Samaritan in Jesus' parable?** (*He is a helper who does the right thing in a bad or dangerous situation.*) **If you were in Peter's situation, what do you think you would do and why?** Allow kids time to discuss.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Video Option 1: *Scholastic Video Collection: Goggles*
DVD player and TV

Video Option 2: *Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!*
DVD player and TV

Like the Samaritan, Peter is a loyal friend to Archie. He's the person who stands up to danger and doesn't walk away. The Samaritan did the right thing, at just the right time, for the hurt man. He didn't let his fear get the best of him!

Video Option 2: *Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!* (1970, animated)

Start cue: (Middle of chapter 1, 13:58) Narrator says: "All that late afternoon, and late into the night . . ."

End cue: (End of chapter 1, 24:45) End credits.

Scene set-up: An eagle drops Horton's clover into a clover patch. Horton's clover has the residents of Whoville on it. Horton picks more than 3 billion clovers to find his clover, and braves all sorts of dangers to protect the residents of Whoville.

Activity Instructions for *Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!*

Move to the area where you will watch the video. **Today we're going to learn how the good Samaritan helped someone who'd been beaten up and left on the side of the road. He came to the aid of someone who really needed his help! Likewise, Horton is a great friend to Dr. Who-Vee and the residents of Whoville, who live on a dust speck. Horton will go to any lengths to protect them, even when it means that he'll be in danger himself. June Kangaroo and the Wickersham Brothers chase after him and bully him. Has anyone ever seen a person bullying someone? What do you think of bullies?** Allow kids time to discuss.

Watch what Horton does in this video, and how he protects his friend, Dr. Who-Vee, helping him when he needs it the most.

Show *Horton Hears a Who!* using the cues above for starting and stopping points.

Following the clip, discuss the video using these questions: **Does Horton let Dr. Who-Vee face the dangers alone, or does he stand with him?** (*He stands with him.*) **When Horton gets roped and caged, does he stop looking out for the Whos?** (*No!*) **Why is Horton like the good Samaritan in Jesus' parable?** (*He is a helper who does the right thing in a bad or dangerous situation.*) **If you were in Horton's situation, what do you think you would do and why?** Allow kids time to discuss.

Like the Samaritan, Horton is the loyal friend to Dr. Who-Vee. He's the one who stands up to danger and doesn't walk away. The Samaritan did the right thing, at just the right time, for the hurt man. He didn't let his fear get the best of him!

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. If space permits, invite the kids to form a circle.

Take a minute to think about the video we just watched, and what a Good Samaritan can do when someone is in a bad situation. How can you be a helper to someone who needs it? Think about that, and remember that you can make a big difference in someone's life by helping.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to echo each line:

**The good Samaritan didn't flinch
When he saw someone in a pinch.
He stopped to help and lend a hand
When we help, too, how tall we stand!
Amen.**

Workshop Focus: God says, “Here’s some love. Pass it on . . .”

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)

The Good Samaritan Storytelling

Set Up: Have whiteboard and marker ready at the front of the class.

Activity Instructions

Gather in a circle and begin when everyone has arrived. **Welcome to Video! Today we are going to talk about the good Samaritan and how he stopped to help someone who was hurt by the side of the road, even when others had passed him by. In Jesus’ time, traveling was dangerous and difficult. There were no cars, and many people either traveled by donkey or on foot. It was especially dangerous to go anywhere at night or alone since they had no streetlights! Even during the day, you might be a sitting duck for someone out to rob you. That’s what happened to the traveler in Jesus’ good Samaritan parable. It was a very believable story for the people of his day, because incidents like this happened all the time.**

While travel is a lot safer today, we have people all around us who need our help because they face dangers. We’re going to make a list of those people, and talk about what they need and how we can help them.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Dry-erase board
Marker

On the dry-erase board, take suggestions from kids and be prepared to offer a few of your own. As an extension beyond mere discussion, consider taking on someone who needs help, as a Samaritan activity. When the list is done, say: **Wow, that's some list. As you can see, there are always people who need help. Jesus' tale still speaks to us 2,000 years later in very real ways.**

Make sure kids have their Spark Bibles and are ready to turn to page 1145. Read The Good Samaritan story in Luke 10:25-37 on pages 1145-1146 in the Spark Bible. As an option, consider using illustrations from the Spark Story Bible (pages 360-365) to punctuate the action.

Has someone ever helped you when you really needed it? Allow time for kids to discuss. **How did it make you feel to have someone come to your aid?** Allow time for kids to discuss.

Invite kids to use their Spark Bible Stickers if they wish, and then share which verses they marked.

Today we are going to watch a video clip that shows the way helpers can make a difference in people's lives.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Help Is on the Way—God's Way

Set Up: Preview and select the DVD clip you would like to use. Set up the TV and DVD player in your space, making sure that everyone in the room will be able to see it. If desired, you can prepare a snack for the kids to enjoy while they watch the DVD. *Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

Video Option 1: *Amazing Grace* (2006, PG)

Start cue: (Start of chapter 19, 1:25:51) John Newton is dictating, "And the slaves are flogged on the wall . . ."

