

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<p>Lower Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God provides enough for all to share.</p> <p>A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY! Kids watch a video clip in which friends pool their resources and learn the joy of sharing.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bible</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Fish-shaped crackers, small ziplock bags</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: DVD player and TV, <i>Elmo's Magic Cookbook</i> or <i>Yo Gabba Gabba! New Friends</i>, ball, pizza pan, UNO® card game, crayons, small ziplock bags of fish-shaped crackers from the Open the Bible activity</p>
<p>Upper Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: Jesus makes small gifts into a blessing for many.</p> <p>FEAST YOUR EYES ON GOD'S GOODNESS! Kids watch a video clip in which people are amazed by an unexpected gift of abundance and yummy treats.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Lunch box containing five cookies and two fish-shaped crackers</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: DVD player and TV, <i>Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs</i> or <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i></p>
<p>All Kids</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: Serving brings people together.</p> <p>ALL FOR LUNCH AND LUNCH FOR ALL! Kids watch a video clip in which characters serve others and draw people in with their generosity.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Apron, chef's hat, pots, pans, oven mitts, various kitchen props that call to mind cooking and serving food</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: DVD player and TV, <i>The Princess and the Frog</i> or <i>Ratatouille</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 provides enough for all to share.

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)

Jesus Feeds 5,000 Storytelling

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

Set Up: Fill a small ziplock bag with fish-shaped crackers for each kid.

Activity Instructions

Invite kids to be seated. **Today, we are going to learn about sharing! Sharing with others can be fun, and sharing makes everyone happy. What are some things that you like to share with your friends?** Invite kids to respond.

Show the two fish-shaped crackers. **I brought a snack to share with the class today, but I only have this much. Do you think there will be enough for everyone to have some? Probably not. These two crackers would hardly feed our whole group, even if we took teeny tiny bites. In our Bible story today, thousands of people came to hear Jesus preach. When lunchtime rolled around, Jesus' disciples worried about how to feed everyone. They didn't have much food to share, but Jesus had the answer. Let's read our story and see what happened!**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bible

Supplies
Fish-shaped crackers
Small ziplock bags

Read Jesus Feeds 5,000 starting on page 426 of the Spark Story Bible. Show the pictures as you read and use the story brief to add some props and drama to your reading, if desired.

If Jesus asked you to share your lunch with 5,000 people, what would you say?

What would you tell your family when you got home that night? Allow some time for kids to respond. **I have a special treat today!** Hold up a small ziplock bag of crackers. **There are enough fish crackers for everybody. And we'll be able to enjoy them during our video today.**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

A Little Goes a Long Way!

Set Up: Preview and select the DVD clip you would like to use. Collect the additional supplies for the video clip you will be showing. Set up the TV and DVD player in your space, making sure that everyone in the room will be able to see it. For a snack, use the small ziplock bags of fish-shaped crackers from the Open the Bible activity. *Before serving any food, check with caregivers for kids with food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

Video Option 1: *Elmo's Magic Cookbook* (2001, Not Rated)

Start Cue: (Chapter 8, 15:58) After the animated hand-washing song. Alan uses a towel to dry Elmo's hands. "Thank you, Alan."

End Cue: (Chapter 10, 33:57) Genie waves her wand and makes Chef Emeril disappear.

Scene Set Up: Elmo finds a magic cookbook that provides all of the ingredients to make new and fun dishes. He learns that even a little kid can cook and that it's fun to work together and help each other.

Activity Instructions for *Elmo's Magic Cookbook*

1. **What if I told you that you had to make lunch for 5,000 people? What would you do?** Allow some time for kids to share. **In our Bible story, Jesus' disciples were very worried about how they were going to feed everyone. They forgot that Jesus can do anything! Jesus used the gift that one little boy shared—his lunch of five loaves and two fish—and made it into a feast for all to enjoy. Can you imagine if that happened at your school or at church? If you brought your one jelly sandwich to Jesus, what would you think if Jesus suddenly used it to make enough food for 5,000 people?**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Option 1: *Elmo's Magic Cookbook*

DVD player and TV

Ball

Pizza pan

UNO® card game

Crayons

Small ziplock backs of fish-shaped crackers from Open the Bible

Option 2: *Yo Gabba Gabba! New Friends*

DVD player and TV

Ball

Pizza pan

UNO® card game

Crayons

Small ziplock bags of fish-shaped crackers from Open the Bible

2. Show the ball, the pizza pan, the UNO® card game, and the crayons. Invite kids to think up ways they could share these items with friends. (*play together with the ball or cards, make a pizza with all their favorite toppings and have lunch together, do an art project together*)
3. **In our video clip today, we will see how people learn to share, and we'll see that they are surprised by how fun sharing can be. As you watch these movie clips that show friends working and playing together, think about your own friends and the things you like to do together.**
4. Pass out small bags of fish-shaped crackers. Show the video clip. Afterward, discuss the video clip using these questions.
 - **What does Elmo learn about sharing?**
 - **How do Elmo and his friends work together?** (*Chef Emeril and the magic genie help Elmo and friends make their pizzas. Elmo shares ingredients, and then he and his friend share a meal. They have fun cooking together.*)
 - **If you had a magic genie who could surprise you with a favorite snack, what would you wish for? Who would you invite to share it with you?**

