

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God wants us to show kindness to others.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: None
H₂O BOTTLE OF KINDNESS: Kids create a simple and creative gift to give out of kindness.	SUPPLIES: A plastic water bottle with label removed	SUPPLIES: Flip chart, marker, water bottles, white paper, clear adhesive; oil pastels, markers, craypas, or colored pencils; clear tape, clear packing tape
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God needs us to look at all the pieces.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
CRAZY QUILT LIFE PIECES: Kids “piece” together a great quilt project inspired by Art Nouveau.	SUPPLIES: Examples of quilts, pencils	SUPPLIES: Copy of artwork <i>Baby</i> by Gustav Klimt, white watercolor paper, watercolor paints, water for paints, black ink pen/marker, masking tape loops
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: We are all a part of God’s story every day.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
A BOWL FOR A BIRTHRIGHT: Kids bring the “bowl” for a birthright to life with this multimedia project.	SUPPLIES: Large wooden bowl, pictures of twins	SUPPLIES: Newspapers, plastic or cardboard bowls, collection of decorative papers, découpage glue, kid-friendly scissors, beads, old paintbrushes, pom-poms, fringe, glitter, tissue paper



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 show kindness to others.

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)

Isaac and Rebekah Storytelling

Welcome kids to the classroom. **I invite you to take an imaginary trip to the desert with me. Can anyone tell me how it feels in the desert? What do you think we should wear? What would we need to take with us? What animals might we see?** Accept all answers.

Open your Spark Story Bible to page 39, and look at the picture. Can you find Squiggles? Why do you think he's smiling at the camels? Accept all answers.

Take a listen to the story. Pay close attention to the job the servant has to do for Abraham. Read the story aloud from pages 38-41 of the Spark Story Bible, or have kids share the reading of the story with a partner.

Guide kids through a series of questions about Rebekah and the servant.

What happened when the servant met Rebekah?

How did Rebekah treat the servant? (*with kindness/compassion*)

How can a simple offer of kindness make a difference? Accept all answers.

When has a drink of water tasted really great to you? Accept all answers.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

A plastic water bottle with
label removed

When/how have you helped out someone who seemed in need? Accept all answers.

Hold up a plastic water bottle with the label removed. **Today, we are going to play the role of the Rebekah in the story and create a simple gift of kindness to share with others.**

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

H₂O Bottle of Kindness

Set Up: Precut strips of white paper to fit around the center section of the water bottles.

Activity Instructions

Has anyone seen a really cool decorated water bottle or soda can? What did you like about it? Why do you think it was decorated? We're going to use that same idea to share the message of today's story. God wants us to show kindness to others, so each of you will create an H₂O Bottle of Kindness to give to someone to make their day a little brighter.

Follow these easy directions and kids will leave with an H₂O Bottle of Kindness to share the message that God wants us to show kindness and compassion to others.

1. Generate a list of words of kindness and symbols of caring/compassion on a flip chart. Encourage kids to use everyday language, draw from commercials they might hear on TV or radio, and put a new twist on a phrase or caption.
2. Give each kid a water bottle (unopened). Optional: you may choose to remove the label prior to the project.
3. Provide a collection of oil pastels, markers, craypas, or colored pencils for kids to create a personalized message of kindness on the white paper "wrap."
4. Encourage filling the entire wrap with color and design around the message.
5. When finished, wrap the paper around the water bottle and position it in place with a small amount of tape.
6. With an adult's help, seal over the message with a piece of clear packing tape. There will be some crinkling of the artwork, so prepare the kids ahead of time so they are not disappointed. It's ok to not cover it with clear packing tape and instead just lightly tape it to the water bottle.
7. If there is time, kids may create another bottle "wrap" to take home and put on another water bottle.

At the end of the lesson, talk to kids about whom they might like to share their H₂O Bottle of Kindness with when they get home.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Flip chart
Marker
Plastic water bottles with labels removed, 1 per kid
White paper (approx. 3" x 6" [7.5 cm x 15 cm], depending on size of water bottles)
Oil pastels, markers, craypas, or colored pencils
Clear packing tape

If there is time, you might want kids to practice in partners how to share the H₂O Bottle of Kindness. What words might they say when they give it to someone? Where might they hide it so that someone discovers it as a surprise? How might people feel to receive the H₂O Bottle of Kindness?

What a great way to show kindness toward others, just as God wants us to do!

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.

Have kids sit in a circle with the bowl in the center of the group.

Can you think of another time in the church life when water is important? (*stories with water/fishing, Noah's ark and the flood, rain for 40 days and nights, baptism*)

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Completed H₂O Bottle of Kindness (full of water)

Bowl

Prayer Time

Water plays an important part in all of our lives. Let's think about the blessings that come with being baptized.

