



Ruth Is Faithful

Ruth 1:1-22

At this age, 5- and 6-year-olds are still learning that love and actions go together. They're learning to share, but they may not realize that sharing shows love. They're learning to play with other kids instead of playing beside them, which also shows love. Help kids understand that love for friends goes beyond smiles and warm hugs. It's sharing, helping, caring, and being together. Our actions communicate love to our friends.



► Bible Point


God wants you to love your friends.

Key Verse

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God" (Isaiah 41:10).

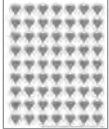
Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will think of ways to show love to their friends.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing a song welcoming all their classroom friends.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Do Not Fear Remind each other that God is always with us.	Bible Teacher Pack: Paper Heart 	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a box of tissues has to do with the Bible story.	CD player, Surprise Box, Theo puppet, box of tissues Teacher Pack: CD	Place the box of tissues in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time Use tissues to respond to various points in Ruth and Naomi's story.	Bible, tissues	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Loving Actions Place heart stickers on pictures of children doing loving things.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground Teacher Pack: Heart Stickers</p> 	<p>Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Pair-Share Snack Time Work with a partner to share a snack.</p>	<p>napkins, juice, cups, 1 small resealable plastic bag per child, 1 apple per two children, knife, cheese crackers</p>	<p>Fill half of the bags with apple slices and the other half with cheese crackers.</p>
	<p>Center 3: Loving Friends Sing a song about friendship.</p>	<p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
	<p>Center 4: “Loving” Doorknob Hangers Make a doorknob hanger as a reminder to love friends.</p>	<p>1 sheet of blue construction paper per child, 1 sheet of red construction paper per child, 1 pair of safety scissors per child, glue, markers</p>	<p>Cut a 4x8-inch rectangle from blue construction paper for each child. Cut a 1½-inch circle, 2 inches down from the top, leaving a slit to the top. Round the corners of the rectangle to make a doorknob hanger. Cut three ½x1½-inch strips of red construction paper for each child, and accordion-fold the strips.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground</p>	
	<p>Loving Friends With Prayer Draw pictures of friends, and then pray for them.</p>	<p>paper, crayons</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

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





Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "All Here Today"
(track 6); "Jesus Loves
Me Rock" (track 5)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song




Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■


As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Play "All Here Today" (track 6 on the CD) to the tune of "I Have the Joy" and lead children in doing the motions.

 **We've got our friends, pals, buddies, chummies** (*have children pat each other's backs*)
All here today! (Where?) (*have children look to the left*)
All here today! (Where?) (*have children look to the right*)
All here today! (*have children pat each other's backs*)
We've got our friends, pals, buddies, chummies
All here today! (Where?) (*have children look to the left and then look to the right*)
All here to learn and play! (*have children clap to the beat*)
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **It's so fun to sing with friends. Let's sing another song together called "Jesus Loves Me Rock."**

Lead children in singing "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 5 on the CD).

 **Jesus loves me;** (*echo*)
This I know, (*echo*)
For the Bible (*echo*)
Tells me so. (*echo*)
Little children (*echo*)
To him belong. (*echo*)
They are weak, but (*echo*)
He's so strong! (*echo*)

Jaaayyy! (*J*)
Eeeeeee! (*E*)
Ssssss! (*S*)
Uuuuuu! (*U*)
Ssssss! (*S*)





And what's that spell? *(Jesus!)*
 And who do you love? *(Jesus!)*
 And who loves you? *(Jesus!)*
 Who died for you? *(Jesus!)*
 And who's your guy? *(Jesus!)*
 The apple of your eye! *(Jesus!)*
 And who's your friend? *(Jesus!)*
 He'll love ya to the end! *(Jesus!)*

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"Jesus Loves Me Rock" by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Do Not Fear

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Isaiah 41:10, and show the children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God." This means that we should not fear, because God is with us. Let's say our verse together.** Lead the children in repeating the adapted Key Verse: "Do not fear; God is with you."

Let's say this verse to each other as we imagine some situations where we might be afraid. First, let's take turns telling each other what we are afraid of. Then let's tell each other our Key Verse, so we can remember not to fear because God is always with us. We will pass the Paper Heart around so we can remind each other that God is always with us and takes care of us because he loves us. Turn to the child sitting on your left. Encourage the child to tell you of a scary situation or event that he or she fears. Then give the child the Paper Heart and say, "Do not fear; God is with you." Have that child turn to his or her neighbor and encourage the neighbor to tell of a scary situation or time. Continue around the circle until everyone has had a turn.