Video Option 2: *Yo Gabba Gabba! New Friends* (2009, Not Rated)

Start Cue: (The last episode on the disc "Share," Chapter 1, 01:00)

End Cue: (Chapter 2, 23:20) End of episode. DJ Lance puts the characters back in their carrying case.

Scene Set Up: DJ Lance gives gifts to his friends and encourages them to share. Various scenes and short clips show the value of sharing, working together, and appreciating each other.

Activity Instructions for *Yo Gabba Gabba! New Friends*

1. **What if I told you that you had to make lunch for 5,000 people? What would you do?** Allow some time for kids to share. **In our Bible story, Jesus' disciples were very worried about how they were going to feed everyone. They forgot that Jesus can do anything! Jesus used the gift that one little boy shared—his lunch of five loaves and two fish—and made it into a feast for all to enjoy. Can you imagine if that happened at your school or at church? If you brought your one jelly sandwich to Jesus, what would you think if Jesus suddenly used it to make enough for 5,000 people?**
2. Show the ball, the pizza pan, the UNO® card game, and the crayons. Invite kids to think up ways they could share these items with friends (*play together with the ball or cards, make a pizza with all their favorite toppings and have lunch together, do an art project together*).
3. **In our video clip today, we will see how people learn to share, and we'll see that they are surprised by how fun sharing can be. As you watch these movie friends work and play together, think about your own friends and the things you like to do together.**

4. Pass out small bags of fish-shaped crackers. Show the video clip. Afterward, discuss the video clip using these questions.
- **How do the friends feel when they are surprised by the gifts that DJ Lance gives them?** (*Happy! They love their new toys that give them new ways to play and work together! But some characters are afraid to share. When they do, however, they see that they have much more fun than when they are alone.*)
 - **Have you ever received a gift that was a total surprise? Were you able to share it with any of your friends?**

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.

Everyone was surprised and amazed the day that Jesus fed 5,000 people. Because the little boy was willing to share his small lunch, everyone went home happy that day. Have you ever shared something that made someone else happy? What might you do this week to share what you have with a friend?

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to stand in a circle. Practice the response "All we have we give to you," and then close with the prayer below.

Jesus, take the gifts we bring, (*All we have we give to you.*)

All we have, an offering. (*All we have we give to you.*)

Let us trust you to provide (*All we have we give to you.*)

All we need for all our lives. (*All we have we give to you.*)

Help us serve in all we do. (*All we have we give to you.*)

Amen.

Workshop Focus: Jesus makes small gifts into a blessing for many.

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)

Jesus Feeds 5,000 Storytelling

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

Invite kids to be seated. Ask kids what they usually have for lunch at school. Show your lunch box. **I brought some food today, enough for everyone to have as much as they want!** Show the cookies and crackers. **What do you think? Will this feed everyone?**

You are right if you think it would be hard for us to stretch this amount of food far enough to feed all of us. In today's story, the disciples faced a similar problem. Thousands of people had gathered to hear Jesus preach. At lunchtime, the disciples started to panic. They didn't know how to take care of everyone.

What would you do in that situation? Allow time for kids to respond. **Let's read the story and see what happened.**

Read John 6:1-14 in the Spark Bible starting on page 1178. At verses 8-9, ask kids what they would be thinking if they were the boy. Would they believe their lunch could serve 5,000 people? Would they think that Jesus was crazy? Would they worry that someone was taking their lunch away?

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Lunch box containing five cookies and two fish-shaped crackers

Invite kids to mark the story with their Spark Bible Stickers and to share about which stickers they used.

Imagine how amazing it must have been to be at that feast! Jesus made someone's small gift into a blessing for many. What do you think people told their families when they went home? What amazing things has Jesus surprised you with in your life lately? Allow time for kids to respond to each question.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Feast Your Eyes on God's Goodness!

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 kids to enjoy while they watch the DVD (suggestion: cookies and/or fish-shaped crackers).

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

Video Option 1: *Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs* (2009, PG, animated)

Start Cue: (Chapter 1, 03:54) Flint's voiceover says, "My dream was to help my hometown . . ." The scene shows the A from "Atlantic" on a map of the ocean.

End Cue: (Chapter 8, 21:54) Sam begs Flint to make more food. Flint says, "Yes!"

