



Ruth Is Faithful

Ruth 1:1-22

At this age, girls most often want to play with girls, and boys want to play with boys. In fact, when sexes mix for certain play activities, you may even notice the emergence of common viruses, such as “cooties.” Use this lesson to teach kids the basics of friendships and that the heart of any relationship is God. Encourage children to be kind to one another, and remind them that Jesus can be the center of all of their friendships.



►Bible Point


God wants us to love our friends no matter what.

Key Verse

“A friend loves at all times” (Proverbs 17:17).

Weaving Faith Into Life


Children will show their friends and family they love them.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>Friends Stick Together <i>(about 10 min.)</i></p> <p>Discover information about each other to build deeper friendships.</p>	<p>newspaper, masking tape</p>	<p>Create a “ball” by wadding up pieces of newspaper. Then wrap masking tape around the outside surface of the ball, sticky side out, until the ball is completely covered.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>A Circle of Friends <i>(about 25 min.)</i></p> <p>Create story-chain bracelets to use in retelling today’s lesson.</p>	<p>Bible; 5 large paper clips per child; 1 white, 1 red, 2 purple, 2 yellow, 3 blue, and 3 green beads per child; tape</p> <p>Teacher Pack: “My Buddy” poster</p> 	<p>Tape the “My Buddy” poster to a wall at kids’ eye level.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Jesus in the Middle <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Discover what the Bible teaches us about friendships.</p>	<p>Bibles Teacher Pack: Bible Timeline</p> 	
	<p>On My Heart, On My Mind <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Find ways to practice being a friend.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun, crayons or markers</p>	<p>Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.</p>
<p>4 Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





Friends Stick Together Supplies

newspaper
masking tape

Friends Stick Together Easy Prep

Create a “ball” by wadding up pieces of newspaper. Then wrap masking tape around the outside surface of the ball, sticky side out, until the ball is completely covered.

1 GETTING STARTED

Friends Stick Together

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Let’s start class today with a fun game that will put you all in a very “sticky” situation. Let’s all stand in a circle and have some sticky, friendly fun!**

Have children stand in a circle to answer a series of getting-to-know-you questions. Explain that you’ll toss the sticky ball to a child and ask a question. The child will catch the ball and answer the question; then that child will toss the ball to someone else while asking the same question. Continue playing until each child has answered the question, and then retrieve the ball. Play again with the next question. Use the following questions as a guide.

Ask:

- **What’s your name?**
- **What’s your favorite cartoon?**
- **What’s your favorite food?**
- **What’s your favorite animal?**
- **What school do you go to?**

After the game, set the ball aside and have kids sit in a circle.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you notice about the ball as you caught it? What did it feel like?**
- **What do your hands feel like now?**

Encourage children to hold out their palms facing the children beside them in the circle and touch hands with the other children.

Say: **The reason the ball was sticky is to get us ready for today’s Bible story. Our lesson today is about friendships, and true friends stick together, don’t they? So now that we’re sticky ourselves, let’s learn how Naomi and Ruth stuck together and discover that ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FRIENDS NO MATTER WHAT.**





2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

A Circle of Friends

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Hand each child five large paper clips, and distribute beads to each child as follows: one white bead, one red bead, two purple beads, two yellow beads, three blue beads, and three green beads.

Say: **Today as we hear the Bible story, we're going to make friendship bracelets that we can take home and use to tell others about being true friends. Maybe you'll even want to give your bracelet to a special friend of yours! Let's get started.**

In the book of Ruth in the Old Testament of our Bibles, there was a man named Elimelech. Let's just call him Eli. Pick up your red bead and place it on your first paper clip. Show younger children how to thread the bead on the paper clip. This is Eli. Eli married a woman named Naomi. Pick up a blue bead to be Naomi, and place it beside the red bead on your paper clip.

Elimelech and Naomi had not just one but two handsome sons. Pick up your two purple beads to be the two sons, and place them both on your second paper clip. Attach that clip to the first paper clip. Everybody with me? Help any children who need assistance.

Open your Bible to Ruth 1:1-5, and read the passage aloud.

Say: **Now pick up a green bead, which is our Ruth bead, and a yellow bead, which is our Orpah bead. Place them on your third paper clip, and attach it to your other paper clips.**

Ask:

- How do you think Naomi felt when she lost her husband?
- How do you think she felt when she lost her sons, too?
- How do you think Ruth and Orpah felt when they lost their husbands?

Say: **They all felt pretty bad, I'm sure, but at least they had the friendship God had given them. Place a blue Naomi bead, a yellow Orpah bead, and a green Ruth bead beside each other on your fourth paper clip. Attach that clip to your third paper clip. Does everybody remember what each bead stands for?** Review the story so far with the beads, reminding kids what each color means. Refer to the "My Buddy" poster as a visual aid and color code.

