



WEEK 1 - WATER STORIES

*Each week our stories will focus on a different theme. This week our stories are about **water**. There are many stories in the Bible where water is super important! Creation, Parting of the Red Sea, Jesus Walking on Water, just to name a few. This week we will look at how and why water is important.*

SHARE:

- Talk about the best and worst parts of your day.
 - Celebrate the good parts and support the tough parts.
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LEARN:

Read: Genesis 1:6-10 or Creation in the Spark Story Bible & Exodus 14: 15-31 or The Red Sea in the Spark Story Bible.

- What do you love about water?
 - What is your favorite place to go with water?
 - Why does God call water Good?
 - What wouldn't be possible on Earth without Water?
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SNACK:

This week's snack is Lubain (Yogurt Dip)

Ingredients:

- Non-Fat Greek Yogurt
- Diced Cucumber
- Lemon Juice (from 2-3 lemons)
- Minced Fresh Mint
- Minced Fresh Dill
- Minced Garlic
- Salt, Pepper, Lemon Pepper, Garlic Powder – To Taste

Instructions:

Combine all ingredients in a mixing bowl. Eat with Pretzels, Pita Chips, or Fresh Bread.

ENGAGE:

This week we will make a **Glitter Jar**. The supplies you need are:

- A small jar
- Glue
- Warm Water
- Glitter

Start by filling up the jar almost halfway with glue. You can use clear glue, white glue or glitter glue. If you choose glitter glue you do not have to add Glitter later. After the glue is in the jar add the glitter. Next add the warm water. Stir or shake to mix everything up. After everything is in the jar you may choose to glue the lid shut so it may not be accidentally opened. You now have a glitter jar to keep you occupied and calm you down when needed.

PRAY:

God - you are our Good Creator. All that is made is awesome and beautiful. As we use water today, we will remember you and give you thanks. Amen.



WEEK 2 - BAPTISM STORIES

*This week our stories are also water, but with a specific focus. They are about both **water and baptism**. There are many stories in the Bible about different people being baptized and baptizing others in the name of God. Before we get started today, make a list of all the stories about baptism in the Bible that you can remember.*

SHARE:

- Talk about the best and worst parts of your day.
 - Celebrate the good parts and support the tough parts.
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LEARN:

Read Matthew 3:13-17 or *Jesus' Baptism* in the Spark Story Bible & Mark 4:35-41 or *A Storm* in the Spark Story Bible.

- What are some things that seem ordinary but are actually very special?
 - Are there things that we think are ordinary that God uses in the world to do amazing things?
 - Why might John the Baptist have hesitated to baptize Jesus?
 - Do you remember your baptism?
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SNACK:

This week's snack is a Meat Roll-up.

Ingredients:

- Sliced Deli Turkey (or your meat of choice)
- Cream Cheese
- Sliced Pickles, Sliced Bell Pepper, and/or Sliced Avocado

Instructions:

Spread cream cheese across a piece of deli meat. Place a pickle, pepper, or avocado at the far edge of meat on top of the cream cheese. Roll up the meat trapping the pickle/pepper/avocado inside. Slice the meat roll-up into rounds.

ENGAGE:

This week we will make a **Seashell Wind Chime**. Supplies needed are:

- Small Seashells
- String
- Glue Gun
- 2 dowel rods or large popsicle sticks.

Glue the sticks together in the middle and let them dry. Connect strings of different lengths to different seashells. Once you have all your seashells tied to strings attach the other end of the strings to the sticks and spread them out to form the wind chime. If you cannot tie things together use a hot glue gun for connecting.

PRAY:

Loving God, thank you for baptismal water and how it frees us to live with joy and hope as your children. Help us remember we are enough in your eyes. Amen.



WEEK 3 - STORIES ABOUT FOOD

*This week our stories focus on **food and feeding**. There are many stories in the Bible that mention feeding people's souls. There are also a lot of stories that just mention food for the body: Mana and Quail in the Wilderness, Loaves and Fishes, The Last Supper. This week we will look at why food and feeding others is important.*

SHARE:

- Talk about the best and worst parts of your day.
 - Celebrate the good parts and support the tough parts.
-

LEARN:

Read Exodus 16 or *Manna, Quail, Water* in the Spark Story Bible & Mark 6:31-44 or *Jesus Feeds 5000* in the Spark Story Bible.

