




Ruth Is Faithful

Ruth 1:1-22

The first step for children in building friendships is known as parallel play. In parallel play, children play side by side without true interaction. Children in your nursery will still be in this stage, but that doesn't mean that they won't interact with your encouragement. Place babies face to face, and allow them to touch each other gently under your supervision. Hold two toddlers on your lap at the same time. Play passing games with twos. Call classmates friends. These are the "baby steps" to rich relationships.

INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to praise songs.		
2 Bible Exploration	Friends Share Move a blanket between the friends in the picture.	4 Velcro self-stick circles, one 3-inch felt square Teacher Pack: "Friends" figures 	Attach the gripper part of a Velcro self-stick circle to one hand of each person in the "Friends" figures picture. Do not cut the figures apart.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Toy Squeak Share a squeaking toy in playtime.	squeaking toy	
	Make a Friend Happy Gently bounce to the rhythm of a poem.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



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 learn to show love to their friends.





TODDLER


LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to or sing praise songs.		
2 Bible Exploration	Friends Who Shared Learn how Ruth and Naomi shared on the walk home.	Bible, rubber band, bottle of water, 1 cup per child, 4 Velcro self-stick circles, one 3-inch felt square Teacher Pack: "Friends" figures 	Attach the gripper part of a Velcro self-stick circle to one hand of each person in the "Friends" figures picture. Do not cut the figures apart. Roll up a 3x3-inch felt square, and twist a rubber band around the top, leaving a portion of the rubber band to resemble a handle.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	A Journey of Love Take a walk, and share pretend food and water.	water bottle, plastic bowl, roll of masking tape	Use masking tape to mark a path on the floor from one end of the room to the other or around the perimeter.
	Food for Sharing Prepare Ruth and Naomi's food.	wheat cereal squares, glue, My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Food for Sharing" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	

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





2-YEAR-OLD

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Sing and Celebrate Listen to or sing praise songs.		
2 Bible Exploration	A Heart of Love Think of ways to love friends.	Bible, poster putty, 4 Velcro self-stick circles, scissors, one 3x3-inch felt square Teacher Pack: "Friends" figures 	Attach the gripper part of a Velcro self-stick circle to one hand of each person in the "Friends" figures picture. Do not cut the figures apart. Cut two heart shapes from a 3x3-inch felt square. Use poster putty to attach the picture to the wall at a 2-year-old's eye level.
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Happy Faces and Smiles Pass stickers to friends.	3 or 4 circle stickers per child, pen	Draw smiley faces on three or four circle stickers per child.
	Grain Sharing Prepare a special breakfast to share.	1 instant oatmeal packet and 1 resealable plastic bag per child, spoon, cinnamon, sugar, tape	
	Weaving Faith at Home Take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages.	My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)	Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.






INFANT

**1 GETTING
STARTED**


Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do

Sing "Say, Say, Oh Friend" (not on CD) to the tune of "Say, Say, Oh Playmate" anytime during the lesson. Sing as you rock, feed, or play with infants. When singing, lay an infant on his or her back. On the words "Say, say, oh friend," roll the baby's hands one over the other. On the word "trust," place one of baby's hands over his or her heart, and on "God," raise the same hand toward heaven.

 **Say, say, oh friend,
Trust God in all you do.
Trust God in work and play.
Trust God in night and day.
Say, say, oh friend,
Trust God to be with you.
Trust God; his word is true forevermore!**

Sing "This Is the Way" (not on CD) to the tune of "Mulberry Bush" anytime during the lesson. Sing while gently rocking baby to the rhythm of the song. Pat baby's back when you sing the words, "I pat my friends," and hug baby during the verse about hugging friends. Be sure to smile as you sing the word "love."

 **This is the way I sing with my friends, sing with my friends, sing with my friends.** (*Clasp hands under chin.*)
This is the way I sing with my friends and show that I love them.
This is the way I pat my friends, pat my friends, pat my friends. (*Pat friends.*)
This is the way I pat my friends and show that I love them.
This is the way I hug my friends, hug my friends, hug my friends. (*Hug friends.*)
This is the way I hug my friends and show that I love them.





