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<td><strong>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</strong> Jesus asks us to be missionaries.</td>
<td>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</td>
<td>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles</td>
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<td><strong>TRAVELING STORYTELLERS:</strong> Kids look at the map to see Paul’s travels, and then travel along a contemporary path to tell stories of Jesus.</td>
<td>SUPPLIES: Pens</td>
<td>SUPPLIES: Colored construction paper, markers or chalk, scissors, chart paper or board, old vinyl tablecloths, masking tape, large index cards, single hole punch, yarn</td>
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<th><strong>All Kids</strong></th>
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<td><strong>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</strong> Everyone can teach about Jesus.</td>
<td>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</td>
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<td><strong>IMPROVISED STORY:</strong> Kids create improvisational skits using places, people, and actions in Lydia’s story.</td>
<td>SUPPLIES: None</td>
<td>SUPPLIES: Copy paper, pens, scissors, baskets, labels</td>
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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 tell others about Jesus.

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)

Lydia Storytelling

Welcome kids to Creative Drama. Lay your Spark Story Bible on your lap, open to Lydia on page 532. The story of Lydia is about early Christian missionaries, people who traveled somewhere to tell other people about Jesus. Paul was one of these early Christian missionaries. He taught people. Those people taught other people. The teaching has continued for over 2,000 years. And here we are this very moment, teaching about Jesus. Let’s hear the story. I want you to listen really hard for how Paul told others about Jesus. Read the story, then show the pictures.

Okay, who knows how Paul told others about Jesus? Allow time for responses. Look for answers that indicate telling stories in person. Yes, Paul told stories about Jesus just like Jesus told stories. Telling stories is one way to communicate. Paul and Lydia communicated by talking face-to-face. Do you have to see people today to know what they are trying to tell you? How many ways do you communicate with someone else? Kids will continue this conversation in the next activity, so help them start thinking about forms of communication. (e-mail, text messages, telephones, faxes, mail, satellite dishes, television, movies, newspapers, pagers, sending books)
Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Communications Charades and Dominos

Set Up: Set up three areas—a stage for acting, audience seating, and a domino table separate from the other two areas. Write the charade prompts listed below (or others that fit your context) on small slips of paper, fold the papers, and place them in the basket.

- Reading an e-mail message
- Sending a text message
- Making a cell phone call
- Reading a newspaper
- Watching a DVD
- Listening to a CD with earphones
- Checking the mail in the mailbox
- Reading a magazine
- Reading a book
- Listening to announcements over an intercom
- Typing a message on the computer
- Passing a note to someone
- Reading a billboard on the highway

Activity Instructions

Move to the stage area and audience area. How did Paul tell Lydia about Jesus, and how did she tell others? What if Lydia and Paul were living today? They would have many more ways to tell people about Jesus.

Ask kids if they have played charades, so that you can gauge how much you need to say. Today we will play charades. Each of you will receive a slip of paper telling you something to act out without using any words. You’ll try to get the rest of the kids to guess what you are doing. If you’re nervous about acting out alone, you can do this in pairs. Each charade shows one way Paul or Lydia—or you or me—could communicate with other people and tell them about Jesus.

When the group guesses your charade, I’ll give you two dominoes—one for you and one for the person you can tell about Jesus. Head to the table where we’ll all make a row of standing dominos, like this. Show kids how to stand the dominoes on end, close enough together that they will create a domino chain, but not so close everything tips over. When we are finished with our charades, we’ll do something really cool with the dominos. Who wants to go first? Ask the first volunteer to do the following steps.

1. Choose a charade from the basket.
2. Act out the charade without words or sounds.
3. Stand two dominos on the table when someone has guessed correctly.
Great job! Look at all those ways to send messages in today’s world. Paul only had face-to-face storytelling and letters that took a long, long time to arrive and which not very many people could read.

When Paul and Lydia were living, they didn’t have the Bible. I wonder how the Bible helped tell the message of Jesus when it was written. Pause and let kids answer if they wish.

Walk to the domino table. So the message of Jesus at the time of Paul went from one person to another, to another. Lydia heard the message from Paul and then passed it on to others.

Let’s look at the dominoes. Stand away from the edges of the table so they stay standing. If Paul was the first domino and Lydia was the second domino, what happens when Paul tells Lydia about Jesus and then Lydia tells others? Push the first domino while the kids watch what happens. Expect that the dominoes won’t go perfectly. You may need to help them along, or you may have to stand them on end to try again. Wow, when we start passing the message, it starts to pick up speed and go everywhere!

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. Place the communication devices (or pictures of them) into the basket.