End cue: (End of chapter 21, 1:40:36) Pro-slavery British parliament member throws a chair against the wall.

Scene set-up: William Wilberforce is fighting to abolish slavery in Great Britain in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Though he runs into many obstacles in his quest, he never gives up because he believes so much in the cause of helping the slaves, who have no rights in the British legal system. For inspiration, he visits his old friend John Newton, who wrote the hymn "Amazing Grace."

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Video Option 1: *Amazing Grace*

DVD player and TV

Video Option 2: *Napoleon Dynamite*

DVD player and TV

Activity Instructions for *Amazing Grace*

Move to the area where you will watch the video and invite kids to be seated. **God gives us all the chance to be Good Samaritans. All we have to do is keep our eyes open to see when someone needs our help, and listen for God's call. That's what the Samaritan does in Jesus' story. Let's watch a clip about another courageous person who listens to God's call to help.**

Brief kids with the scene set-up before starting the film. Ask them to observe how William Wilberforce keeps doing the right thing, even though it is highly unpopular and extremely hard to do.

When the clip is over, use the following questions to discuss the clip: **What does John Newton tell William about his role in helping free the slaves?** (*That they have a lot of work to do.*) **Why is the fight to free the slaves so difficult?** (*There are many legal obstacles, and people make a lot of money trading slaves.*) **Does William ever consider quitting because the obstacles are so difficult?** (*No!*) **How are the British slaves like the man on the side of the road in the Samaritan story?** Allow kids time to discuss.

Video Option 2: *Napoleon Dynamite* (2004, PG)

Start cue: (Middle of chapter 17, 1:16:24) Summer Wheatly walks on stage to give her speech for class president to wild applause.

End cue: (Start of chapter 20, 1:26:47) End credits.

Scene set-up: Pedro gets discouraged as he's about to make his speech to run for class president. His opponent, Summer Wheatly, gets a great reception for her speech and skit. But Pedro's friend and campaign manager, Napoleon Dynamite, doesn't give up on him, and steps up to bat for him at Pedro's weakest moment.

Activity Instructions for *Napoleon Dynamite*

Move to the area where you will watch the video and invite kids to be seated. **God gives us all the chance to be Good Samaritans. All we have to do is keep our eyes open when someone needs our help, and listen for God's call. That's what the Samaritan does in Jesus' story. Let's watch a clip about another courageous person who answers the call to help.**

Brief kids with the scene set-up before starting the film. Ask them to observe how Napoleon Dynamite doesn't even hesitate to stand by his friend Pedro, even when he wants to back out of running for high school class president against a much more popular opponent.

When the clip is over, use the following questions to discuss the clip: **When Pedro tells Napoleon he doesn't want to run for school president anymore, what does Napoleon tell him?** (*to listen to his heart*) **When Pedro gives a weak speech, what does Napoleon do for him?** (*He goes on stage and does a wild dance as part of the talent skits that accompany candidate speeches.*) **Does Napoleon ever consider giving up, even when Pedro does?** (*No!*) **How does the crowd react to Napoleon's dance?** (*They give it a standing ovation.*) **Has a friend ever gone to bat for you like Napoleon Dynamite?** Allow kids time to discuss.

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 all for joining in the Video Workshop today. And thank you to the Shepherds who brought you here: Let's give them all a high five!

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

If time and space permit, invite participants to form a circle for closing prayer. Invite participants to take a moment to remember The Good Samaritan story, a story that shows someone brave enough to step out and help the helpless.

As we gather in a circle, think about the things the good Samaritan teaches us. His story is very much alive. We can all help those who are hurt and threatened by all sorts of dangers.

How will you encourage others to be Good Samaritans? Invite kids to respond.

Let's pray. Please repeat each line after me when I pray it, and use hand motions:

The good Samaritan made a stand (two thumbs up)

To help a hurt and wounded man. (turn fists in a circle as if wrapping a bandage)

When other people passed him by (whooshing motion with hand, from left to right)

This man of God gave love a try. (hands crossed over chest)

Amen.

Workshop Focus: God wants us to help each other.

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: Have your cue cards off to the side and ready to accompany your reading of The Good Samaritan text.

Activity Instructions

Gather in a circle and begin when everyone has arrived. **Welcome to Video! Today we are going to talk about the good Samaritan and how he stopped to help someone who was hurt by the side of the road, even when others had passed him by. In Jesus' time, traveling was dangerous and difficult. There were no cars, and many people either traveled by donkey or on foot. It was especially dangerous to go anywhere at night or alone since there were no streetlights! Let's listen to The Good Samaritan story!**

If your group is made up of primarily younger kids, read The Good Samaritan on page 360 in the Spark Story Bible. If the group is primarily older, turn to Luke 10:25-37 in the Spark Bible on page 1145. Read with special emphasis on how other people, including a religious leader, passed by the wounded man before the Samaritan stopped to help him.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Cue cards that contain exclamations of a wounded man, such as "Owww!" "Auggghh!!!" "Help me!!!" "My foot!" "HELLLLLLPPPP!!!!!"

As you read, ask kids to punctuate the story by groaning when the wounded man gets passed up. Do this with the cue cards that you prepared, and hold them up at strategic times. Encourage kids to get louder as the reading goes on, but also to stop each groan on your signal.