Scene Set Up: Flint loves inventing, even though his ideas don't always work out as planned. He creates a food-making machine for his hometown, in the hopes that it will add variety to their boring diet.

Activity Instructions for *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*

1. **On page 1178 of your Spark Bible, there are questions in an orange box. One of them asks, "What's the longest you've gone without eating?"** Invite kids to respond.
2. **Food is a basic necessity of life. If we don't get enough, we'll die. And if we eat the same thing over and over—say, sardines or cabbage—we won't get the nutrients that come with a varied diet that includes many kinds of food. What is your favorite food? If you could have only one kind of food every day, what would it be?** Allow time for kids to respond.
3. **In our video clip today, we'll see characters who have very little. They need some variety in their lives. Sort of like the people in our Bible story, they need a miracle to change their circumstances! As you watch the characters in our video clip, think about how their circumstances compare to those in our Bible story.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Option 1: *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*
DVD player and TV

Option 2: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
DVD player and TV

4. Show the video clip. Afterward, discuss the video clip using these questions.
 - **How would you like to eat nothing but sardines every day?**
 - **How would you feel if someone (like Flint!) brought you a new option (like cheeseburgers from heaven!)?**
 - **How do you think the people in the story felt when Jesus made enough food for everyone?**

Video Option 2: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (2005, PG)

Start Cue: (Chapter 8, 0:25) Charlie turns off the TV. “Dad, why aren’t you at work?”

End Cue: (Chapter 14, 0:42) Willy Wonka escorts the group into his wondrous chocolate empire. “Oh yeah, it’s very beautiful.”

Scene Set Up: Charlie’s family is as poor as they come. They eat only cabbage soup—more water than cabbage on most days. Charlie and Grandpa Joe think that their fortune could change if they could only find the last Golden Ticket and win a chance to meet Willy Wonka.

Activity Instructions for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

1. **On page 1178 of your Spark Bible, there are questions in an orange box. One of them asks, “What’s the longest you’ve gone without eating?”** Invite kids to respond.
2. **Food is a basic necessity of life. If we don’t get enough, we’ll die. And if we eat the same thing over and over—say, sardines, or cabbage—we won’t get the nutrients that come with a varied diet that includes many kinds of food. What is your favorite food? If you could have only one kind of food every day, what would it be?** Allow time for kids to respond.
3. **In our video clip today, we’ll see characters who have very little. They need some variety in their lives. Sort of like the people in our Bible story, they need a miracle to change their circumstances! As you watch the characters in our video clip, think about how their circumstances compare to those in our Bible story.**
4. Show the video clip. Afterward, discuss the video clip using these questions.
 - **How would you describe Charlie’s life?** (*Charlie’s family had nothing but cabbage to eat. He was loved and happy, but he understood that there were many concerns about where the money for rent and food would come from.*)
 - **What do you think he was thinking when Willy Wonka opened the door to the amazing (and completely edible!) garden of candy delights?** (*Surely, Willy Wonka’s abundant garden of wonders must have seemed completely unbelievable to a boy like Charlie.*)
 - **When has someone surprised you by giving you more than you ever would have expected or asked for?**

We can say thanks because Jesus provides for us every 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 Wrap Up.

Everyone was surprised and amazed the day that Jesus fed 5,000 people. Because the little boy was willing to share his small lunch, everyone went home happy that day. Have you ever shared something that made someone else happy? What might you do this week to share what you have with a friend?

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to form a circle, then to turn facing outward, with their hands outstretched, as if reaching out to the world. Close with the prayer below:

**God of all,
Teach us to share all that we have,
and to trust that you are doing great things in the world.
Amen.**

Workshop Focus: Serving brings people together.

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)

Jesus Feeds 5,000 Storytelling

Set Up: Decorate the room with kitchen and restaurant items. Leaders dress as chefs and restaurant staff. Ask leaders to dress in aprons and wait staff attire (white shirt, black pants). If possible, have a “host” standing at the door when kids arrive to show them to their seats, like in a restaurant.

Activity Instructions

Invite kids to be seated. **As you can see, today we’re thinking about—cooking! Actually, we’re thinking about having a feast! We’re throwing a party, and YOU are the honored guests!**

When we celebrate special occasions and holidays with our families, we almost always gather around a special meal. Inviting someone to a special meal is a great way to show them love and care. In today’s Bible story, Jesus prepared a very special meal for a LOT of people. In fact, it was kind of a surprise party! Let’s listen to the story and see what happened.