Read aloud Ruth 1:6-10.



A Circle of Friends Supplies

- Bible
- 5 large paper clips per child
- 1 white, 1 red, 2 purple, 2 yellow, 3 blue, and 3 green beads per child
- tape
- Teacher Pack
- "My Buddy" poster

A Circle of Friends Easy Prep

Tape the "My Buddy" poster to a wall at kids' eye level.





Ask:

- How would you feel if you were Naomi? Would you really want your friends to leave?

Say: **Well, Naomi wanted what she thought was best for her daughters-in-law and told them again to go home to their own families.**

Read aloud Ruth 1:11-13.

Ask:

- How would Naomi's words make you feel?
- What would you do if you were Ruth or Orpah? Would you go home?

Say: **Well, Orpah decided to leave. She kissed Naomi goodbye and headed off. But Ruth decided to stay with Naomi.**

Read aloud Ruth 1:16-18, 22.

Say: **Place a blue Naomi bead, a green Ruth bead, and the white bead to represent God on your fifth paper clip and fasten your bracelet together with this clip. This paper clip shows that God was in the middle of Ruth and Naomi's friendship. Now let's review!**

Help children finish their bracelets as needed. Then have kids form pairs and take turns telling each other the story of Ruth and Naomi by looking at the beads on their bracelets. Remind them to look at the "My Buddy" poster if they need prompting as to which color represents which person.

When children have finished, have them get back in a large circle for discussion.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How was Ruth a friend to Naomi?
- Have you ever been a friend like Ruth was to Naomi? Tell about it!
- What does it mean to be a friend?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FRIENDS NO MATTER WHAT. Let's see if we can discover some ways that we can be friends!**





3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Jesus in the Middle

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show the "Ruth Is Faithful to Naomi and God" section on the Bible Timeline. Say: **We've talked a lot today about friendships and what we think it means to be a friend. Let's find out what the Bible tells us about how to be a friend!**

Distribute Bibles and have children look up Proverbs 17:17. Ask a volunteer to read the verse aloud, or have children read it together as a group.

Say: **Pretty simple, huh? "A friend loves at all times." That means always, no exceptions, no matter what.** Have the kids repeat the verse with you several times.

Ask:

- Who do we know loves us at all times?

Say: **God loves us always, no exceptions, no matter what! In fact he loves us so much that he sent us Jesus, his Son, to show us how to love someone all the time. That's not always an easy thing to do, is it?**

Ask:

- When are some times it's difficult to be a friend to someone?
- How can we show our friends we love them?

Say: **One thing we can always do for our friends is pray for them! Think of a friend you know—it doesn't have to be someone your age—who's going through a hard time right now. Let's practice loving those people by praying for them right now.**

Pray: **Heavenly Father, thank you for the friendships you have given us and for sending your Son, Jesus, to teach us how to be loving friends. Lord, we want to be like Jesus and love at all times, too. Help us to love the friends we thought of. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Now let's let our friends know that they're being prayed for, showing them they have a friend who loves at all times.



Jesus in the Middle Supplies

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- Bibles
 - Teacher Pack**
 - Bible Timeline





On My Heart, On My Mind Supplies

My Bible Fun
crayons or markers

On My Heart, On My Mind Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 3
pages from each My
Bible Fun student book.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun

On My Heart, On My Mind

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute today's My Bible Fun pages, and have kids turn to the "On My Heart, On My Mind" activity. Instead of choosing Daily Challenges this week, lead kids in brainstorming activities that would let someone know he or she has a friend, such as calling that person, visiting that person, drawing a special picture for that person, or helping that person with certain tasks. Then distribute crayons or markers, and have each child write or draw in the thought cloud the action he or she can do this week for the friend to let that person know he or she has a friend who loves at all times. Remind kids that parents can be friends sometimes. They love us at all times. Have kids think of things they can do for their parents and write those in the thought cloud, too.

Ask:

- What action did you decide to do this week for your friend?
- How do you think knowing you care will make that person feel?
- How do you think Naomi must have felt to have a friend like Ruth stay by her side, even through the hard times?
- Have you ever had a friend who loved you and stood by your side through hard times? Tell about it.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FRIENDS NO MATTER WHAT. As this week's Daily Challenge, try to follow through on showing a friend love like you wrote on your My Bible Fun page.**

Tell the kids how you'll care for someone in need. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.

Say: **Let's show we know that ► GOD WANTS US TO LOVE OUR FRIENDS NO MATTER WHAT by following through on our Daily Challenge.**





Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how God wants us to love our friends no matter what. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Close in prayer, thanking God for giving us friends and sending Jesus, our best friend of all. Ask God to teach us to be friends who love at all times.



