

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: Jesus turns sad into happy.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: None
LOVE AND HAPPINESS: Kids watch a video clip where characters experience happiness through unexpected events.	SUPPLIES: Whiteboard, whiteboard markers	SUPPLIES: <i>Paddington 2</i> OR <i>Peter Rabbit</i> , video source and large screen, snack (optional)
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: Jesus' resurrection brings joy to the world.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
JOYFUL LIFE: Kids watch a video clip about characters reuniting.	SUPPLIES: <i>ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship)</i> or <i>LBW (Lutheran Book of Worship)</i> , or your denomination's service book, pencils	SUPPLIES: <i>High School Musical 3: Senior Year</i> OR <i>Frozen</i> , video source and large screen, snack (optional)
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: Jesus, our king, leads us to joy.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: None
ROYAL JOY: Kids watch a video clip about royal characters.	SUPPLIES: Whiteboard, whiteboard markers, pencils	SUPPLIES: <i>The Princess Diaries</i> OR <i>Shrek</i> , video source and large screen, snack (optional), jewel



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit www.wearesparkhouse.org to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Sparkhouse Digital annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.

Workshop Focus: Jesus turns sad into happy.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday Storytelling

Activity Instructions

Sometimes we can be happy and sad at the same time. When a school year is over, we are happy because we get to take a summer vacation, but we are sad because we'll miss our friends. When we visit someone we love who lives far away, we are happy because we get to see them, but sad because we have to go home and leave them again. When a grandparent dies, we are sad because we will miss them, but happy because we know they are living with Jesus.

Pass out Spark Story Bibles. **Today we'll read a story about the day Jesus died. It was a sad day because Jesus died, but also a happy occasion because he died to save us. Open your Spark Story Bibles to page 476.** Read *The Day Jesus Died* aloud.

What can you remember in this story that is sad? Record their responses on a whiteboard. (*People made fun of Jesus; they dressed him in purple with a crown of vines with thorns; Jesus carried a heavy cross; the people didn't believe Jesus was God's son; Jesus died.*)

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Whiteboard

Whiteboard markers

What can you remember in this story that is happy? Record their responses on a whiteboard. *(A man in the crowd carried Jesus' cross for him; one of the thieves believed in Jesus and asked Jesus to take him to heaven and Jesus promised they would be in heaven together; God was always with Jesus; Jesus asked God to forgive the people; Jesus' work on earth was finished.)*

Jesus' death was a sad event, but it also brought happiness because Jesus died to save us!

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Love and Happiness

Set Up: Preview and select the video clip you would like to use. Set up the video source and large screen 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 video. *Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids with food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

Video Option 1: *Paddington 2* (2017, live action, PG)

Start cue: (34:38) The prisoners glare at Paddington while wearing pink jumpsuits.

End cue: (51:88) "I think that's called pride, Knuckles." "Well, I don't like it."

Scene set-up: When Paddington is wrongly accused and imprisoned, he finds himself in jail with a bunch of criminals. At first, the other prisoners don't like Paddington, but he soon changes their opinions.

Activity Instructions for *Paddington 2*

Watch the clip from *Paddington 2* together. After the clip, discuss the following questions:

At the beginning, the prisoners didn't like Paddington because he dyed all their clothes pink. When they eat their breakfast, Paddington was surprised by how it tasted. What did the other prisoners tell him to do? *(Go and complain to the cook.)*

What happens when he talks to Knuckles? *(He gets ketchup and mustard all over his apron and they almost fight, but then Knuckles tastes his marmalade sandwich.)* **How does Paddington bring happiness to the prison?** *(He and Knuckles make orange marmalade for everyone to replace what they were eating before.)*

How can we show kindness, patience, and love so that others might be happy?

Encourage kids to think about ways they can bring happiness to others. Let them know they can make others happy when they show God's love. *(Help someone with schoolwork; let someone go ahead of us in a line; do chores without complaining.)*

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Option 1: *Paddington 2*

Video source and large screen
Snack (optional)

Option 2: *Peter Rabbit*

Video source and large screen
Snack (optional)

Video Option 2: *Peter Rabbit* (2018, live action, PG)

Start cue: (1:07:24) Peter looks at all the destruction he caused.

End cue: (1:23:30) The rabbits wink.

Scene set-up: Peter Rabbit has hated Old Man McGregor his whole life. When Old McGregor dies and his nephew moves in, Peter expects to hate him too. But soon McGregor and Peter have to work together to clean up the mess they made.

Activity Instructions for *Peter Rabbit*

Watch the clip from *Peter Rabbit* together. After the clip, discuss the following questions:

Peter and Mr. McGregor caused a lot of sadness and destruction with their fight. What does Peter think he needs to do? (*Get McGregor back.*) **What does he have to do before his family helps him?** (*Apologize.*) **How do Peter and McGregor make the situation better?** (*They tell Bea the truth and stop the new people from living in the house.*) **Why do you think it was important for McGregor and Peter to work together? Do you think life will change now that they understand one another?**
Allow for kids' responses.