Read Jesus Feeds 5,000 from the Spark Story Bible pages 426-431. Show the pictures as you read. Invite older kids to help with the reading or to help younger kids follow along in their Spark Story Bibles. Then read the story of Jesus Feeds

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Apron
Chef’s hat
Pots
Pans
Oven mitts
Various kitchen props that call to mind cooking and serving food

5,000 from the Spark Bible in John 6:1-14. Invite older kids to add a Spark Bible Sticker to their story. **How did Jesus take care of his “dinner guests”?** (*Jesus fed their bodies with food and fed their souls with the message of God’s love.*) **What do you think they told their families when they went home that day?** Allow time for some responses.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

All For Lunch and Lunch for All!

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 kids to enjoy while they watch the DVD (suggestion: cookies and/or fish-shaped crackers, to simulate loaves and fish).

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

Video Option 1: *The Princess and the Frog* (2009, G, animated)

Start Cue: (Chapter 1, 0:00) Beginning of movie

End Cue: (Chapter 4, 0:16) End of song “I’m Almost There.” Tiana and her mother shut the doors behind them.

Scene Set Up: Tiana’s gift for cooking allows her to show love to her community in many ways. In this scene, her hospitality shines through as she gathers her neighbors for a meal together, serves customers, agrees to help a friend throw a party, and dreams of owning a restaurant where many will gather for fun and fine dining.

Activity Instructions for *The Princess and the Frog*

- If you were cooking a special meal, who would you invite? What would you serve?** Allow time for kids to respond. **Jesus often shared meals with others. Just like us, he got hungry. And just like us, he had friends whom he cared about. Often, like us, he made meals a group event, dining with friends, or cooking for his disciples. In our Bible story today, Jesus and his disciples put on a picnic for the crowds. Together, they hosted a great surprise feast for everyone! In our video clip today, we’ll see characters who work hard so that others can enjoy a wonderful meal. While you’re watching, think about how this clip might connect to our Bible story for the day.**
- Show the video clip. Afterward, discuss the video clip using these questions.
 - **Tiana keeps her cool and wears a smile, even when her job is very demanding. Why do you think she is able to keep smiling, even when her**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Option 1: *The Princess and the Frog*

DVD player and TV

Option 2: *Ratatouille*

DVD player and TV

job is hard and there's so much work to be done? (*Tiana loves her job and the people she serves. She knows that her service enables them to enjoy an evening out. She is happy to bring people together with her gifts.*)

• **Why do you think Jesus took time to feed the crowds, rather than sending them home to take care of themselves?** (*Jesus knew that he had much to give, and he wanted to tend to people's needs. Because Jesus provided a meal for all of them to share, the crowd could stay for fellowship. They also got a glimpse of the power of God at work in their lives.*)

Video Option 2: *Ratatouille* (2007, G, animated)

Start Cue: (Chapter 25, 1:27) Remy lies captive in a cage. The ghost of his hero, the great Chef Gusteau, gives him a pep talk. "So. We are giving up."

End Cue: (Chapter 30, 1:43) End of movie. The French word "*Fin*" ("The End") appears on the screen.

Scene Set Up: Remy the rat is the secret behind Chef Linguini's success. Linguini knows nothing about cooking, but Remy's expertise has made him a huge hit with customers. Tonight, a renowned food critic visits the restaurant. Linguini's staff walks out on him, but Remy's family comes together to provide a wonderful night of fine dining for Linguini's customers.

Activity Instructions for *Ratatouille*:

1. **If you were cooking a special meal, who would you invite? What would you serve? Jesus often shared meals with others. Just like us, he got hungry. And just like us, he had friends whom he cared about. Often, like us, he made meals a group event, dining with friends, or cooking for his disciples. In our Bible story today, Jesus and his disciples put on a picnic for the crowds. Together, they hosted a great surprise feast for everyone! In our video clip today, we'll see characters who work hard so that others can enjoy a wonderful meal. While you're watching, think about how this clip might connect to our Bible story for the day.**
2. Show the video clip. Afterward, discuss the video clip using these questions.
 - **Why do you think Remy works so hard to help Linguini keep the restaurant running? Why does his family come to help?** (*Remy is Linguini's friend, and he wants to see Linguini succeed. Remy's family doesn't understand their brother's love of cooking, but they believe that family members should support each other.*)
 - **Why do you think Jesus took time to feed the crowds, rather than sending them home to take care of themselves?** (*Jesus knew that he had much to give, and he wanted to tend to people's needs. Because Jesus provided a meal for all of them to share, the crowd could stay for fellowship. They also got a glimpse of the power of God at work in their lives.*)

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.

Our video clip showed characters working hard to serve others. Who are some people who have served you in a special way this week? How might you thank them?

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to form a circle. Ask them to hold their hands out in front of them, palms upward. Then close with prayer:

Jesus,

Open our hands to receive your gifts.

Open our hearts to love our neighbors.

Open our ears to hear your call.

Open our lives to love and serve.

Amen.