



Ruth Marries Boaz

Ruth 2–4

The children in your class crave individual attention and affirmation. Rather than viewing your class as a group, try to see each child as a unique individual. When you call kids by name, remember children’s favorite candies, or ask about a prayer request, you’re showing children that you see them as special individuals.



► Bible Point

Hope in God’s good plans.

Key Verse

“ ‘For I know the plans I have for you’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’ ” (Jeremiah 29:11).


Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will hope in God’s good plans for them.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Obstacle Course Craze <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Figure out the passage through an obstacle course.	CD player, watch with a second hand Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Gleaning Game <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Experience what it was like to glean barley from a field, just as Ruth did.	Bible, watch with a second hand Teacher Pack: bag of springfill	
	The Big Picture <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Add balloons to a wall and create a design as they hear the story of Ruth and Boaz.	masking tape, balloons, laundry basket	Blow up at least 20 balloons. Place the balloons in a laundry basket, and set the basket near a wall, along with a roll of masking tape.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

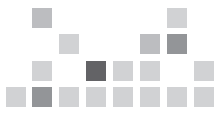




LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	A Basket Full of Hope <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Fill “baskets” with grain as a reminder of the good things God fills our lives with.	glue sticks, My Bible Fun, markers, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, bag of springfill	Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Ruth Marries Boaz

Ruth 2–4

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Ruth Gleans Food From Boaz’s Field

It may seem strange that Ruth was allowed to take grain from someone else’s field. However, God had provided for the unfortunate, directing landowners to allow “the alien, the fatherless and the widow” to gather grain missed by the landowner’s workers in their first pass through the fields (Deuteronomy 24:19).

Ruth’s attitude provides even more information about her character. She must have realized how demeaning it would be for Naomi to perform such a task after having left Bethlehem years earlier as part of a wealthy family. Imagine, however, how difficult this task must have been for Ruth. She was an unknown foreigner and a widow and was likely considered an outcast. Workers in the field may have been less than kind to her, resulting in the commands of Boaz in Ruth 2:8, 15. But she undertook the task diligently and politely (Ruth 2:7).

The text tells us that Ruth “found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz” (Ruth 2:3). However, we can see that God was guiding her. Boaz was Naomi’s kinsman-redeemer—a close relative who was responsible for helping Ruth and Naomi.

Ruth Marries Boaz, Becomes David’s Great-Grandmother

Some have suggested that Ruth committed an immoral act when she lay at Boaz’s feet while he slept. However, it was customary for servants to sleep at their masters’ feet. In doing this, Ruth was informing Boaz that he, as her kinsman-redeemer, could marry her or find someone to do so.

Ruth 4:1-12 refers to a somewhat complicated process prescribed by laws intended to protect families from the loss of property. Boaz could purchase Naomi’s family property only after a closer relative had declined to do so. In buying back Naomi’s

former property, he also obtained the right to marry Ruth, Naomi’s daughter-in-law.

The hope Ruth clung to resulted not only in a happy ending for her, Naomi, and Boaz, but also for us, as she became the great-grandmother of King David (Ruth 4:17) and an ancestor of Joseph, Jesus’ earthly father (Matthew 1:5-16).

The Jesus Connection

Many things that seem like coincidence may actually be God working in our lives through our relationship with Jesus.

How has a decision you’ve made worked out to a surprisingly good result? How should that experience influence your hope in God? Pray that God will help you take a step of faith as you make decisions today. You can write your prayer here.





Obstacle Course Craze Supplies

CD player
watch with a second
hand

Teacher Pack

CD: "The Plans I Have
for You" (Jeremiah
29:11) (track 4)

1 GETTING STARTED

Obstacle Course Craze

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Gather everyone together. Say: **Today we'll be talking about hope.**

Ask:

- **What does it mean to have hope?**
- **What kinds of things do you hope for?**

Say: **Listen as I read our Key Verse. See if you can discover why we can have hope.** Read aloud the Key Verse: " **'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' "** (Jeremiah 29:11).