- What is your favorite food?
 - Do you say Grace before your meals?
 - How does God provide enough or more than enough for you in your life?
 - What does our church do to help those who don't have enough?
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SNACK:

This week's snack is Cottage Cheese & Toppings.

Ingredients:

- Small Curd Non-fat Cottage Cheese
- Fresh Fruit
- Chia Seeds
- Cinnamon

Instructions:

Place cottage cheese in a bowl. Top with fresh fruit, chia seeds, & cinnamon.

ENGAGE:

This week we are going to make **Care Packages for Those Experiencing Homelessness**. Supplies needed are:

- A Large Ziplock Bag
- Bottle of Water
- Individually Packaged Snacks
- Socks
- Index Cards

When you put together these kits think about those who may not have a house and those who are hungry. Small snacks are helpful to beat the heat. Place all your items in the bag and either bring it up to the church or keep it in the car in case you come across a person experiencing homelessness. The index card is to write a short message like "God Loves You!" or "Remember You Are Loved!"

PRAY:

Gracious God, we praise and thank you for how you patiently and faithfully care for all of our needs. Please renew our trust in you and your promise to give us our daily bread. Amen.



WEEK 4 - STORIES ABOUT LAND

*This week our stories focus on **land or earth**. What do we use land for? Growing crops, feeding our animals, and many other things. We will learn about rest for the land and hear stories about using the land to benefit others.*

SHARE:

- Talk about the best and worst parts of your day.
 - Celebrate the good parts and support the tough parts.
-

LEARN:

Read Leviticus 25: 1-7 or the interpretation below:

On Mount Sinai the Lord spoke to Moses and told him – “Tell the people of Israel that when y’all arrive in the promised land that I am giving to you, you can work the land. You can grow crops and vineyards and orchards with fruit and vegetables for six straight years. But on the seventh year – the land needs a break. The earth gets tired just like we do, and it needs to rest so it can restore itself and be ready to grow more food again later. During that year you can eat anything that just naturally grows on its own, but do not plant gardens or large fields of any kind. Give the earth a break.”

- In what ways does land “work”?
 - Why might land need to rest?
 - If you were a farmer, what would you do for a whole year as the land rested?
 - How does rest help us live the way God hopes for us to?
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SNACK:

The snack for this week is Avocado Slices.

Ingredients:

- 2-3 Avocados (sliced)
- Salt/Pepper/Garlic Powder to taste

Instructions:

Slice avocados and top with spices.

ENGAGE:

This week we will be **Planting Seeds**. What is your favorite vegetable or flower? Find some seeds and let's plant! If you choose to plant in the ground in your yard or garden, that is great! If you choose to plant in a pot or planter, you can decorate it with messages about God's Love. Don't forget to water that plant and show it some love. I cannot wait to watch it grow!

PRAY:

Gentle God, Thank You for all that your earth provides. Thank you for knowing what is best for us and for all the earth., and for the goodness of rest. Amen.



WEEK 5 - ANIMAL STORIES

*This week our stories focus on **animals!** We all love our pets and this week we hear stories about creation of animals and how God used some animals to help humans in their faith journey. When you take the time to look there are many stories about animals in the Bible. Noah and the Dove, Jesus Riding a Donkey, and Animals 2 by 2. Can you think of others?*

SHARE:

- Talk about the best and worst parts of your day.
 - Celebrate the good parts and support the tough parts.
-

LEARN:

Read Genesis 1: 20-25 or *Creation* in the Spark Story Bible & Numbers 22: 22-35 or the interpretation found on the next page.

- What are your favorite animals and why?
 - Why might God have created so many kinds of animals on the earth?
 - When have you needed to rely on another person's ideas in your life?
 - In what way does God use others, even animals at times, to show us something we couldn't see otherwise?
 - How does it change us to listen to and depend on others sometimes?
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SNACK:

The snack for this week is Hard Boiled Eggs.

Ingredients:

- Hard Boiled Eggs
- Salt/Pepper to Taste

Instructions:

Boil eggs in a pot of water for 15 minutes. Rinse in cold water. Shell and enjoy with salt & pepper.