If you are reading from the Spark Bible, invite kids to use their Spark Bible Stickers to mark the story.

The good Samaritan doesn't expect anything for his deeds. In fact, stopping on a road where robbers may be close by is probably a dangerous thing for him to do. But he does it anyway, because he can't bear to pass someone who really needs help and attention. He makes a huge difference and probably saves the man's life.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

You Can't Spell "Samaritan" Without "Smart"

Set Up: Preview and select the DVD clip you would like to use. Set up the TV and DVD player in your space, making sure that everyone in the room will be able to see it. If desired, you can prepare a snack for the kids to enjoy while they watch the DVD. *Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

Video Option 1: *The Ultimate Gift* (2006, PG)

Start cue: (Chapter 8, 25:02) A gate opens and Jason pulls in driving his yellow Dodge sports car.

End cue: (Middle of chapter 11, 39:36) Jason says, "Thank you," and we hear Red start to speak off screen. (Stop video before Red's speech starts.)

Scene set-up: Trust-fund baby Jason Stevens is cut off from his money after his rich grandfather dies. As part of his grandfather's will, he must complete tasks that challenge him to grow up. One is to make a true friend. When he loses his money, all of his friends bail out on him. He has a shot at finding a true friend when a little girl named Emily Rose takes a chance on him.

Activity Instructions for *The Ultimate Gift*

Invite kids to be seated. Brief them with the scene set-up before starting the film. Ask them to think about what it would be like to be a kid who has suddenly had everything taken away from him and has no friends. **As you watch the video, pretend that you're Jason Stevens. You're used to being rich and having everything go your way. And now, you've had it all taken away. Even your friends have left you. Who would be your friend now?**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Video Option 1: *The Ultimate Gift*

DVD player and TV

Video Option 2: *WALL-E*

DVD player and TV

When the clip is over, use the following questions to discuss the clip: **Does Jason get any help from his girlfriend, his friends, or his mother when he loses everything?** (No!) **Does Jason seem like a likeable person to you? Why?** (no, because he's spoiled and rude) **When Emily learns that she may get nothing in return for being Jason's friend, what does she do?** (She goes through with it anyway.) **When Emily says to Jason, "You owe me," do you think she means money, or loyalty and friendship?** Allow kids time to discuss.

Everyone needs a friend, even a spoiled rich kid like Jason. It doesn't matter who you are—everyone needs help now and then. Good Samaritans recognize that and deliver help at just the right time, without thought of reward.

Video Option 2: WALL-E (2008, G, animated)

Start cue: (Start of chapter 23, 1:02:17) Female public-address-system voice says, "The Lido Deck is now closing."

End cue: (Middle of chapter number 26, 1:15:12) WALL-E and Eve lock hands and she says, "Directive."

Scene set-up: Eve and WALL-E are trying to stay hidden so Eve can deliver a plant specimen to the captain of the Axiom. When Eve gets to the captain with the plant, she sees the film of when she was in suspended animation on Earth. From this film, she learns that WALL-E was watching over her when she was asleep. And when he sensed she was in danger, WALL-E risked his life for Eve.

Activity Instructions for WALL-E

Invite kids to be seated. Brief them with the scene set-up before starting the film. Ask them to think about what it would be like to be a kid who has suddenly had everything taken away from him and has no friends. **As you watch the video, think about how WALL-E shows his care and concern for Eve. He is willing to put himself at risk to make sure Eve finishes her mission, to deliver the plant to the captain of the spaceship Axiom. Could Eve ask for a better friend?**

When the clip is over, use the following questions to discuss the clip: **What does Eve see when she plays the footage of her time on Earth for the captain?** (She sees that WALL-E watched over her while she was asleep.) **When the autopilot attacks WALL-E, does he hide or look out for himself?** (No!) **How is Eve changed as a result of WALL-E's kindness to her?** (She considers taking care of him her new "directive.")

Everyone needs a friend, even a brave robot like Eve. It doesn't matter who you are—everyone needs help now and then. Good Samaritans recognize that and deliver help at just the right time, without thought of reward.

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 Jesus' time, Samaritans were not well-liked people. Many felt prejudice toward them. But in his story, Jesus suggests that Samaritans can be good and godly if they do the right thing and help those in need. It was a powerful message Jesus had in terms of what it took to be a child of God: It had nothing to do with religious authority, riches, or military power, which are all reasons for being important in Jesus' day.

We can all be Good Samaritans, because 2,000 years later, the world still has many people who suffer and need help. We can't fix everything, but like the Samaritan, we can open our eyes and hearts to the hurting people we encounter as we walk our road in life. Can you think of anyone who is hurting right now and needs love and prayers? Pause.

As we pray, let's thank God for challenging us all to follow the good Samaritan's example of helping our neighbors.

Prayer Time

Creator God,

We take time to remember the good Samaritan, and give thanks that his example speaks to us today. When we see someone who needs our love, our care, our concern, give us the courage to act and to be a force for good. Help us grow into the kind of good neighbors you would have us become. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus.

Amen.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None