Ask:

- **Why should we have hope?**
- **How does God give us hope?**

Say: **Let's learn more about our Key Verse with a game.** Form two groups. **Group 1 will work together to make an obstacle course that Group 2 must go through as quickly as possible. In fact, I'll time Group 2 to see how fast they can do it! But here's the catch: The members of Group 1 won't tell Group 2 how to go through the course. You'll have to figure it out on your own. Ready?**

Play "The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 4 on the CD) to help drown out the sound of Group 1's discussion. Have members of Group 1 huddle together to plan an obstacle course that uses people and classroom items, such as chairs and tables. Members of Group 2 should turn away from Group 1. After a couple of minutes, call time. Have members of Group 2 try to figure out the obstacle course as you time them. Then allow a child from Group 1 to lead Group 2 through the course as you time them again.

Have groups switch roles, and let Group 2 create a course for Group 1. After members of Group 1 have completed the course correctly, gather everyone in a circle.

Ask:

- **How did you feel as you tried to go through the obstacle course the first time?**
- **Why was it different when someone led you through the course?**
- **Did you trust the person who was leading you? Why or why not?**



Read aloud the Key Verse again: “ ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’ ” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Ask:

- How do you feel knowing that God has good plans for you?

Say: In our game, you had to guess about which way to go. But when someone led you, it was easy! God knows the plans he has for our lives. And the Bible tells us that they’re good plans! We can have hope in the wonderful plans God has for us. In today’s Bible story, we’ll hear about the wonderful plans God had for a woman named Ruth.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Gleaning Game

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Ruth 2–4, and show children the passage.

Say: **The Bible tells us about a woman named Ruth.**

Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, lived in the city of Bethlehem. They didn’t have much money, so Ruth had to work very hard to find food for them. Naomi had a relative named Boaz who had a barley field where Ruth could gather grain.

Take the bag of springfill from the Teacher Pack, and scatter the springfill across the floor. Explain that in Bible times, people grew things like wheat or barley in a big field. When the barley was fully grown, workers would collect the stalks of grain so people could use it to make food.

Say: **Let’s pretend to be workers in Boaz’s field. We’ll have 30 seconds to collect as much of this grain as we can. Ready? Go!**

After 30 seconds, collect the springfill “grain” in its bag. If kids have picked up all the pieces, scatter a few back on the floor. Gather the kids.

Say: **The workers sometimes left a little grain behind on purpose because the Bible told them to. After the workers collected the grain, poor people sometimes followed behind to pick up any pieces that the workers left behind. That was called gleaning. Then the people could take the grain home and use it to make food. Ruth was poor, so she gleaned in Boaz’s field. Let’s pretend to glean, just like Ruth did. We’ll pick up any leftover pieces of grain.**



Gleaning Game Supplies

- Bible
- watch with a second hand
- Teacher Pack**
- bag of springfill





Allow kids to pick up any pieces of springfill that have been left on the floor. When all the springfill has been collected, form a circle. Let each child show the “grain” that he or she gleaned. Then collect all the springfill in its bag and set the bag aside.

Ask:

- Which time was it easier to collect grain—the first time or the second time? Why?
- Do you think Ruth collected very much grain when she gleaned? Why or why not?
- What would it be like to collect your food this way all the time?

Say: **People like Ruth would glean for hours and hours in the hot sun. Ruth had to work hard to bring home enough food for herself and Naomi to eat.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Do you think Ruth ever felt hopeless? Why or why not?
- When have you felt hopeless?
- Why should we have hope?

Say: **We can ► HOPE IN GOD’S GOOD PLANS. One reason we can have hope is that God is faithful. God has wonderful plans for us, just like he had for Ruth. Let’s see what amazing plans God had for Ruth!**

The Big Picture Supplies

masking tape
balloons
laundry basket

The Big Picture Easy Prep

Blow up at least 20 balloons. Place the balloons in a laundry basket, and set the basket near a wall, along with a roll of masking tape.

! BALLOON WARNING

To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Balloons may contain latex.

