

UNIT 9 | SESSION 1

Pre K 6/18/25

THE STORY OF RUTH

RUTH



CHRIST CONNECTION: Like Boaz helped Ruth and Naomi, God sent Jesus to help us. Jesus is our Rescuer who saves us from all our sins.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over all He made.

KEY PASSAGE: My God will supply all your needs in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

STORY POINT: God took care of Ruth.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

The book of Ruth weaves a redemption story that begins with one family from Bethlehem and points toward the Messiah born in the same city. In the story of Ruth, we see how God sees and cares for His people, even demonstrating His love for the nations through a Moabite woman who became a part of Jesus' lineage. God's provision for not only Ruth, but all people is revealed through the theme of a redeemer.

What does Ruth's story teach us about our need for redemption? How does faith play a role in this book of the Bible?

In the time of the judges, famine overtook the land of Judah. So, a man named Elimelech traveled with his family to the land of Moab. Eventually, Elimelech and his two sons died, leaving his wife Naomi and her two daughters-in-law seemingly without provision or protection in their time of need. Naomi granted her late sons' wives to return to their homelands, yet Ruth swore to remain with Naomi and declared that Naomi's God would be her God too.

Ruth remained faithful to Naomi and took to the fields to glean grain for them both. It was there she received kindness from the field's owner Boaz, whom she soon learned was their family redeemer. Boaz had the power to bring Ruth and Naomi back into Elimelech's family so their lineage would continue. He took Ruth as his wife to provide her with the food and protection she needed. Like Ruth, we need provision, but our need goes even further: salvation from sin. The kindness of Jesus led Him to the cross to redeem us amid our sinful state.

Lead kids to see that this story goes beyond mere physical provision to reveal a God who made the way to offer us salvation. Pray that the children in your class would see God's sovereign hand at work in this story and that they would trust in Jesus as the perfect and final Redeemer.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

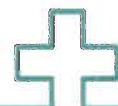
Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30-40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60-65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



WELCOME

Create a grain mosaic picture

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- bulletin board paper, 5-6 feet long
- assorted grains (brown or white rice, dried corn, rolled oats)
- cotton swabs
- small bowls



LEARN

Find family figures

- male people figures, 3
- female people figures, 3

Tell the Bible story

- "The Story of Ruth" video (optional)

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker
- "Key Passage Phrase Puzzle" printable, 1 per 2 or 3 children



LOVE

Scoop and measure grain

- uncooked rice
- shallow bin
- measuring cups
- funnels

Play with blocks and people figures

- assorted people figures
- Bible Story Picture Poster



LIVE

Assemble a key passage phrase puzzle

- "Key Passage Phrase Puzzle" printable, 1 per 2 or 3 children
- heavyweight paper

Missions Activity

- "The Knapps in Tanzania" missions video

Snack and Transition

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- "Count the Stalks of Grain" activity page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Create a craft stick family

- jumbo craft sticks
- envelopes, 1 per child

Fix and serve dinner

- assorted toy dishes
- place mats
- napkins



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, story point, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

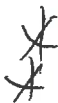
Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

CREATE A GRAIN MOSAIC PICTURE



Place a preschool-height table just inside the classroom door. Tape bulletin board paper to the table's top to cover it completely. Write the words GOD CARES in large letters across the paper with a marker. Place various grains into separate bowls. Pour a small amount of glue into another bowl and place one of the ends of several cotton swabs in the glue. Display the Big Picture Question Poster near the table. As the children arrive, greet them with a smile and help them put away any personal items. Invite the children to help you create a giant classroom art project. Show children the prepared piece of paper and supplies. Point out and say the names of the different kinds of grain that are on the table. Demonstrate how to draw on the paper with the glue end of the cotton swab and then how to place grain in the glue.

SAY Hi, friends. I am so glad to see you today. We have been creating a picture together using different types of grain. Grain is used for food. Often grain is ground up and used to make food like bread or pasta. In our Bible story, God took care of two women named Ruth and Naomi by providing them with grain and someone to help them. Our big picture question and answer asks, How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over all He made.



Worship songs
* Light of the world
* I will Trust you God

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN the Bible Story

1 FIND FAMILY FIGURES

Before group time, place six people figures around the classroom so that children can easily retrieve them. Stand in the group time area and instruct preschoolers to look for the six family figures and to bring them to you. As the children arrive, display the figures and prompt children to be seated. Hold up the male and female figures as you mention their portions of the Bible story.

SAY “Thank you for helping me find our family. In today’s Bible story, we are going to hear about what happened to a family. In this family, there was a man and his wife. They had two sons. Each of their sons got married. Listen carefully to hear how God cared for them.”



2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY *Video*

Open you Bible to Ruth. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

THE STORY OF RUTH

SAY “Naomi lived with her family in the land of Judah, but there wasn’t enough food there so Naomi, her husband, and their two sons decided to move to a different place called Moab where there was more food.