How can our friends help us turn sad into happy? Give kids time to respond. **How can you help your friends be happy?** Give kids time to respond.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Pages for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Invite kids to sit in a circle. **Share a time when you were sad. What made you happy again?** Give kids time to respond.

Prayer Time

Invite kids to pray in silence. **During our prayer, we will have a time of silence when we can think about the sad things that happened to Jesus on the day he died, but also the happy things that came from his resurrection!**

Holy and Happy God,

Today we remember the sad events on the day Jesus died. Time for silence. **We also remember the happy things that happened because you rose again!** Time for silence. **We praise you, Lord, for sad and happy!**

Amen.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Workshop Focus: Jesus' resurrection brings joy to the world.

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)

Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday Storytelling

Activity Instructions

Death is a natural part of living. We were created to live, but when we die we get to live in the presence of God forever! Let's take a look at how we honor death in our church. Open an *ELW* to page 280 or an *LBW* to page 206 or the comparable place in your denomination's service book. Read the paragraph that begins, "When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death." **What does it mean that we were baptized into Christ's death?** (*Our sinful selves die and we live as children of God.*)

Pass out Spark Bibles. Turn to page 284 in an *ELW* or page 213 in an *LBW* or the comparable place in your denomination's service book. Read the committal that begins, "In sure and certain hope of the resurrection . . ." **Even though our bodies return to the earth, our souls live with Jesus forever. Death is not only the end of a journey, but the beginning of another one!**

Today we'll read a story about the day Jesus died. Let's read Luke 23:26–24:12.

Invite kids to listen as you read the story. **Put a red Spark Bible Sticker next to the story after we've read it and write a response to the sticker with your pencils.**

Jesus' death brought sadness, but his resurrection brought joy, happiness, and life into this world.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

ELW (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*) or *LBW* (*Lutheran Book of Worship*) or your denomination's service book
Pencils

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Joyful Life

Set Up: Preview and select the video clip you would like to use. Set up the video source and large screen 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 video. *Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids with food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

Video Option 1: *High School Musical 3: Senior Year* (2008, live action, G)

Start cue: (1:06:15) “So, Sharpay, you will do Gabriella’s duet with Troy.”

End cue: (1:22:35) “You might be ready to say goodbye to East High, but East High isn’t ready to say goodbye to you.”

Scene set-up: When Gabriella leaves East High early for college, she thinks her high school years are over. But Troy, her boyfriend, knows she has more to do before she says goodbye to high school for good.

Activity Instructions for *High School Musical 3: Senior Year*

Watch the clip from *High School Musical 3: Senior Year* together. After the clip, discuss the following questions:

Why was Troy sad when Gabriella left early for college? (*He loved her and didn’t want to see her go.*) **What did he do when he realized she wasn’t going to go to prom?** (*He drove to her.*) **What was her reaction when she saw him standing outside her class?** (*She was happy.*) **What did they do when they were reunited?** (*Dance and sing.*)

When Troy and Gabriella were together again, they had a chance to make new memories together. When Jesus rose from the dead, his friends were happy, and they also felt something more—they felt like they had a new life. How does Jesus’ death and resurrection give us new life? Give kids time to respond. **How does it feel to know Jesus died and rose again to save us from sin and death?** Give kids time to respond.

Video Option 2: *Frozen* (2013, animated, PG)

Start cue: (1:18:39) Sven and Kristoff trudge through the snow.

End cue: (1:29:37) Anna and Elsa hug.

Scene set-up: Elsa is queen of Arendelle and also possesses some amazing powers. However, after she accidentally freezes her sister, Anna, Elsa is in danger and flees. Anna will do anything to save Elsa, even if it means sacrificing herself.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Option 1: *High School Musical 3: Senior Year*

Video source and large screen
Snack (optional)

Option 2: *Frozen*

Video source and large screen
Snack (optional)

Activity Instructions for Frozen

Watch the clip from *Frozen* together. After the clip, discuss the following questions:

Anna is cold, but when she is faced with saving herself or her sister, what does she choose? (*To save Elsa.*) **Why do you think she did that?** (*She loved her.*) **What do you think Elsa felt when her sister froze to save her? What do you think Elsa felt when Anna unfroze?** Listen and discuss kids' answers.

How do you think the disciples felt when they were reunited with Jesus after his death and resurrection? Give kids time to respond. **How does Jesus' resurrection give us new life?** (*Jesus conquered death and sin; Jesus promised that we would live with God forever.*) Kids may come up with a variety of answers here. Affirm them as they share their thoughts.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Pages for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Tell about a time you were separated from someone you love and then reunited.

Give kids time to respond.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to sit in a circle and think of people that bring them joy. Close with a popcorn prayer. **I will start the prayer, and in the middle I will pause. If you want to say a quick prayer just "pop" in and say it. We won't know who might pray. It is even okay if none of you wants to pray out loud. Take a moment and think of one thing you might want to pray for. That way you can just pop into our prayer at any time. Then I will finish the prayer.**

God of joy,

We give you thanks for loving us. We also thank you for the people in our lives that bring us joy. Leave time for popcorn petitions here. **For your joy and love we give you thanks and praise!**

Amen.

