

Crossroads' Sparks

Target Age Groups:

1. Little Sparks - 4 yr-olds - Kindergarten
2. Big Sparks - 1st - 5th graders

Spiritual Formation Goals:

By the time kids graduate from Sparks, they will understand

1. God loves me;
2. God made me;
3. God has a plan for my life; (Little Sparks)
4. God's plan is for me to follow Him. (Big Sparks)

Educational Values:

1. Primacy of relationships;
 - :: spiritual formation is life-on-life
 - :: more is "caught" than "taught"
2. Relevance of spiritual content;
 - :: in order of importance, objectives are behavioral (hands), affective (heart), and cognitive (head)
3. Experiential learning;
 - :: sensitive to attention span
 - :: targets a variety of learning styles
5. Fun and rewarding process;
 - :: kids like Sparks
 - :: kids want to keep coming to Sparks

Curriculum Organization:

For each month, we will focus on one Scripture passage/story/theme. Each week, we will start and end with a large-group celebration and send-off. Between the large-group times we will offer at least four learning centers:

1. Bible story
2. Video (music & media)
3. Choose from "Teaching Methods" p2, depending on passage/story/theme.
4. Choose from "Teaching Methods" p2, depending on passage/story/theme.
5. Etc

Teaching Methods:

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|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Arts and crafts | 5. Games and puzzles | 9. Science |
| 2. Dance and movement | 6. Large-group teaching | 10. Small-group discussion |
| 3. Drama | 7. Music and media | 11. Spirituality and prayer |
| 4. Eating and Food | 8. Recreation | 12. Storytelling |

Centers:

Each center should be a unique opportunity for kids of differing learning styles to connect with the truth of the passage/story/theme. Each center should last 20 minutes. Each center should have clear instructions, supplies list, etc. Each center should provide the leader a key statement that reinforces the month's passage/story/theme.

Take Home Piece:

Each week we will give kids a "take-home" assignment. This will vary week-to-week and month-to-month, but the goal is to challenge kids to make one change in their life each week.

Big Sparks' Schedule:

- 0:00 - 0:15 large group opening
- welcome and greeting
 - music
 - introduce topic
 - introduce adult leaders and stations
 - music
 - dismiss by age/grade
- 0:15 - 0:35 small group stations
- depending on the topic, each month will have instructions for 4 stations, drawn from the *Teaching Methods* section above
 - occasionally we'll offer a separate plan for 5th graders
- 0:35 - 0:45 large group closing
- music
 - review of topic
 - review of "take-home" piece(s)
 - music (until parents get kids)

Content Areas (36 months):

1. Old Testament (15 months)

A. Torah and History (10)

- i. Creation (Genesis 1-2) - God made all things; all that God made is good (or very good!); I should take care of His creation.
- ii. Flood (Genesis 6-9) - God loves and provides for all creation
- iii. Abram and Sarai (Genesis 12:1-8; 15:1-20; 18:1-13; 21:1-8) - God always keeps His promises.
- iv. Joseph (Genesis 37:2-36; 39:1-6, 20-23; 41:53-57; 42:1-8; 45:1-28; 47:5-6, 11-12) - God always takes care of people who love Him.
- v. Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-4:17) - God wants to use anyone - boys or girls - who says "yes" to God.
- vi. Miriam (Exodus 2:1-10; 15:20-21; Numbers 12:1-16; 20:1-2) - God wants me to care for my brothers and sisters.
- vii. 10 Commandments (Exodus 20) - God's instructions are best for me, because God knows me best.
- viii. Gideon (Judges 6:1-7:25) - God can use me to help my parents love Him more.
- ix. David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17:1-50) - God can do impossible things when I trust Him.
- x. Esther (Esther) - God puts me in places where He can most use me.

B. Poetry (2)

- i. Psalm 23 - The Lord is My Shepherd - God takes care of me, even when I don't know it.
- ii. Psalm 139 - Womb to Tomb - God knows all about me and loves me anyway.

C. Prophets (3)

- i. Rack, Shack, and Benny (Daniel 3) - God wants me to do the right thing, even if I'm scared. - Psalm 56:3
- ii. Daniel in the Lion's Den (Daniel 6) - God wants me to do the right thing, even if I'm scared.
- iii. Jonah (Jonah) - God wants me to trust Him and follow Him, even when I don't want to.

2. New Testament (21 months)

A. Gospels and Acts (15 - Easter is repeated each year)

- i. Mary (Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-20) - God wants to use me even if I'm just a kid.
- ii. Joseph (Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 2:1-20)- God wants me to trust Him, even if I don't understand.
- iii. Angels and Shepherds and Wise Men (Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:8-20) - God wants Jesus to change everything in my life.
- iv. John the Baptizer (Matthew 3:1-17; 11:7-14; Mark 1:4-11; Luke 1:5-25, 41-45, 57-80; 3:7-22) - God wants my life to point others to Jesus.
- v. Jesus' Temptation (Matthew 4:1-11) - Jesus wants me to do the right thing, even when other things seem more fun.
- vi. Salt of the Earth (Matthew 5:13-16) - Jesus wants me to make a difference in the world.
- vii. Martha and Mary of Bethany (Luke 10:38-42) - Jesus wants me to spend time with Him and do things for Him.
- viii. Washing the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17) - Jesus wants me to serve others.
- ix. Peter's Denial and Forgiveness (John 18:15-18, 25-27; 21:15-17)
- x. Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-30) - Jesus wants me to do things to remember Him.
- xi. Easter (19:14-20:18) - Jesus died to pay for my sins and rose from the dead to give me a second chance. **REPEATED EACH YEAR FOR EASTER**
- xii. Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) - Jesus wants me to follow Him and help others become followers.
- xiii. Early Church (Acts 2:36-47) - Jesus wants me to spend my life helping others become followers.
- xiv. Stephen (Acts 7:1-60) - Jesus wants me to follow Him, even if it hurts.
- xv. Saul/Paul (Acts 9:1-18; 13:1-3; 28:30-31) - Jesus can change anyone, no matter how mean they are; Jesus can use anyone to change the world.

B. Epistles (3)

- i. Love (1 Corinthians 13) - God wants me to love people the way He loves them.
- ii. Commitment (1 Timothy 4:6-16) - God wants me to work hard on my relationship with Him.
- iii. Faith (Hebrews 11) - God wants me to live a life of trust in Him.

C. Apocalypse (1)

- i. The End (Revelation 22:1-5, 12-17, 20-21) - Jesus wants me to live my life for Him, knowing that He is the one true God and the end of the story.