



Ruth Marries Boaz

Ruth 2-4

Most 5- and 6-year olds recognize the word *hope* as the expectation of something good. Although this is an adequate definition, many children this age view “something good” as a materialistic blessing. They hope they can watch a favorite TV show before bedtime, get dessert after dinner, or get a treat during the next shopping trip. During today’s lesson, children can begin to understand that hope means more than material blessings. Hope is an expectation of security and safety and the trust that all will be well, no matter what happens to us. Our hope is in God. God plans to give us hope in our daily lives.



► Bible Point

Hope in God.

Key Verse

“Put your hope in God”
(Psalm 42:11).


Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will put their hope in God and know that God will take care of them.

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>	Song of Hope Sing a song about hope while they wait to eat some yummy cereal.	Bible, CD player, box of cereal Teacher Pack: CD	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 25 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a bag of wheat cereal has to do with the Bible story.	CD player, Surprise Box, Theo puppet, resealable plastic bag filled with wheat cereal Teacher Pack: CD	Place the plastic bag of wheat cereal in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time Play a game in which they pretend to be Ruth picking up wheat.	Bible, several sheets of yellow construction paper, scissors, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Cut several sheets of yellow construction paper into strips about 1/2 inch in width. Fray the ends of the strips so they look like stalks of wheat. Scatter the “wheat stalks” on the floor in easy-to-find areas.

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: Wheat for Ruth and Naomi Glue small strands of yarn to the My Bible Playground page to look like wheat, and talk about what it's like to be hungry.</p>	My Bible Playground, glue, yellow yarn, scissors	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. Cut yarn into several small pieces.
	<p>Center 2: Wheat Snack Crumble wheat cereal on top of cream cheese crackers, and talk about how God takes care of them like he took care of Ruth and Naomi.</p>	plastic knives, napkins, wheat cereal, soft cream cheese, crackers	
	<p>Center 3: Finger-Puppet Play Use finger puppets to retell the story.</p>	scissors, tape, several wheat stalks from Bible Time activity Teacher Pack: Boaz, Naomi, and Ruth Finger Puppets 	Cut out the Finger Puppets.
	<p>Center 4: "Thank You" Cards Make cards to thank parents for providing.</p>	1 sheet of construction paper per child, pens or markers, several small bowls of different cereals, glue	
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Playground	
	<p>"Hope in You" Prayer Sing an action prayer.</p>	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
	<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.





Ruth Marries Boaz

Ruth 2-4

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS



Ruth Gleans Food From Boaz's Field

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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

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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

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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.

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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

Song of Hope

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Psalm 42:11, and show children the words.


Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "Put your hope in God." Let's say it together.** Lead the children in repeating the Key Verse with you.

Ask:

- What does hope mean?

Say: **Hope means to wait for something good. For example, if you're sad, you can hope that soon you will be happy again. Hope means that no matter what happens every day—whether it's good or bad—we know God will make everything work out.** Hold up a box of cereal. **Let's sing a song about hope. While we sing, you'll wait for something good! After the song, you'll get a taste of this yummy cereal.**

Begin the CD, and lead kids in singing "Hope in You" (track 14 on the CD) to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

 **Help me put my hope in you,** *(point to yourself and then up)*
'Cause I know your Word is true. *(point to your forehead; then give a thumbs up sign)*
Help me count on you each day; *(march in place)*
Help me as I work and play. *(hop around in place)*
Help me put my hope in you, *(point to yourself and then up)*

Song of Hope Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- box of cereal
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Hope in You" (track 14)





'Cause I know your Word is true. (*Point to your forehead; then give a thumbs up sign*)
(Repeat 2x.)

Give everyone a handful of cereal to eat.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Besides this cereal, what is something that you hope for?
- How does it make you feel to know that no matter what happens, you can put your hope in God?

