

Early Believers

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Acts 2:43-47; 4:32-37

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Easter 4

Lesson Focus
We can take care of each other.



Gather (10 minutes)

| | Spark Resources | Supplies |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Center Time Kids prepare pretend food for their friends, create yummy pretend muffins and cookies, and color Bible story pictures.</p> | <p>Coloring Pages </p> | <p>Kid-sized kitchen set and supplies (play cups, plates, utensils, and food), empty food containers, white play clay, muffin tins, rolling pins, cookie cutters, blank paper, markers or crayons</p> |
| <p>Circle Time Kids sing a welcome song, hear about the season of the church, and sing about sharing.</p> | <p>Leaflet</p> | <p>Plastic Easter eggs, pebbles, transparent tape, basket</p> |
| <p>Prayer Time Kids say a happy prayer.</p> | <p>None</p> | <p>None</p> |

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

| | Spark Resources | Supplies |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| <p>Early Believers Storytelling Leader reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible.</p> | <p>Spark Story Bible</p> | <p>None</p> |
| <p>Share a Snack Kids share a snack with one another.</p> | <p>None</p> | <p>Apples, apple cutters, plates, cups, water, napkins, hand wipes</p> |
| <p>One Big Family Kids find examples of sharing on their leaflets.</p> | <p>Leaflets</p> | <p>Markers</p> |

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

| | Spark Resources | Supplies |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| Find and Give Kids identify things they can share with others. | Leaflets | None |
| Food to Share Kids use stickers to match food to their sources. | Leaflets, Lesson Stickers | None |
| Building Homes Kids build homes out of cardboard boxes. | None | Cardboard boxes of all shapes and sizes, large baskets, scissors, masking tape, markers |

Send (5 minutes)

| | Spark Resources | Supplies |
|--|---|-------------|
| Good-bye Time Kids tell about things they did today. | Leaflets, Lesson Stickers | Egg shaker |
| Prayer Time Kids pray about caring for others. | Family Pages  | Egg shakers |



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

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

Gather (10 minutes)

Center Time

You may choose to set up all or some of these learning centers for kids to play in as they arrive in your classroom. Have helpers in each center to help kids with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

When all kids have arrived and have had time to participate in at least one center, dim the lights for a moment and tell kids it's time to "shake" their way over to the Circle Time area. Encourage kids to wrap up their projects and shake, shake, shake their bodies into the circle.

Food Kitchen

As kids arrive, invite them to join in kitchen play and cook up a lot of yummy food for sharing with friends.

Play Clay Cookies

Roll play clay into small balls. Place one ball in front of each chair. Spread the muffin tins, rolling pins, and cookie cutters out in the middle of the table. Show kids how to roll out the dough. Play along with kids as they serve muffins and cookies to you and to others.

Coloring Center

Have coloring supplies available at a table for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

Circle Time

Before the session, fill plastic Easter eggs with pebbles. Tape the eggs closed so that the pebbles don't spill out. Give each kid an egg shaker when he or she arrives at Circle Time to sing the welcome song. Use the egg shakers throughout Circle Time. Sing the welcome song to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush."

Welcome, friends! We are all here to learn about God. Let's sing our welcome song and see who is here today.

**Now it's time for Spark Time,
For Spark Time, for Spark Time.
Now it's time for Spark Time,
We hear about God's love.**

**Our friends are here for Spark Time,
For Spark Time, for Spark Time.
Our friends are here for Spark Time,
We hear about God's love.**

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Kid-sized kitchen set and supplies (play cups, plates, utensils, and food)
Empty food containers
White play clay
Muffin tins
Rolling pins
Cookie cutters
Blank paper
Markers or crayons

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

Plastic Easter eggs
Pebbles
Tape
Basket

**[Name] is here for Spark Time,
For Spark Time, for Spark Time.
[Name] is here for Spark Time,
We hear about God's love.**

Continue until all kids and adults are named.

Hold up the leaflet for everyone to see. **I wonder what we'll see on our leaflet today. I can see a white cross. The color white reminds us that Easter is a special season and the cross reminds us that Jesus died on the cross because he loves us. Today's story is about people who believed in Jesus, and how they shared.**

Sing a sharing song to the refrain of "Skip to My Lou." **Today's story is about sharing. Here's a song about sharing. Use your egg shakers to help us sing.**

Repeat the song a few times.

**Share, share, we can share.
Share, share, we can share.
Share, share, we can share.
We can share God's love.**

Prayer Time

It's time to pray a happy share prayer. Let's get ready to pray.

Spark Resources
None

Prayer time hearts. Place finger on lips.

Prayer time eyes. Close eyes.

Prayer time hands. Fold hands.

Supplies
None

Listen to me say the words first, and then we will say the prayer together.

Dear God,

Make us happy to share,

Make us happy to share,

Make us happy to share your love.

Amen.

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Early Believers Storytelling

Today's story is about the early believers. The early believers were the very first people to believe in Jesus after he rose from the tomb and went to heaven to be with God. Let's find out what their lives were like.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bible

Take out your Spark Story Bible and open to Early Believers on pages 504-505.