Getting the message out to the world was the job of the first disciples of Jesus, like Paul. That’s our job, too. And we have so many more ways to do it. We can tell others about Jesus by using . . . Hold up the basket to pull out and name the items one by one.

Prayer Time

Tell kids to join you in a domino prayer by lining up facing you and then turning to the right one-by-one when they are tapped on the shoulder. Practice the turning. Then tell kids that this time they will repeat the sentence prayer before tapping and turning. The last person says, “Amen.” Stand at the beginning of the line to begin the prayer.

God, I can tell others about you wherever I go. (Turn and tap the shoulder of the person on your right. Pass the message along with the last person saying, “Amen.”)
**Workshop Focus:** Jesus asks us to be missionaries.

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.

- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.

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**Open the Bible (10 minutes)**

**Lydia Storytelling**

**Set Up:** Create floor space where kids can lay their Bibles on the floor to look at the map pages.

**Activity Instructions**

Welcome everyone to your workshop. **Tell me what you know about Lydia’s story.** Listen for answers like missionary, Paul, traveling, or telling about Jesus. If kids have not heard the story, read it together before you look at the maps. **Today we’re going to talk about Paul the missionary. Let’s look at maps at the back of your Spark Bibles on pages M14 and M15. I’ll read Lydia’s story. Each time I say a town or village name, I’ll pause so you can find it on the map and trace the missionary trip that brought Paul and Lydia together.**

Read Acts 16:11-15 on page 1224 from the Spark Bible. Pause at the words Troas, Neapolis, and Philippi, giving kids time to help one another find them on the maps. Each time ask, **Can you find it? Place your finger on ______ while I read what happened there.**
Can we tell from the map which of Paul’s travels we are talking about? Help kids find the key in the red box on the bottom left corner. It looks like it could be either the first or second missionary trip by Paul. Bible scholars tell us he visited Lydia in Philippi on his second missionary trip. Put a Spark Spot sticker and write “Lydia” or “second trip” in the orange border at the top of the map as a reminder.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Traveling Storytellers

**Set Up:** Cut stepping-stones from old vinyl tablecloths. Kids will use these to create a path. Use the index cards, hole punch, and yarn to make a lanyard labeled “Traveling Storyteller” for each group of kids. Determine the number of stops kids will make on the path.

**Activity Instructions**

Paul was a missionary. The Spark Bible maps show four journeys we can trace. He traveled by ship and walked to tell other people about Jesus.

A missionary doesn’t have to go far away. You tell other people about Jesus everywhere you go. What are some of the places you go each week? Make a list of answers on the chart paper or board. *(school, soccer practice, piano lessons, church, on the bus)*

Wow! What a long list. Let’s make a sign for (number of stops) of those places. Have kids copy place name onto individual sheets of construction paper. Help me make a path where we’ll put these signs. Help kids plot out and tape a path using the stepping-stones. Ask other kids to place the signs along the path.

Throughout history, information was passed from one group to another by traveling storytellers. In ancient Palestine, traveling storytellers and musicians were called zajaleen. They were welcomed into villages and homes. Paul was a traveling storyteller. His mission was to tell the stories of Jesus.

Hold up a Traveling Storyteller lanyard. Today you will be traveling storytellers along the path we made. You’ll travel in groups. One kid will tell a story about Jesus at each sign. You might know a story by heart and can just tell it. Hold up a Spark Bible open to the New Testament Gospels. Or you can find a story in the Spark Bibles in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These books are called the Gospels, and are filled with Jesus’ stories. Open to any page and point out the story titles. The story titles are in big orange letters on each page and may help you think of Jesus stories. Ask kids to name some stories about Jesus or that Jesus told. Prompt them with a few questions. Did Jesus talk about people who were sick? Hungry? About how to be a friend? Where was Jesus born?

**Spark Resources**

Spark Bibles

**Supplies**

Colored construction paper
Markers or chalk
Chart paper or board
Masking tape
Old vinyl tablecloths
Scissors
Large index cards
Single hole punch
Yarn
Tell kids they will be both storytellers and listeners. Outline expectations for both roles. For example, storytellers speak loudly and clearly. Listeners watch the storyteller quietly, helping if asked.

- Divide kids into small groups based on the number of signs.
- Assign each group to start at one sign along the path.
- Give one kid in each group a Traveling Storyteller lanyard, indicating that he or she is the person telling a story about Jesus or Jesus’ life at that stop along the path.
- Remind kids to be good listeners for one another and to help one another, if asked.
- Tell groups that when you say, “Travel On” (or give another signal such as ringing a bell), it’s time to move to the next sign and give the Traveling Storyteller lanyard to another kid.
- Groups may need to rotate through the stops more than once so every kid has a chance to tell a story.
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.