Say: **No matter what's going on in our lives—good things or bad things—we can put our ► HOPE IN GOD.** God wants to give us hope that everything will work out fine—just like God plans.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
resealable plastic bag filled with wheat cereal

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 2)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the plastic bag of wheat cereal in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

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 bag of wheat cereal 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 some wheat cereal in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Well, in today's story, a woman gathers wheat for food.

Teacher: Kids, what would you use these pieces of wheat cereal for?

(Pause for kids to answer your question.)

Teacher: Have any of you ever seen a wheat field or a picture of one?

(Pause to allow kids to tell of their experience with wheat fields.)

Theo: In today's Bible story, you're going to learn about a person who collected lots of pieces of wheat from the wheat fields to help feed herself and her mother-in-law.

Teacher: Let's find out how God gave Ruth and Naomi hope in the wheat fields.



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

Open your Bible to Ruth 2, and show the children the words.

Say: **Today's Bible story tells us to ► HOPE IN GOD.** Have kids repeat the Bible Point after you.

Our Bible Story is about Ruth and Naomi, just like last week's story. When Naomi's husband and two sons died, she decided to go back home to Bethlehem. Naomi's daughter-in-law, Ruth, went with her. Ruth and Naomi had no one to take care of them, and they were very hungry.

Ask:

- Have you ever been really hungry?
- How did you feel when you got some food to eat?

Say: **Ruth and Naomi put their ► HOPE IN GOD. God took care of Ruth and Naomi. A kind man named Boaz let Ruth pick up wheat from his field. Every day Ruth would follow behind the other people that were picking up wheat for Boaz, their boss. And every day Ruth would take the wheat to Naomi so they could make bread to eat.**

Let's play a game! You'll pretend to be Ruth picking up the wheat in the fields for Naomi, and I'll pretend to be Naomi. I've scattered some wheat around the room. Hold up one wheat stalk as an example. When you hear music playing, pick up as much wheat as you can before the music stops. When you hear the music stop, bring the wheat to me.

Play "My God Is" (track 3 on the CD), and stop the music at random intervals. When the children bring you the wheat, pretend to crush it and bake bread. Then give the kids an imaginary piece of bread. Rescatter the wheat pieces, and send the kids back out for another day of harvesting. When the game is finished, ask the following questions.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did Ruth and Naomi hope that God would do for them?
- How did God take care of Ruth and Naomi?
- What do you hope that God will do for you?



Bible Time Supplies

Bible
 several sheets of yellow construction paper
 scissors
 CD player
Teacher Pack
 CD: "My God Is" (track 3)

Bible Time Easy Prep

Cut several sheets of yellow construction paper into strips about 1/2 inch in width. Fray the ends of the strips so they look like stalks of wheat. Scatter the "wheat stalks" on the floor in easy-to-find areas.





Center 1: Wheat for Ruth and Naomi Supplies

My Bible Playground
glue
yellow yarn
scissors

Center 1: Wheat for Ruth and Naomi Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Playground student book. Cut yarn into several small pieces.

Say: **When Ruth and Naomi were hungry, they put their ► HOPE IN GOD. God gave Ruth a job collecting wheat from Boaz's field.**

Later Ruth and Boaz got married and they had a little baby. Kind Boaz took care of Ruth and Naomi all the rest of their lives. When we have a need, we can put our ► HOPE IN GOD, just like Ruth and Naomi hoped in God to take care of them. God will always take care of us, too.

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:

Wheat for Ruth and Naomi

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Distribute the Lesson 4 My Bible Playground student pages, and help kids write their names on their papers. Supply small pieces of yarn (to symbolize wheat) and glue. Have kids glue the wheat in the field for Ruth to collect.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How do you think Naomi felt when Ruth brought wheat for her to make food for them to eat?**
- **When have you felt really hungry? How did your tummy feel? What happened when you were able to eat something?**

Say: **Ruth and Naomi were hungry, and they put their ► HOPE IN GOD. God took care of Ruth and Naomi, and God will take care of us, too!**



CENTER 2:

Wheat Snack

What You'll Do

Have children wash their hands (or use wet wipes) before they prepare their snack. Supply plastic knives, whole-wheat crackers, soft cream cheese, whole-wheat cereal, and napkins. Have kids use the plastic knives to spread cream cheese on the crackers. Then have them crumble the wheat cereal and sprinkle it on top.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you think Ruth and Naomi used the wheat that Ruth gathered?
- How do you think Ruth and Naomi felt about the way that God took care of them?
- How does it make you feel to know that God takes care of you?