In Moab, Naomi’s husband died, and then her sons died too. Naomi was very sad. She had two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth. Orpah decided to go back to her family, but Ruth wanted to stay with Naomi no matter what. Ruth said, “I will go where you go, and your people will be my people.”

So Naomi and Ruth went back to Judah together. They didn’t have much food, so Ruth went to a field to collect some leftover grains. The owner of the field, Boaz, saw Ruth and saw she was very kind to Naomi. Boaz made sure Ruth was safe and had enough food.

Naomi thought Boaz would be a good husband for Ruth. Boaz agreed to marry Ruth and take care of Naomi, too. They got married and had a baby boy named Obed. Obed grew up to be the grandfather of a very special king named King David.”

Christ Connection: Like Boaz helped Ruth and Naomi, God sent Jesus to help us. Jesus is like our Rescuer who saves us from all our sins.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Tell the children that you are going to say a statement about the Bible story, but that you need help finishing the statement. Say each statement and guide children to fill in the blank. Sample statements: Naomi's family left Judah because they needed [food]. In Moab, Naomi's husband [died]. Naomi's two sons also [died]. Naomi's daughters-in-law were named [Orpah] and [Ruth]. Naomi and [Ruth] went back to Judah. Ruth provided food by going to the fields to collect [grain]. The field's owner was named [Boaz]. Ruth and Boaz got [married]. Ruth and Boaz had a baby named [Obed]. Obed was the grandfather of King [David].

SAY **“** Naomi's husband and her sons died in the land of Moab. Naomi and Ruth went back to Judah. There, Ruth met Boaz while collecting grain in his field. Boaz made sure that Ruth was safe and had enough food. **GOD TOOK CARE OF RUTH.** Like Boaz helped Ruth and Naomi, God sent Jesus to help us. Jesus is our Rescuer who saves us from all our sins. **”**

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “This Is the Way”:

My God, my God will supply all your needs,
Supply all your needs, supply all your needs.
My God, my God will supply all your needs,
All your needs in Christ Jesus.

* “My God will supply” song

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Prior to the session, print and cut the “Key Passage Phrase Puzzle” printable, one per group of two or three children. Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Philippians 4:19. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the phrase aloud. Distribute the puzzle and guide children to assemble.

SAY **“** The key passage phrase tells us that God supplies all our needs in Christ Jesus. Naomi and Ruth traveled together back to Judah. They didn't have much food. **GOD TOOK CARE OF RUTH.** Like the way that Boaz helped Ruth and Naomi, God sent Jesus to help us. God supplies all our needs in Jesus. Jesus is our Rescuer who saves us from all our sins. **”**

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for sending Jesus to be our Rescuer.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 PLAY FOLLOW THE LEADER

Stand in the center of the room and guide preschoolers to line up behind you. Instruct the children to carefully follow you and to do as you command as you walk around the room. Say to the children something like, “Stay with me no matter what.” Begin the game by walking slowly. Then tell other ways of walking for the children to follow you, such as tiptoeing, taking giant steps, hopping, or duck walking. Lead the children back to the starting place and appoint a new person to be the leader.

SAY Naomi decided to go back home to the land of Judah. Ruth wanted to stay with Naomi no matter what. Ruth said to Naomi, ‘I will go where you go, and your people will be my people.’ In Judah, **GOD TOOK CARE OF RUTH** and Naomi.

2 SCOOP AND MEASURE GRAIN

Place a shallow bin on a low table. Fill the bin with 2–3 inches of uncooked rice. Place measuring cups and funnels in the rice. Invite the children to play in the rice with cups and funnels. Show children how to use cups to scoop rice, and how to dump the cups of rice into the funnels allowing the rice to flow through them. As children play, encourage them to keep the rice in the bin.

SAY Rice is a grain. People use grain to make a lot of different kinds of food. Wheat can be made into pasta or bread. Ground corn can be used to make cornbread or grits. Rice can be boiled and eaten or ground into flour. In the Bible story, we heard how Ruth went into the field to collect grain. The owner of the field was very kind. His name was Boaz. **GOD TOOK CARE OF RUTH.** Boaz made sure Ruth was safe and had enough food. Boaz also agreed to marry Ruth and to take care of Naomi, too. Like Boaz helped Ruth and Naomi, God sent Jesus to help us. Jesus is our Rescuer who saves us from all our sins.

3 PLAY WITH BLOCKS AND PEOPLE FIGURES

Place blocks and people figures on the floor. Display the Bible Story Picture Poster next to the blocks area. Encourage the children to play out the story of Ruth using the people figures and the blocks. As children play, point to the Bible Story Picture Poster and ask them to tell you what they remember from the Bible story.

SAY We heard about how **GOD TOOK CARE OF RUTH.** What are some ways God took care of Ruth? [Allow responses.] The big picture question and answer says, **How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over all He made.** God loved and cared for Ruth, and He took care of her as His creation.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE for God out of love

1 ASSEMBLE A KEY PASSAGE PHRASE PUZZLE

Before the session, print copies of the “Key Passage Phrase Puzzle” printable onto heavyweight paper and cut apart, one per child. Distribute a set of cut pieces to each child. Guide children to assemble their puzzles.