Friends Share Supplies

4 Velcro self-stick
circles
one 3-inch felt square
Teacher Pack
“Friends” figures

Friends Share Easy Prep

Attach the gripper part
of a Velcro self-stick
circle to one hand of
each person in the
“Friends” figures
picture. Do not cut the
figures apart.

Toy Squeak Supplies

squeaking toy

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Friends Share

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Place the teaching picture on the floor in front of you. Hold an infant so he or she can see the picture.

Say: **Here are two friends. Let's help them share a blanket.** Guide baby in moving the felt square “blanket” from one person’s hand to the other. The felt will adhere to the Velcro. **It makes God happy when friends share. The Bible tells us about two friends named Ruth and Naomi. They loved each other very much. ► GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Toy Squeak

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Hold a squeaking toy in your hand.

Say: **I have a toy to share with you.** Squeak the toy near your face, and laugh at the sound. Then gently touch baby’s tummy with the toy. **Now you have the squeaking toy. Would you share it with me?** Return the toy to the position near your face, squeak it, and then laugh. Repeat this, laughing and smiling as an encouragement for baby to laugh with you. **You are learning to share. You are learning to be a good friend. ► GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS. I love you!** Hug baby.



Make a Friend Happy

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **The Bible tells about Naomi and Ruth. They were friends. Friends make each other happy.** Gently bounce baby on your knees as you say the following poem:

**Make a friend happy, laugh and play.
Make a friend happy all the day.
Smile and pat, pray and sing.
Make a friend happy in everything!** (*Tickle baby.*)

Friends like to laugh together. Maybe Ruth and Naomi laughed together. Naomi and Ruth loved each other. ► **GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS, too.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. 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.

TODDLER

1 GETTING STARTED

Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing “Say, Say, Oh Friend” (not on CD) to the tune of “Say, Say, Oh Playmate” anytime during the lesson. Hold a toddler on your knee, facing you. Bounce him or her each time you sing, “Say, say, oh friend.” On the word “trust,” place the toddler’s hand over his or her heart. For “God,” raise the toddler’s hand toward the sky. On “forevermore,” hold both of the toddler’s hands toward the sky.



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

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






Friends Who Shared Supplies


Bible
rubber band
bottle of water
1 cup per child
4 Velcro self-stick circles
one 3-inch felt square
Teacher Pack
“Friends” figures

Friends Who Shared Easy Prep

Attach the gripper part of a Velcro self-stick circle to one hand of each person in the “Friends” figures picture. Do not cut the figures apart. Roll up a 3x3-inch felt square, and twist a rubber band around the top, leaving a portion of the rubber band to resemble a handle.

 Say, say, oh friend,
Trust God in all you do.
Trust God in work and play.
Trust God in night and day.
Say, say, oh friend,
Trust God to be with you.
Trust God; his word is true forevermore!

Sing “This Is the Way” (not on CD) to the tune of “Mulberry Bush” anytime during the lesson. Seat toddlers around you to sing. Encourage them to pat a pretend friend’s back for the words “I pat my friends” and hug the pretend friend during the hugging verse. When you sing the word “love,” wrap your arms around yourself and squeeze, suggesting to the children that they do the same.

 This is the way I sing with my friends, sing with my friends, sing with my friends. *(Clasp hands under chin.)*
This is the way I sing with my friends and show that I love them.
This is the way I pat my friends, pat my friends, pat my friends. *(Pat friends.)*
This is the way I pat my friends and show that I love them.
This is the way I hug my friends, hug my friends, hug my friends. *(Hug friends.)*
This is the way I hug my friends and show that I love them.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Friends Who Shared

What You’ll Do

Gather one or two toddlers. Open your Bible to Ruth 1.