The Big Picture

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **I want to tell you more about Ruth. As I tell this wonderful—and true—story, I’ll stop and let you place some balloons on this wall. Your balloons will create a big picture.**

Ask:

- What do you think this will be a picture of?

Say: **I’m the only one who knows what the picture should look like at the end. You’ll have to trust me and do just as I say.**

As you tell the following story, pause at the indicated moments, and ask different children to tape balloons to the wall. Your goal is a large balloon heart—but don’t tell the children! Just point to a spot, and let the child tape the balloon in place.

Say: **Ruth might have felt hopeless. She had moved far from her family to be with Naomi. Pause and call on a child. They were very poor, and Ruth had to work hard just to find a little food for them. Pause. But God had good plans for Ruth. Pause. Boaz, the man who owned the field, noticed Ruth. Pause. Boaz had heard that Ruth had become a friend to Naomi. Pause. He had heard that Ruth loved God.**





Pause. **So Boaz told Ruth to come to his field whenever she wanted to!** Pause. **He told the workers to leave extra grain on the ground for Ruth to glean.** Pause. **Boaz protected Ruth. He told the men not to say unkind things to her.** Pause. **He even welcomed Ruth to drink with his workers when she was hot and thirsty.** Pause. **Boaz invited Ruth to eat with the workers, too.** Pause. **He let her eat as much as she wanted—she even had leftovers!** Pause.

When Ruth came home that night, she had lots and lots and lots of grain to use for dinner! Pause. Ruth told Naomi how nice Boaz had been to her. Pause. As it turned out, Boaz wanted to marry Ruth! But first, Boaz had to ask another of Ruth's relatives if that was okay. Pause. The relative said yes! Pause. Ruth and Boaz got married. Pause. Soon they had a baby—a little boy named Obed. Pause. When Obed got old, he was a grandfather. Pause. His grandson was a shepherd boy named David! Pause. **So God's plans all came together, and Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David!**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What shape did we make with our balloons?
- What was it like to add your balloon to the wall even though you didn't know what the final design would be?
- How is that kind of like trusting God's plans?

Say: **The Bible tells us that we can trust God's plans because God's plans are good. Listen as I read Jeremiah 29:11.** Read aloud the Key Verse: “**‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’**” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Point to the balloon heart on the wall.

Say: **Just as you didn't know what plans I had for your balloons, Ruth didn't know what amazing plans God had for her. But Ruth trusted and obeyed God. God had good plans for Ruth, and you can believe that God has wonderful plans for you, too!**





A Basket Full of Hope Supplies

glue sticks

My Bible Fun

markers

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 4)

bag of springfill

A Basket Full of Hope Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

A Basket Full of Hope

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids turn to the "A Basket Full of Hope" section of their My Bible Fun pages. Set out the bag of springfill, glue sticks, and markers. Let kids glue the springfill to the basket that's printed on the page. Then have kids draw pictures to fill the baskets with the good things God puts in their lives. For example, kids might draw pictures of family members, pets, food, sunshine, and friends. As children work, play "The Plans I Have for You" (Jeremiah 29:11) (track 4 on the CD).

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What plans did God have for Ruth?
- What plans do you think God has for you?
- How can you know more about God's plans for you?

Say: **Boaz allowed Ruth to glean from his field and fill her basket with good grain. God fills our lives with good things, too. Let's each choose a Daily Challenge to help us remember to ► HOPE IN GOD'S GOOD PLANS.**

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we can ► HOPE IN GOD'S GOOD PLANS.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Tell a friend about a time God did something good in your life.
- Say a prayer and tell God that you have hope in his good plans.
- Ask your mom or dad to help you take a plate of cookies to a neighbor, and then tell your neighbor about your faith in God.



Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. 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 trust that we can ► HOPE IN GOD’S GOOD PLANS as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how we can hope in God’s good plans. 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.

Say: **Let’s thank God for giving us hope.**

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for having good plans for our lives. We’re so glad that we can trust you. Help us follow and obey you so that we can see all the wonderful things you have planned for us. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