Workshop Focus: Jesus, our king, leads us to joy.

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)

Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday Storytelling

Activity Instructions

Great leaders can bring joy to those whom they lead. Let's make a list of all the kinds of leaders we can think of. (*king, president, principal, parent, alpha dog, queen bee, etc.*)

Write their responses on a whiteboard.

Pass out Spark Story Bibles to the younger kids and Spark Bibles to the older kids.

Today we'll read a story about Jesus, who the people called "King of the Jews." Open your Spark Story Bibles to The Day Jesus Died on page 476 or your Spark Bibles to Luke 23:26-24:12. If you have a Spark Bible, put a red Spark Bible Sticker next to the story after you read it and write a response to the sticker with your pencil. Read the The Day Jesus Died and The Empty Tomb from the Spark Story Bible.

What happened to Jesus in the stories today? (*died on the cross*) **What did it mean for him to be called "King of the Jews"?** (*considered a leader of the Jewish people*) **How was he a different kind of king?** (*He rose from the dead to save us from our sins.*)

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Whiteboard
Whiteboard markers
Pencils

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Royal Joy

Set Up: Preview and select the video clip you would like to use. Set up the video source and large screen 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 video. *Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids with food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

Video Option 1: *The Princess Diaries* (2001, live action, G)

Start cue: (1:25:16) A cat sits on a windowsill while an alarm goes off.

End cue: (1:44:41) The queen places a tiara on Princess Mia's head.

Scene set-up: Young Mia, who is in line for the throne of Genovia, considers abdicating her throne so she can be a normal teenager. As her 16th birthday arrives, she must decide whether she will rule the country or remain an average U.S. teenager.

Activity Instructions for *The Princess Diaries*

Watch the clip from *The Princess Diaries* together. After the clip, discuss the following questions:

What did Mia's grandmother want Mia to do? (*accept the throne as princess of Genovia*) **What did Mia want?** (*to be a normal teenager*) **What would happen if Mia decided not to become the princess?** (*Another family would take over the throne.*) **Why didn't Mia want to become the princess?** (*She was afraid she wasn't good enough to be the leader of a country.*) **What made Mia change her mind?** (*She read a letter from her father saying that he loved her and believed in her.*) **What difference would it make to the people of Genovia if Mia became the princess?** (*She was a someone who would bring peace, wisdom, happiness, and leadership to the country.*)

How does Jesus, our king, bring us joy? Give kids time to respond. **What makes Jesus different from all other leaders?** (*Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus rose from the dead.*)

Video Option 2: *Shrek* (2001, animated, PG)

Start cue: (1:00:51) Donkey says, "Princess? Princess Fiona?"

End cue: (1:20:50) Shrek says to Fiona, "But you are beautiful."

Scene set-up: The ogre, Shrek, saves Princess Fiona from a fire-breathing dragon. She appears to be an ordinary princess, but at night Fiona turns into an ogre. She has learned that true love's kiss will reveal her true identity. When she begins to fall in love with Shrek, she must decide between marrying Lord Farquaad and remaining human or marrying Shrek and becoming an ogre.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Option 1: *The Princess Diaries*
Video source and large screen
Snack (optional)

Option 2: *Shrek*
Video source and large screen
Snack (optional)

Activity Instructions for *Shrek*

Watch the clip from *Shrek* together. After the clip, discuss the following questions:

What did the evil spell do to Princess Fiona? (*turned her into an ogre at night*) **How did Shrek misunderstand her conversation with Donkey?** (*He thought Fiona didn't love him because he was an ugly ogre; Fiona meant Shrek couldn't love her because she was an ugly ogre.*) **Fiona must decide whether to marry Lord Farquaad or Shrek. What does Fiona love about Shrek?** (*Shrek, who is kind, funny, brave, and honest.*) **How do Shrek, Donkey, and Fiona lead the kingdom to a happier future?**

Love brings happiness to Fiona and Shrek and the whole kingdom. How does Jesus, our king, bring happiness to our lives? Give kids time to respond. **Is Jesus just a good leader or is he more?** (*He is more.*) **In what ways is he more than a leader?** (*He is God's Son.*)

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Pages for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Invite kids to sit in a circle. They take turns passing a jewel around the circle. When they are holding the jewel, they talk about their qualities that might make them good leaders. For the younger kids, maybe brainstorm a few qualities that good leaders often possess to give them some ideas.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
Jewel

Prayer Time

Invite kids to pass the jewel around again. **When you are holding the jewel, it is your turn to pray.** Give them the option to pass the jewel praying silently instead of aloud.

**Jesus, our King,
Hear us as we pray.** Pass the jewel around the circle; take turns praying petitions.
**Your love leads us, Lord.
Amen.**