Say: **Ruth and Naomi were on their way to Naomi’s home. They were probably thirsty as they walked in the hot sun. What do you drink when you’re thirsty? I have some water to share with you.** Pour a small amount of water into a cup for each toddler. **Ruth and Naomi may have shared their water because they were friends.** Point to Ruth and Naomi in the teaching picture. **I have a water bag for them. It’s soft like the ones in the Bible.** Touch it. Hold the piece of felt in your hand, and let each child stroke it. Then attach it to a hand in the teaching picture. **Friends share.** Move the felt to the other person’s hand. **Naomi and Ruth shared everything. Sharing shows that we love someone.** ► **GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS.**



3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

A Journey of Love

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Take one or two toddlers by the hand.

Say: **Let's take a walk like Ruth and Naomi did. We will need food and water for our journey. I have a bottle of water and a bowl for food.** Lead the way along the path. About halfway around the path, give the bowl and water bottle to a child. **You will need food and water on the trip, too. I want to share with you because you are my friend.** Complete the second half of the journey along the path. **Ruth and Naomi were friends. They shared their food and water because they loved each other. ► GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS, too.** Repeat the journey until every child who wants to walk the path has had a turn.

Food for Sharing

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each toddler a copy of the "Food for Sharing" page. Point to the bowl in the picture.

Say: **Ruth and Naomi probably ate from a bowl like this one. Let's put food in the bowl for them.** Hand each child several wheat cereal squares, and help children glue the cereal squares onto their bowl pictures. Then say: **Ruth and Naomi shared their food as they traveled. They shared because they were friends, and friends love each other. ► GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS.**



A Journey of Love Supplies

water bottle
plastic bowl
roll of masking tape

A Journey of Love Easy Prep

Use masking tape to mark a path on the floor from one end of the room to the other or around the perimeter.

Food for Sharing Supplies

wheat cereal squares
glue
My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Food for Sharing" page (at the end of the lesson)

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Food for Sharing Easy Prep

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





Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. 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 groom.com/digital.


2-YEAR-OLD

1 GETTING STARTED


Sing and Celebrate

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing "Say, Say, Oh Friend" (not on CD) to the tune of "Say, Say, Oh Playmate" anytime during the lesson. Group the children in pairs. Let the children hold hands and wiggle around on the line "Say, say, oh friend." On the word "trust," have each child place one hand over his or her heart. For "God," have the children raise their hands and jump up and down.

 **Say, say, oh friend,
Trust God in all you do.
Trust God in work and play.
Trust God in night and day.
Say, say, oh friend,
Trust God to be with you.
Trust God; his word is true forevermore!**

Sing "This Is the Way" (not on CD) to the tune of "Mulberry Bush" anytime during the lesson. Help children stand in a circle to sing. Clasp hands under the chin for the words "sing with my friends." Pat and hug each other during the next verses. On the word "love," wrap your arms around yourself and squeeze, setting an example for the children to follow.

 **This is the way I sing with my friends, sing with my friends, sing with my friends.** (*Clasp hands under chin.*)
This is the way I sing with my friends and show that I love them.
This is the way I pat my friends, pat my friends, pat my friends. (*Pat friends.*)
This is the way I pat my friends and show that I love them.
This is the way I hug my friends, hug my friends, hug my friends. (*Hug friends.*)
This is the way I hug my friends and show that I love them.



2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

A Heart of Love

What You'll Do

Gather the twos, and open your Bible to Ruth 1.

Say: **Naomi and Ruth walked together toward Naomi's home. Ruth loved her friend Naomi. Naomi loved her friend Ruth.** Show the children the teaching picture. **Hearts remind us of love. Let's put hearts on our picture to remind us of the love these friends shared.** Let children attach the hearts to the hands in the picture. They can move the hearts back and forth to demonstrate the shared love.

Ask:

- **How can we show love to our friends?** Affirm children's answers.

Say: ► **GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS.**

Pray: **Thank you, God, for teaching us to be loving friends. In Jesus' name, amen.**



A Heart of Love Supplies

- Bible
 - poster putty
 - 4 Velcro self-stick circles
 - scissors
 - one 3x3-inch felt square
- Teacher Pack**
"Friends" figures

A Heart of Love Easy Prep

Attach the gripper part of a Velcro self-stick circle to one hand of each person in the "Friends" figures picture. Do not cut the figures apart. Cut two heart shapes from a 3x3-inch felt square. Use poster putty to attach the picture to the wall at a 2-year-old's eye level.