Say: **When Ruth and Naomi were hungry, they put their ► HOPE IN GOD. They knew God would take care of them. God always plans to give you hope. God took care of Ruth and Naomi, and God takes care of you. Let's thank God for taking care of us and for providing our snack.** Invite one child to pray for the snack.

CENTER 3:

Finger-Puppet Play

What You'll Do

Show kids which puppet is Boaz, which one is Ruth, and which one is Naomi. Have children take turns taping the finger tabs to fit and using the Finger Puppets and the wheat stalks to retell the Bible story.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did God take care of Ruth and Naomi?
- Why should we put our hope in God?
- How does God take care of us?

Say: **God loves us very much. God will always take care of us, just like he took care of Ruth and Naomi. We can ► HOPE IN GOD.**



Wheat Snack Supplies

- plastic knives
- napkins
- wheat cereal
- soft cream cheese
- crackers

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: Finger-Puppet Play Supplies

- scissors
- tape
- several wheat stalks from Bible Time activity

Teacher Pack
Boaz, Naomi, and Ruth Finger Puppets

Center 3: Finger-Puppet Play Easy Prep

Cut out the Finger Puppets.





“Thank You” Cards Supplies

1 sheet of construction
paper per child
pens or markers
several small bowls of
different cereals
glue

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

CENTER 4:

“Thank You” Cards

What You’ll Do

Ask:

- What is your favorite thing to eat in the morning?

Say: **Ruth looked for grain each day in Boaz’s field so she and her mother-in-law, Naomi, would have something to eat. Ruth put her hope in God, and through Boaz’s kindness God provided for her needs. One way God provides for us is through our parents. He gives us parents who work and earn money to buy us the food and clothes we need.**

Give each child a sheet of construction paper. Have the kids fold their papers in half to make greeting cards. Write “Thank you for providing good food for me” on the inside of each card. Help the children sign their names. Put several different sizes and colors of cereal in small bowls on the table. Tell the children to make a picture on the front of their cards by gluing the cereal pieces to the cards.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some things your parents give you?
- How can we say thank you to our parents and to God for providing for us?

Say: **When we ► HOPE IN GOD, we know that all will be well no matter what happens to us each day. God will provide for us. It is important to say “thank you” to the people God uses to provide for us. Take your cards home, and give them to your parents to thank them for all they do to provide for you.**

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 we can ► HOPE IN GOD. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to think about how to put your hope in God.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:


1. Act out the Bible story for your mom or dad of Ruth marrying Boaz. Tell your mom or dad what you learned about putting your hope in God.
2. Think of something you need God's help for. Pray about that situation and tell God you will put your hope in him.
3. Draw a picture of one way you can put your hope in God. Hang the picture some place you will see every day.

Say: If you want to act, circle choice number 1. If you want to pray, circle choice number 2. If you want to draw a picture, 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!

“Hope in You” Prayer

What You'll Do

Close with this singing prayer with motions. Begin the CD, and lead kids in singing “Hope in You” (track 14 on the CD) to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.”

 **Help me put my hope in you,** *(point to yourself and then up)*
‘Cause I know your Word is true. *(point to your forehead; then give a thumbs up sign)*
Help me count on you each day; *(march in place)*
Help me as I work and play. *(hop around in place)*
Help me put my hope in you, *(point to yourself and then up)*
‘Cause I know your Word is true. *(point to your forehead; then give a thumbs up sign)*
(Repeat 2x.)

Have all children join you in saying, “In Jesus’ name, amen.”



“Hope in You” Prayer Supplies

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- CD player
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: “Hope in You” (track 14)





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.