Read the story out loud and point to the corresponding pictures. Look for Squiggles the caterpillar in the picture. Ask kids what they think Squiggles is feeling or doing.

Supplies
None

Encourage them to make faces like Squiggles.

Ask the following questions, allowing time for kids to answer. **What were the early believers really good at?** (*sharing*) **What did they share?** (*food, clothes, money, homes*)

What are some things that you share? What are some things that other people share with you? Give an example of a time when someone shared something with you. Affirm all answers.

Share a Snack

Wipe down a table for snacks. Have kids wipe or wash their hands before coming to the snack table. Ask two kids to help pass out the napkins and plates. Cut the apples using an apple cutter. Fill the cups with water. Pass the cups and apples around. Say a quick table grace or repeat the happy prayer from Gather. Begin passing the apples by saying, **"I'm sharing the apples with [Name]."** Continue naming who is passing the apples to whom. **[Name] is sharing with [Name]. We are all sharing like the early believers!** When everyone has some apples, invite kids to enjoy the snack and continue a discussion about sharing.

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

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Apples
Apple cutters
Plates
Cups
Water
Napkins
Hand wipes

One Big Family

Invite kids to gather around a table. Give each kid a leaflet and a marker. Point to the picture on the front of the leaflet and talk about the picture. **The early believers took care of one another. Sometimes people did not have homes. If a person did not have a home, the early believers shared their homes.** Pause. **I see some sharing on the leaflet. What are the people sharing?** (*food, money*) **Let's circle the sharing we see on the leaflet.** Help kids circle the examples of sharing in the picture. **How does the sharing make the people feel?** Allow time for responses.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Markers

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Find and Give

Ask kids to turn over their leaflets. **Today's story is about sharing. When we share, we are taking care of others the way God takes care of us. Let's look at these pictures and find some things we can share with other people. Let's find a sandwich.** Pause for kids to find the sandwich. **We can share our food. Let's find a home.** Pause for kids to find the home. **We can share our homes. Let's find some shoes.** Pause for kids to find the shoes. **We can share our shoes. Let's find some money.** Pause for kids to find the coins. **We can share our money. Let's find**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

a kid like you. Pause for kids to find the smiling kid. **We can share our smiles and happiness with others! We all have smiles to share. Let's do some smiling!** Point out the great smiles of all the kids in your class. **Thank you for sharing your smiles with me! They make me very happy.**

Food to Share

Point to the picture of the apple trees on the leaflet. **The first Christians shared their food with everyone. Where does food come from?** Pause for kids' responses. **God gave us plants and animals for food. Our food comes from plants and animals raised by farmers. I see a cow on our leaflet. What kind of food comes from cows? Milk comes from cows. Let's stick this milk sticker next to the cow.** Hand out the stickers. **Trees share food. What kind of food do trees share? Apples come from trees. Let's stick the apple sticker in the tree.** Hand out the apple stickers. **Peaches come from trees, too. Farm workers pick them. Let's put the peach sticker in the farmer's basket.** Hand out the peach stickers. **Let's thank God and cows and trees and farmers for sharing food with us.**

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

None

Building Homes

This activity needs some space. Use the floor and a table. Place smaller boxes in the large baskets. Cut pieces of tape and put pieces on the edge of the table so kids can help themselves. **Today we are going to build some homes. Many Christians help build homes for people who need them. Building homes for other people is a way of sharing God's love. Everyone follow me. We are going to where the supplies are. Let's walk like we are carrying heavy tools to help build a home.** When you arrive in the home-making area, make sure each kid gets three or four boxes to begin building. When kids have explored the boxes and a few different ways to stack them, help them tape their boxes together. Help kids put their names on their homes. **Look at all these homes we built! We can take care of other people by building homes.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Cardboard boxes of all shapes
and sizes
Large baskets
Scissors
Masking tape
Markers

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Have the kids sit in a circle and thank them for coming. **What did we do today? When I give you the Easter egg to hold, shake it and tell me one thing we did today.** There are no right or wrong answers. If a kid is not interested in the activity, please honor his or her feelings. After each kid recalls something, give him or her the cornucopia sticker. Kids don't have to say anything to get stickers. Allow kids to put the stickers on themselves.

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Egg shaker

It's time for our blessing. The blessing song is sung to the tune of "Good Night Ladies."

God bless [Name]. ASL *bless* sign.

God bless [Name]. ASL *bless* sign.

God bless [Name], ASL *bless* sign.

God bless me! Point to self.

Repeat the blessing song until everyone has been blessed. At the end of the blessing song, shout out today's lesson focus. **We can take care of each other! We can take care of each other! We can take care of each other!**

Hold up the leaflet and point to Faith on the Go! on the back. **Be sure to take your leaflet home, because it has one more fun activity you can do with your family.**



Bless

Prayer Time

Repeat the prayer from Gather, adding the words "and care." Use the egg shakers again or clap. **It's time to pray a happy share and care prayer. Let's get ready to pray!**

**Dear God,
Make us happy to share and care,
Make us happy to share and care,
Make us happy to share and care!
Amen.**

Repeat the prayer if you have time.

Be sure to send leaflets home with the kids, and give each of them a Family Page to take home.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Egg shakers