Ask:

- What should we do when we feel scared or alone?

Say: **When we are scared or alone, we can know that God is always with us, taking care of us. We can talk to him, and he will listen to us. Let's say our Key Verse one more time: "Do not fear; God is with you."**



Do Not Fear
Supplies

Bible
 Teacher Pack
 Paper Heart





Theo's News Supplies

CD player
Surprise Box (any box
will do)
Theo puppet
box of tissues
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo" (track
2)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the box of tissues
in the Surprise Box, and
hide the box where it's
easily accessible.

Bible Time Supplies

Bible
tissues

3

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about our Bible story.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo found for us today.

(Choose a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the tissue box around the circle so the rest of the class can see it up close. Give the children time to guess what the Bible story might be about.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide a box of tissues in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, in the story today, there is a woman who was very sad.

Teacher: Kids, can you think of a time you were sad enough to need a tissue?

(Pause to allow kids to answer your question.)

Theo: The Bible story is about a woman who was very sad. But God sent her a friend who loved her and was kind to her.

Teacher: Let's find out how God used a loving friend to cheer the sad woman.

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Bible Time

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Before you begin Bible Time, give each child a tissue to hold. Open your Bible to Ruth 1, and show the children the words.

Say: **Today's Bible story tells us that ► GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS.** Have kids repeat the Bible Point after you.

Ask:

- **What are some things that make you sad?**





Say: **During our Bible story, some sad things happen. When I say, “And that was very sad,” wipe your eyes with your tissue and pretend to cry.** Have the children practice wiping their eyes with the tissues and pretending to cry.

Ask:

- **What are some things that make you happy?**

Say: **There will be some happy things that happen during our Bible story also. When I say, “And that made her very happy,” smile as you wave your tissue in the air and shout, “Hooray!”** Have the children smile, wave their tissues, and shout, “Hooray!”

Today, we’ll learn about a woman who was from Judah.

Naomi lived in Bethlehem with her husband and two sons. But there was no food in Bethlehem, and that was very sad. Have the children wipe their eyes and pretend to cry.

So Naomi’s family had to move to a faraway country called Moab, where there was lots and lots of food. Naomi probably had many friends that she had to say goodbye to.

Ask:

- **Have you ever had to say goodbye to a friend? What happened?**

Have the children form partners and sit back to back. Tell kids that their partners will pretend to be friends they haven’t seen in a long time. Have one child pretend to call his or her old friend on the phone. Remind kids that calling a friend on the phone is one way we can love our friends.

Say: **Naomi’s sons got married to Ruth and Orpah. Naomi had some new friends! And this made her very happy.** Have the children smile as they wave their tissues in the air and shout, “Hooray!” **While they were living in Moab, Naomi’s husband and two sons died. Naomi had no family left from her homeland—Bethlehem in Judah—and that was very sad.** Have the children wipe their eyes and pretend to cry.

Naomi heard that God had provided food in Bethlehem again. Now she could go back home. This made her very happy. Have the children wave their tissues and shout, “Hooray!”

Naomi’s friends and daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, wanted to go with Naomi to her homeland of Bethlehem. But Naomi told them, “You should stay here with your families and find new husbands.” This made all three women very sad. Have the children wipe their eyes and pretend to cry.

Orpah kissed Naomi goodbye, but Ruth hugged Naomi and said, “Please don’t tell me to go. I’ll go where you go and stay where you stay. Your people will be my people, and I’ll believe in your God.” Naomi was still sad because her husband and sons had died. But having a kind and loving friend like Ruth helped to make her happy. Have the children wave their tissues and shout, “Hooray!”





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why was Naomi sad?
- How did Ruth show love to Naomi and make her happy?
- How can we show love and kindness to our friends?

Say: **Good friends like Ruth show love at all times. It doesn't matter if our friends are happy, sad, frightened, or angry; ► GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS, just like Ruth loved Naomi.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

■ CENTER 1:

Loving Actions

What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute the Lesson 3 pages from My Bible Playground and let kids write their names on the pages. Have children work with partners.

Say: ► **GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS. On your paper, there are several pictures of children—some are doing loving things, some are not. Talk with your partner and decide which children are doing loving things, and then place a heart sticker on each of those pictures.** After children finish, discuss the activity.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you know if you are showing love or not?
- How do you feel when a friend shows love for you?
- How did Ruth show love toward Naomi?

Center 1: Loving Actions Supplies

My Bible Playground
Teacher Pack
Heart Stickers

Center 1: Loving Actions Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
3 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.