Happy Faces and Smiles Supplies

3 or 4 circle stickers per child
pen

Happy Faces and Smiles Easy Prep

Draw smiley faces on three or four circle stickers per child.

Grain Sharing Supplies

1 instant oatmeal packet and 1 resealable plastic bag per child
spoon
cinnamon
sugar
tape



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Growing With Jesus" page (at the end of the lesson)

Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

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

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Happy Faces and Smiles

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Help the children sit in a circle around you. Press three or four smiley-face stickers on the back of each child's hand and on your hand.

Say: **Naomi was happy that Ruth was her friend. Maybe Naomi smiled. This smiley-face sticker reminds me to smile.** Take a sticker from your hand and press it on the hand of a child. **Here's a sticker, and here's my smile.** Smile broadly. **Now I think I'll give a sticker and a smile to someone else. Can you share a sticker and a smile with the person sitting by you?** Guide children in pressing their stickers on other children's hands. Be sure that each child has some stickers and that no one is overlooked.

Say: **You made your friends smile. ► GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS.**

Grain Sharing

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **► GOD WANTS YOU TO LOVE YOUR FRIENDS. Ruth and Naomi were friends, and they shared everything. Ruth gathered grain so that they could eat special meals together. Let's make a special grain meal you can give to a friend to show your love.**

Help each child tear open a packet of instant oatmeal and pour it into a resealable plastic bag. Let him or her add a spoonful of sugar and a sprinkle of cinnamon, and then zip the bag closed. Tape the oatmeal packets to the outside of the plastic bags so that parents will know how much water to add to the cereal. When the children have finished the project, encourage them to give their "grain" to friends in the class, making sure everyone receives cereal to take home.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their "Growing With Jesus" pages. Encourage parents to do the activities with children to help them grow with Jesus. 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.



Growing With Jesus



Your child learned God wants you to love your friends (from Ruth 1:1-22). Your child participated in one of the following activities today. You can use these activities with your child to help your child grow with Jesus throughout the week.

INFANT

Make a Friend Happy

Say: **The Bible tells about Naomi and Ruth. They were friends. Friends make each other happy.**

Gently bounce your baby on your knees as you say the following poem:

**Make a friend happy, laugh and play.
Make a friend happy all the day.
Smile and pat, pray and sing.
Make a friend happy in everything!** (*Tickle baby.*)

TODDLER

A Journey of Love

Take your toddler by the hand.

Say: **Let's take a walk like Ruth and Naomi did. We will need food and water for our journey. I have a bottle of water and a bowl for food.**

About halfway through your walk, give the bowl and water bottle to your child. **You will need food and water on the trip, too. I want to share with you because you are my friend.**

Complete the second half of your walk.

Say: **Ruth and Naomi were friends. They shared their food and water because they loved each other. God wants you to love your friends, too.**

2-YEAR-OLD

Happy Faces and Smiles

Draw smiley faces on five or six circle stickers. Press two or three smiley-face stickers on the back of your child's hand and on your hand.

Say: **Naomi was happy that Ruth was her friend. Maybe Naomi smiled. This smiley-face sticker reminds me to smile.** Take a sticker from your hand and press it on the hand of your child. **Here's a sticker, and here's my smile. Smile broadly. Now I think I'll give another sticker and smile to you. Can you share a sticker and a smile with me?** Guide your child in pressing his or her stickers on your hands.

That makes me smile! God wants you to love your friends, too.



Playtime With Friends

Play groups provide wonderful opportunities for young children (and parents!) to socialize. Try inviting a group of no more than six children to your home for a one-hour to ninety-minute playtime. Ask everyone to bring two toys and a snack to share. Make sure the space is child-proofed, and plan to stay in the same room where children are playing.