SAY “The key passage phrase is printed on our puzzles. It says, ‘My God will supply all your needs in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19.’ Can you say the phrase with me again? Like Boaz helped Ruth and Naomi, God sent Jesus to help us. God gives us everything we need in Jesus.”

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Show “The Knapps in Tanzania” missions video.

SAY “Doug and Evelyn Knapp were missionaries in Tanzania. Many people believed in Jesus while the Knapps worked in the country. One reason so many people believed what the Knapps told them about Jesus was because of the gardens that Doug and Evelyn planted. [Lead a prayer.]”

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION

Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

SAY “Like Boaz helped Ruth and Naomi, God sent Jesus to help us. Jesus is like our Rescuer who saves us from all our sins.”

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 GATHER GRAIN FROM THE FIELD

Before group time, scatter crayons on the floor of the group time area. Invite the children to come and gather the crayons, like grain from the field. Thank the children for helping you gather “grain” from the field.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Ruth. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

THE STORY OF RUTH

- Naomi and her family went to Moab to find food. But in Moab, Naomi’s husband died. Then her two sons died. Naomi was sad.
- Naomi told her sons’ wives to go home, but Ruth wanted to stay with Naomi. Ruth said, “I will go where you go, and your people will be my people.”
- So Naomi and Ruth went back to Judah. Ruth went to a field to collect leftover grains. Boaz owned the field. He made sure Ruth was safe and had enough food.
- Naomi thought Boaz would be a good husband for Ruth. Boaz agreed to marry Ruth and take care of Naomi, too. They got married and had a baby boy named Obed. Obed grew up to be the grandfather of King David.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “This Is the Way”:

My God, my God will supply all your needs,
Supply all your needs, supply all your needs.
My God, my God will supply all your needs,
All your needs in Christ Jesus.

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Philippians 4:19. Invite a child to open your Bible to the and to remove the marker. Read the phrase aloud. Hand a child a crayon and prompt the child to repeat the verse with you as he tosses it into a bin. Repeat the process of repeating the verse while tossing a crayon with each child. Remind children that God supplies all of our needs in Christ Jesus. Jesus is our Rescuer, like Boaz was for Ruth. Jesus saves us from our sins.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for giving us people who take care of us.



TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 RIDE THE BUS

Create a pretend bus by placing an adult-sized chair with pairs of child-sized chairs behind it. Make sure there is a chair for each child. Sit in the adult chair and hold your hands in front of you as if you are driving a car. Ask, “Where will we drive today?” Prompt children to name a location. Pretend to drive to that location, using exaggerated driving motions such as: sharply turning the wheel, bumping up and down as if you are going over a railroad track, or beeping your horn.

SAY “ During Naomi and Ruth’s time, they didn’t drive to get places. They walked or rode on animals and carts. First, Naomi’s family left Judah and went to Moab. Then, Naomi and Ruth left Moab and traveled back to Judah. Ruth walked to the fields to find food. Boaz owned the fields where Ruth collected grain. Boaz made sure Ruth was safe and had enough food. Like Boaz helped Ruth and Naomi, God sent Jesus to help us. Jesus is our Rescuer who saves us from all our sins. ”

7 CREATE A CRAFT STICK FAMILY

Prior to the session, write the key passage phrase on an envelope for each child. Distribute prepared envelopes, craft sticks, and washable markers to children. Read the key passage phrase aloud. Prompt children to use the craft sticks to make some of the members of Naomi and Ruth’s family. Demonstrate how to draw simple faces on one end of the craft sticks. Prompt children to clothe their craft stick family members by coloring them. When children finish, collect their craft stick families in the envelopes.

SAY “ Ruth was Naomi’s daughter-in-law. They were family. Ruth and Naomi went back to Judah together. While Ruth was gathering grain, she met Boaz. Boaz saw that Ruth was very kind to Naomi. **GOD TOOK CARE OF RUTH.** Boaz made sure Ruth was safe and had enough food. Like Boaz helped Ruth and Naomi, God sent Jesus to help us. Jesus is our Rescuer who saves us from all our sins. ”

8 FIX AND SERVE DINNER

Display toy food, dishes, napkins, and place mats. Demonstrate for the children how to set a table using place mats, napkins, and dishes. Then, encourage the children to play with the toy food and pretend to cook dinner. When the children finish, guide them to place the toy food onto the toy dishes.

SAY “ Ruth and Naomi did not have much food. Ruth went to a field to collect some leftover grain. The owner of the field where Ruth collected grain was a man named Boaz. Boaz saw that Ruth was very kind to Naomi. Boaz made sure Ruth was safe and had enough food. **GOD TOOK CARE OF RUTH.** ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.