Your journey looked fun. What stories did you hear? On chart paper or a board, make a list of story names. Did you think you knew that many stories? I wonder how Paul and his missionary friends felt about all that traveling. We can be missionaries everywhere—by telling Jesus’ stories.

Prayer Time

Invite kids to join you in a traveling prayer. Move quickly and quietly from sign to sign, asking kids to read each sign when you point to it.

God of journeys,
You are with us always.
We can show and tell about your love
When we are at (or on, in, near) _______________. (Point and pause for kids to read the sign. Walk to the next sign and repeat.)
In Jesus’ name,
Amen.
Workshop Focus: Everyone can teach about Jesus.

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)

Lydia Storytelling

Welcome kids to your workshop. Today we are going to hear a story about one of the first missionaries, Paul. On his second missionary trip to teach others about Jesus, Paul met a woman named Lydia.


One reason this story is important is that it is about conversion. That’s a big word that means change. Lydia’s life changed when she heard about Jesus.

Ask kids to sit in groups of two or three. Each group should have a Spark Story Bible where everyone can see the pictures and a Spark Bible where they can follow the words. I will read slowly. Follow the words or pictures while I read. Try to remember one word or phrase from the story—a city or town or action or person. Put a Spark Spot sticker by your word or phrase. Then we’ll make a long list of everything you tell me. Read slowly.

Make a list of all the details. Ask kids if any information was new for them today.
Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Improvised Story

Set Up: Your room will need open space where kids will create their stories, and a stage and audience area. Using three separate pieces of copy paper, write one of these words at the top of each sheet: “people,” “places,” and “actions.” Label each basket with one of the words.

Activity Instructions

We heard Paul traveled from town to town. I wonder if he told Jesus’ story the exact same way in each town. Give kids time to ponder this and respond. In this story he was speaking to women. Another time he might have been speaking to a family. Do you think he might have used the exact same words for both groups? Why or why not? Ask kids if they would tell a story to preschoolers using the same words they would use for a grownup. Paul probably improvised his story according to his audience and his location. He wanted to tell the story so people would understand it.

Hold up a Spark Bible. This is how the Bible came to be. Many stories in the Bible had been told in more than one place. Different people heard the stories differently. Missionaries began to change the stories to improvise for their audiences. When the stories that had been told were written down for the Bible, some stories came with several versions.

Today we are going to improvise with the people, actions, and places in Paul and Lydia’s story. To improvise means to make something up right on the spot with only the information you have. Look at the list we made earlier. Hold up the list from Open the Bible. Then hold up the copy paper labeled “people,” “actions,” and “places.” Let’s divide the words from our list into these three categories. Ask kids to help you put the words in each category. (People: Paul, Lydia, crowd, Lydia’s family. Actions: traveling, listening, telling, baptized, welcoming home, sail, spoke, sat down. Places: Boat, Troas, Samothrace, Roman colony, gate, river, city, home) Cut apart the lists, being sure to keep the categories separate so that you can put the pieces in the appropriately labeled baskets.

In a minute, we’ll get into groups to improvise stories and draw slips of paper to find out what your improvised story will be about. Let’s try one together. Draw a slip of paper from each basket and practice putting a story together. How could these parts go together? If you drew Paul, the gate, and sitting, your improvised story could have Paul sitting inside or outside of the gate, telling the stories of Jesus. If we act this out, it would be improvised from the story in the Bible.

Put the three slips back in the correct baskets. Now it’s your turn. Get into groups of three. Each group will choose one slip of paper from each container. Then they will improvise that part of the story. Divide groups and draw slips of paper and get to work.

Ask Shepherds to join you in walking around helping kids who may be having

Spark Resources
Spark Bible

Supplies
Copy paper
Pens
Scissors
Three baskets
Three labels
difficulty thinking about where to start. Suggest changes that will move them forward, but try not to script the story for them.

Call kids together to show their improvisations. Let's see some of the stories. Which group would like to begin?

**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.

Thanks for finding a way to improvise a story with the information you had in front of you. Paul had to do that all the time. Everyone can teach about Jesus, no matter what the situation or the place.

**Prayer Time**

Tell kids you’ll do one last improvisation today. Think of one way you can tell others about Jesus—such as telling stories, singing, being a friend, or drawing pictures. I will start the prayer. Then you can add your ideas. Let us pray.

Jesus,

Thank you for sending out the first missionaries.

(Pause to let kids name ways they can tell others about Jesus. Continue when all kids have had an opportunity to pray).

Everyone can teach about Jesus no matter where they are or who they see.

Amen.