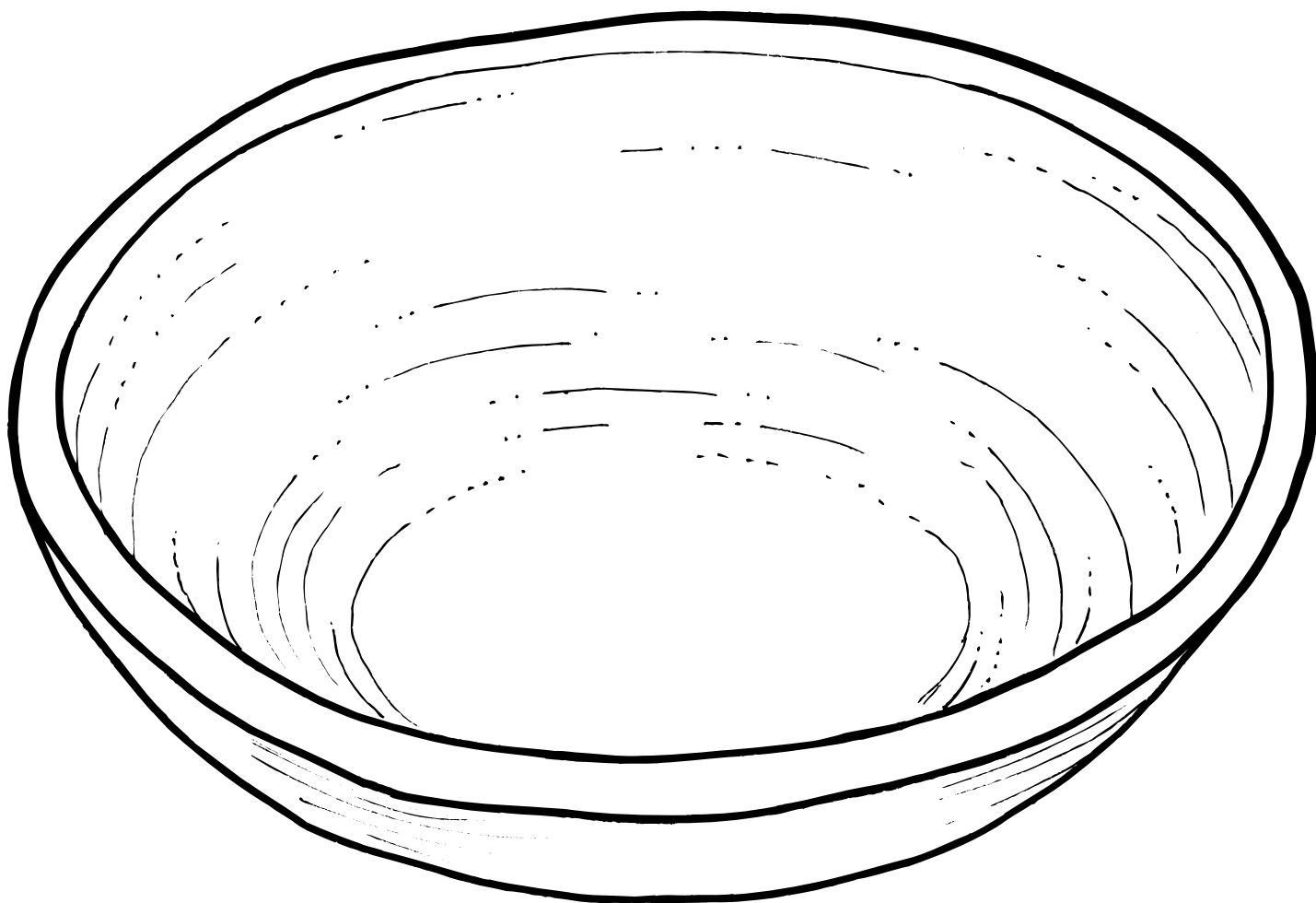
Use these ideas to help your child become a FaithWeaver:

- Give your child a bouquet of silk flowers. Name each flower after a friend. Put the bouquet in the child's bedroom, and encourage your child to thank God for each friend before bedtime.
- Look at friends' pictures in a photo album or on your phone. Thank God for each person in the photographs. Guide your child in saying, "Thank you, God, for my friend, [name]. I love [name]."

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Food for Sharing



OK
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Illustrated by Nancy Munger.