ENGAGE:

This week we will make a **Bird Feeder**. Supplies needed are:

- A pinecone or small toilet paper roll
- Bird Seed
- Peanut Butter
- String
- A Paper Plate

First take the pinecone or cardboard roll and tie a string to one end. Now take the peanut butter and apply it to the cone or roll. Take the bird seed and pour it onto the paper plate. Take your roll/pinecone & roll it in the bird seed covering as much peanut butter as you can. Get an adult to help you hang it in a tree and enjoy watching the animals get a snack.

PRAY:

Imaginative God, you delight in creation and we do, too. Thank you for filling the world with such fantastic creatures. Help us to celebrate all that you have made. Amen.

Balaam was not an Israelite, but God had a special job for him to do anyway. God wanted Balaam to deliver messages for God himself. Balaam wasn't so sure he wanted to be a prophet of God, so he got up one morning and saddled his donkey and went off with some important men from Moab instead.

As he was going, God got mad at him. He was not doing what God asked! So, God sent God's angel to confront Balaam. The donkey Balaam was riding was able to see God's angel and knew that God was mad, so the donkey tried to take a different path to avoid the angel. Balaam couldn't see the angel and got mad at his donkey and hit it.

This happened again as they were going through a vineyard. The vineyard had a fence on each side of the path. As the donkey tried to avoid the angel, Balaam's foot and leg ended up getting scraped by the fence.

Balaam lost his temper and hit the donkey with a stick.

God decided to speak to Balaam through the donkey. God said, "What have I done to deserve getting hit by you?"

Balaam didn't even realize that his donkey was talking. He replied: "You've been playing tricks and not doing what you are supposed to. You keep trying to take me on the wrong paths. I should have hurt you even more than I did!"

God spoke again through the donkey: "Haven't I been your donkey for years? You've ridden me over and over again. Have I ever done anything like this before?"

Balaam said: "No."

Then God helped Balaam see what was happening. Balaam saw the angel and realized how wrong and mean he had been.

He knelt on the ground before God's angel.

The angel spoke to Balaam and said: "Why have you been so mean to your poor donkey. I came to block your way because you aren't doing what God asked of you. Your donkey saw me and was trying to protect you."

Balaam replied: "I have sinned. I had no idea you were standing there, and I shouldn't have treated my donkey that way. I'll go back to where I came from."

The angel told Balaam: "Go ahead and keep traveling with the important men from Moab, but from now on you only get to say what God wants you to say. Nothing else. You are God's prophet now."



WEEK 6 - STORIES ABOUT BEING LOST

*This week our stories are about **being lost**. When we lose something important to us, we look everywhere until we find it. If we are the one that is lost, we know others are out looking for us and helping to find us. This week we will learn about how much God loves and walks with us when we feel lost.*

SHARE:

- Talk about the best and worst parts of your day.
 - Celebrate the good parts and support the tough parts.
-

LEARN:

Read Jonah 1-4 or *Jonah & the Big Fish* in the Spark Story Bible & Luke 15:1-7 or *The Good Shepherd* in the Spark Story Bible.

- What is surprising about these stories?
 - How did Jonah struggle to listen to God?
 - How might it have felt to be the lost sheep?
 - When have you resisted following what you knew God wanted you to do? What happened?
 - Have you ever felt lost and alone? What was it like?
 - How does it feel to know God will always find you?
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SNACK:

The Snack for this week is Tomato Slices, Basil, & Mozzarella.

Ingredients:

- 2-3 Sliced Tomatoes
- Fresh Basil
- Fresh Sliced Mozzarella
- Salt/Pepper to Taste

Instructions:

Layer Tomato, Mozzarella, Spices, & Basil. Enjoy a fresh, easy, delicious treat!

ENGAGE:

This week we will make a **Prayer Labyrinth**. Attached you will find a Prayer Labyrinth printable sheet. Take colors and make it your own. You can color different sections different colors or follow the path and change colors every 5 seconds to make an awesome design. You can then use this as a great tool for quiet prayer time.

PRAY:

Celebrating God, thank you for your care for every creature and for each one of us. Help us notice those who are far off and to draw them in with love. Amen.