Empty the water from the H₂O Bottle of Kindness into the bowl. Walk to each kid and give him or her a sprinkle blessing with a bit of the water. Have the kids pray "Thank you for [Name]. He/she is a blessing."

Dear God,

Thank you for [Name]. He/she is a blessing.

Continue this prayer around the room for each kid.

Let each of us be your servant and show kindness to each person we meet.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: God needs us to look at all the pieces.

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.
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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Isaac and Rebekah Storytelling

A quick Internet image search for *quilt*, *quilt examples*, or *quilt patterns* will reveal multiple wonderful examples to share with the kids. If possible, display the quilt(s) so that kids can look at the sections and see how it is put together.

Welcome, everyone! I've brought a beautiful quilt (or collection of pictures) to share with you. Let's take a look at some of the various pieces and see if we can tell if there's a pattern or story behind the quilt. Talk through the sections of the quilt, how it might've been made, and who was most likely the quilter.

Have any of you or your family members made a quilt? Do you have any that are on beds or hanging on walls? Not long ago, lots of quilts were made simply to keep people warm. One of the best sleeping places, in a house with only a fireplace, would've been under a pile of quilts.

As the artwork on quilts became more elaborate, they started to tell a story. Each section might've had a portion of the story, or perhaps the pieces would all come together to form a beautiful pattern, (like a star quilt, or quilts made to celebrate a high school graduation, or the AIDS quilt that traveled around the United States).

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Examples of quilts (either actual ones or pictures of quilts)
Pencils

So, why all this talk of quilts? Well, it turns out that today's story is full of lots of pieces—just like a quilt. There are twists and turns and surprises. It gets a bit confusing at times, but it all comes together and tells quite a story if you take your time with it.

Let's read together about Isaac and Rebekah and listen for the everyday pieces in the story.

Keep in mind that Isaac and Rebekah are very old by the time we start this part of the story and that there is still quite a set of pieces to come in their lives.

Ask kids to share reading out loud Genesis 25:21-34 on pages 28-29 in the Spark Bible.

Whew! Can you point out some of the unexpected and surprising pieces of the story? *(older mom having a baby, a baby "fighting" to get out of the womb, two very different brothers, Rebekah loving Jacob more, exchanging stew for a birthright)*

There's even more to the story. Who knows what happens at the end? We don't have time to read the entire section, but in the end, Rebekah and Jacob trick Isaac into blessing Jacob—instead of Esau—and giving him all of the inheritance of the family. You will want to read more about this very interesting family! It's a bit like a soap opera.

Put a Makes Me Want To sticker on page 30 of your Spark Bible and use your pencil to write "READ MORE" so you remember to read the rest of this story.

Just like a quilt, this story reminds us that God wants us to look at all of the pieces in our daily lives. Each one adds to the big picture.

This is a story full of twists and turns and surprises. Everyone has a role to play, and some roles are quite confusing. When they are all pieced together, though, they tell a story of God at work in our daily lives and in the ordinary things: marriages, cooking, births, relationships, and caring for others. Focus on creating/showing some of the wild/exaggerated/outrageous pieces of the story, and tie those as a lead-in to the "Crazy Quilt" composition art project.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Crazy Quilt Life Pieces

Set Up: Prepare a wall segment to be used to create the Crazy Quilt group project.

Activity Instructions

In today's art project, the many pieces will come together to tell a story in the final composition. Since the story about Isaac and Rebekah is full of some wild and exaggerated pieces, we're going to look at a piece of art created by the artist Gustav Klimt. He was part of the art movement called Art Nouveau. It started using exaggeratedly decorative curving forms, including wild hair and flames and shapes. The artists liked the forms to be free flowing, and art was created for "art's sake," rather than to tell a story or to be merely decorative.

The piece we will use for inspiration is called *Baby*. Show the picture. Talk to kids about what they see in each of the quilt pieces. (*patterns, colors, black ink outlines*)

How are the quilt pieces put together? (*overlapping, multilayered*) Can you see the decorative curves in the piece? Each piece that you create today will help the twists and turns and plotlines of today's story come to life.

Let's get started. Now, each of you will get a piece of paper to create your section of the quilt.

(Note: This could be done with pieces of white fabric and fabric markers and paints if time allows.)