Say: **People are happy when their friends show love. Let's try to make our friends happy with the things we say and do. Remember, ► GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS.**

CENTER 2:

Pair-Share Snack Time

What You'll Do

Have the children wash their hands (or use wet wipes) and then sit down to have their snacks. Let each child choose a partner. Give one of the partners a napkin and a bag of apple slices. Give the other partner a napkin and a bag of cheese crackers. Have each child divide what's in his or her bag and share with his or her partner. Serve juice or water with the snack.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How would you feel if your partner didn't want to share with you?
- How else can friends show love?


Say: **► GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS. One way you can do that is by sharing. Let's thank God for our friends and for providing our snack. Invite one child to pray for the snack.**

CENTER 3:

Loving Friends

What You'll Do

Have the children stand in a circle. Stand in the middle and teach children to sing "A Friend Loves at All Times" (track 13 on the CD) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Have the class sing the song through once for practice.

 **A friend loves at all times.
A friend loves at all times.
God helps you love your friends.
A friend loves at all times.**
(Repeat 2x.)



Center 2: Pair-Share Snack Time Supplies

- napkins
- juice
- cups
- 1 small resealable plastic bag per child
- 1 apple per two children
- knife
- cheese crackers

ALLERGY ALERT

Center 2: Pair-Share Snack Time Easy Prep

Fill half of the bags with apple slices and the other half with cheese crackers.

Center 3: Loving Friends Supplies

- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "A Friend Loves at All Times" (track 13)





Center 4: “Loving” Doorknob Hangers Supplies

1 sheet of blue construction paper per child
1 sheet of red construction paper per child
1 pair of safety scissors per child
glue
markers

Center 4: “Loving” Doorknob Hangers Easy Prep

Cut a 4x8-inch rectangle from blue construction paper for each child. Cut a 1½-inch circle, 2 inches down from the top, leaving a slit to the top. Round the corners of the rectangle to make a doorknob hanger. Cut three ½x1½-inch strips of red construction paper for each child, and accordion-fold the strips.

Say: **Now that we know the words to the song, let’s play a game and think of ways to love our friends. I’ll be the Pointer. When the song ends, the person I point to will get to tell us one way we can show love.** Hold your arms out in front of you and put your hands together like a pointer.

Begin the CD, and have the children walk in a circle going one direction while you point and turn in the opposite direction. When the song ends, have the child you are pointing to tell a way to show love. Let that child be the Pointer for the next round. Recue the CD and play the game again.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why should we love our friends?**
- **How do our friends feel when we show love to them?**
- **How do you feel when your friend shows love to you?**
- **How do you think God feels when we choose to love our friends?**

Say: **There are many ways to show love to our friends. Ruth showed love by staying with Naomi. ► GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS.**

■ CENTER 4:

“Loving” Doorknob Hangers

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Show the children how to create heart shapes by folding a piece of red construction paper and then placing the side of your thumb on the fold at an angle and tracing around it. Have them cut three hearts this way.

Ask:

- **Do you know what it means to be faithful?**

Say: **If you are faithful, you will stick by someone even in hard times. Ruth was faithful to her friend Naomi because she loved her.**

Write the words “Love Your Friends” on each blue rectangle. If some children want to do this, allow them to do so, and assist them as needed. Have the children glue one end of a red strip to a heart and the other end to the doorknob hanger. Repeat with the other two hearts. This will give the hearts a 3-D effect.

Ask:

- **Look! There are three hearts on your doorknob hangers. What are three ways you can love your friends?**





Say: ► **GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS.** Take your craft home and hang it on your door to remind you of the three ways you can be faithful and love your friends.



5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge to encourage your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS.** I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to think about how you can love your friends.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. This week, remember that ► **GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS** by using kind words. Tell a friend why you love him or her.
2. Share your favorite toy with a friend, and tell him or her what you learned from the Bible story this week.
3. Pray for one friend every day this week, and ask God to show you how you can love him or her even more.

Say: If you want to tell a friend you love him or her, circle choice number 1. If you want to share your favorite toy, circle choice number 2. If you want to pray for a friend, circle choice number 3. Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Loving Friends With Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a sheet of paper and some crayons. Have the children form pairs, and have each child draw a picture of his or her partner.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

Loving Friends With Prayer Supplies

paper
crayons





Say: **One of the best ways to show love for friends is to pray for them. Let's pray for our friends right now.** Let kids pray spontaneous, one-sentence prayers for their partners.

When children have all had a chance to pray, lead the children in saying, "In Jesus' name, amen."

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground book pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