1. Guide kids through the creation of their quilt pieces.
2. **Use curvy, flowing lines to create a closed shape on your quilt paper.**
3. Next, incorporate a set of designs (see options inspired by Klimt in the artwork). **Use a pencil to subdivide the quilt piece into sections. Then fill in each section with a repeating design.**
4. **Add color with watercolor paints. Paint the segments of the quilt piece. Mixing colors is great, but beware of "muddy" watercolors that appear when too many colors are mixed together.**
5. Invite kids to create a second quilt piece while the first one is drying, using a new shape, a new set of patterns, and different colors.
6. **Once the paint is dry, use a permanent black marker and outline the details in each of your quilt pieces, including the lines dividing the quilt into segments.**
7. **Trace around the outside of the quilt piece with a heavier black line.**
8. **Cut out the quilt piece, but do not cut off the black outline around the edge.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Copy of artwork *Baby* by Gustav Klimt
White watercolor paper, cut into rectangles ranging in width 4-7" (10-18 cm) and length 12-18" (30-46 cm)
Watercolor paints
Water for paints
Black ink pen/marker
Masking tape loops

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.

Invite kids to bring their finished quilt pieces to the wall. Have kids work together to tape the pieces to the wall. **Let's stand back and see how everything fits together.**

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Pray together as kids place their quilt pieces as part of the display.

Dear God,

Thank you for helping us to see all of the pieces.

Remind us that you work within the many parts of our lives to bring us hope and life. Let our quilt reflect how our relationships and our actions fit together when you are involved.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: We are all a part of God's story every day.

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)

Isaac and Rebekah Storytelling

Have some fun looking at pictures of twins. Can kids find the differences? Can they spot the similarities between Baby 1 and Baby 2? Compare pictures of twins. Talk about personalities, physical traits, mannerisms, and interests.

Today's story includes a set of twins, but it is bigger than that. There is a real struggle between the brothers. Listen to what God says to their mother, Rebekah, before they were born. Read Genesis 25:21-23.

Esau and Jacob were really different, even though they were twins. Read Genesis 25:24-28.

Even as they got older, they were constantly at odds with each other. As it turns out, Esau really wasn't the one to be a leader, even though he was the oldest of the twins.

Listen to how quickly and easily he traded away his birthright. Read Genesis 25:29-34 (Spark Bible pages 44-45).

Esau only saw his immediate need of hunger and gave away the big picture—being a leader.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Large wooden bowl
Pictures of twins

Sometimes, God uses stories like Esau and Jacob's to really stretch the point and make us take notice of the characters so that we understand how big the story is and how important it is that we each have a role to play. God wants all of us to be part of the story. Sometimes, our job is to hear the story and find all of the things that are the same and different from our own lives.

Sometimes, there are parts of this story that get confusing. Put an I Don't Get It Spark Sticker here, and remind yourself to read the whole story in the Spark Bible.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

A Bowl for a Birthright

Set Up: Cover the workspace with newspaper. Set up a buffet of decorative papers and decorative items.

Activity Instructions

Wasn't it interesting how Esau traded away his birthright for a bowl of stew? Such a simple everyday item and such a big event. Today, you will have a chance to decorate your own bowl. Instead of trading it away, however, each of you will be able to use it to invite God to join you at the table of life and be part of your everyday choices. We will be able to ask God to help your story come to life.

Guide the kids through this set of steps to help them create their own découpaged, decorated bowl.

1. Give each kid a basic bowl (inexpensive, recycled, plastic, or hard cardboard).
2. **Walk through the buffet of choices and pick out some decorative papers, beads, etc.**
3. **Use scissors to cut out pictures, shapes, and patterns from the decorative papers.**
4. **Use découpage glue and an old paintbrush to apply the paper to the bowl.**
 - a) **Cover a small area of the bowl with découpage glue.**
 - b) **Cover the back of the paper with découpage glue.**
 - c) **Place the paper on the bowl.**
 - d) **Apply a layer of découpage glue over the piece of paper.**
 - e) **Smooth out bubbles.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Newspapers
Plastic or cardboard bowls,
1 per kid
Collection of decorative
papers
Découpage glue
Old paintbrushes
Pom-poms
Fringe
Beads
Glitter
Tissue paper
Kid-friendly scissors

5. **Add more pieces of paper. Overlap and create a pattern.**
6. **Add additional decorative items as you like (pom-poms, fringe, seeds, beads, glitter, etc.).**
7. **Cover the entire inside and outside of the bowl (the bottom is optional).**
8. Let the bowls dry.

Review with kids the role of the everyday bowl in the story of Jacob and Esau. Remind them that We are all a part of God's story every day. . . . doing the everyday things.

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.

Put a large bowl in the center of the group. Write prayer slips and put them into the bowl.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Large bowl
Slips of paper
Pencils

Prayer Time

Dear God,

We invite you to join us at the table of life and be part our humanness and daily choices. We offer these prayers to you and ask that you use us to help the story come to life.

Amen.

