

# Ruth Marries Boaz

Ruth 2-4

Carl Sandburg said, “A baby is God’s opinion that the world should go on.” Babies are the embodiment of hope. They are bright with the promise of what is yet to be. As we watch their natural development, we are blessed to see God’s handiwork unfold. Babies remind us that God’s spiritual plans are in process as surely as are his physical plans. Truly our hope is in God, the designer of these baby-wonders.



**Bible Point**  
Hope in God.

**Key Verse**  
“Put your hope in God”  
(Psalm 42:11).

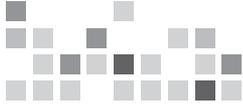
**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Children will begin to learn that they can have hope in God.

## INFANT

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Sing and Celebrate</b> Listen to praise songs.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>God Gives Us Hope</b> Hear how God fulfilled Ruth and Naomi’s hopes.	2 craft sticks, tape, scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> “Friends” figures 	Cut out the “Friends” figures, and tape them to craft sticks.
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Hope, Hope, Hope</b> Review the Bible Point with motions.		
	<b>H-O-P-E</b> Hear an action rhyme.		
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> 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 4 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



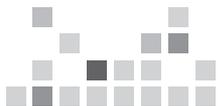


## TODDLER

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Sing and Celebrate</b> Listen to or sing praise songs.	CD player, 1 rattle per child <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>We Can Have Hope</b> Learn that we can have hope in God.	2 craft sticks, tape, scissors, Bible, cookie sheet, cereal flakes, hand towel <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Friends" figures 	Cut out the "Friends" figures, and tape them to craft sticks. Place the stick puppets inside your Bible. Put a layer of cereal flakes on a cookie sheet.
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Buckets of Hope</b> Sort a treat from rice.	plastic bucket, uncooked rice, small cookies	Fill a small plastic bucket about half full with uncooked rice. Add a layer of small cookies and then another layer of rice.
	<b>Show Your Hope</b> Perform an action song to learn that we always have hope in God.		
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> 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 4 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

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





**2-YEAR-OLD**

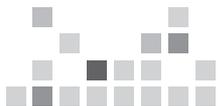


LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b> Getting Started</p>	<p><b>Sing and Celebrate</b> Listen to or sing praise songs.</p>	<p>CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
<p><b>2</b> Bible Exploration</p>	<p><b>Ruth Had Hope</b> Discover how Ruth had hope through an action story.</p>	<p>Bible, 2 craft sticks, scissors, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> “Friends” figures</p> 	<p>Cut out the “Friends” figures, and tape them to craft sticks.</p>
<p><b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p><b>Hoops for Hope</b> Play a game to review the Bible Point.</p>	<p>3 hula-hoops</p>	
	<p><b>We Have Hope in God</b> Paint crosses as reminders that we have hope in God.</p>	<p>My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Put Your Hope in God” page (at the end of the lesson), masking tape, washable paint, 1 sponge and 1 paint smock per child, clothespins (optional), shallow tray, paper towel</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Use one 3-inch and one 4-inch strip of masking tape to form a cross at the bottom of each handout. Place a folded paper towel in the bottom of a shallow tray before pouring in washable paint, to keep the sponge from absorbing too much paint.</p>
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Take home their “Growing With Jesus” pages.</p>	<p>My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the “Growing With Jesus” page (at the end of the lesson)</p>	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*







**INFANT**

**1** GETTING  
STARTED

# Sing and Celebrate

**What You'll Do** ■■■■■■

Sing or listen to "Great Hope" (track 5) to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" anytime during the lesson. During the song, help baby clap hands to the words "in the Lord." Raise baby's arms overhead when singing, "Praise God, praise God, praise God."

 I've got great hope in the Lord,  
In the Lord, in the Lord.  
I've got great hope in the Lord,  
Praise God, praise God, praise God!  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

Sing or listen to "God Gives Hope" (not on CD) to the tune of "Down by the Station" anytime during the lesson. When singing, gently bounce baby on your lap to the beat.

 God loves his children.  
He wants us to trust him.  
He wants us to hope in him.  
God gives hope.  
God loves his children.  
He wants us to trust him.  
Praise him, praise him,  
God gives hope!



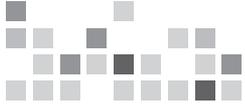
## Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

**Teacher Pack**

CD: "Great Hope"  
(track 5)





### God Gives Us Hope Supplies

2 craft sticks  
tape  
scissors

**Teacher Pack**  
“Friends” figures

### God Gives Us Hope Easy Prep

Cut out the “Friends”  
figures, and tape them  
to craft sticks.

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### God Gives Us Hope

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Hold up the two stick puppets, and move them so that the babies can track the puppets' movements with their eyes.

Say: **Here's old Naomi, who loved the girl Ruth.  
Ruth loved Naomi, and that is the truth!  
Both women trusted in God for their care,  
And our God provided even more than was fair.  
A husband for Ruth, someone to love,  
Boaz—a gift from our God up above.  
God was their hope; God's your hope, too!  
Hope in the Lord, for he always comes through.  
We can ► HOPE IN GOD!**

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

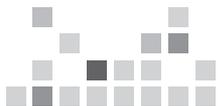
### Hope, Hope, Hope

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Seat a baby in front of you on the floor or other flat surface. Sing this song to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” (not on CD) as you perform rowing motions with baby's arms:

 **Hope, hope, hope in God.  
There's hope for every day!  
Hope, hope, hope in God.  
Clap, and shout “hooray!”** (*Clap baby's hands together, and then lift his or her arms up high.*)

Say: ► **HOPE IN GOD, little one!**



# H-O-P-E

## What You'll Do

Hold a baby on your lap, facing outward, as you do the following rhyme together:

Say: **H is for your little hands that can do God's will.** (*Clap baby's hands together.*)

**O is for the only God. Rest in him; be still.** (*Hold baby's hands still.*)

**P is for the patience that only God can send.** (*Pat baby's hands on thighs.*)

**E is for "Everything will work out in the end."** (*Hold baby's arms outstretched, and then cross them over chest. Repeat motions several times.*)

Put your **▶ HOPE IN GOD.** (*Give baby a hug.*)

## 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](http://group.com/digital).

### TODDLER

## 1 GETTING STARTED

## Sing and Celebrate

### What You'll Do

Sing "Great Hope" (track 5) to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" anytime during the lesson. During the song, march in place. Jump up and down on the words "Praise God, praise God, praise God."

**I've got great hope in the Lord,  
In the Lord, in the Lord.  
I've got great hope in the Lord,  
Praise God, praise God, praise God!**  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

Sing "God Gives Hope" (not on CD) to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" anytime



### 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)

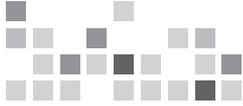
### Weaving Faith at Home Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.

### Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player  
1 rattle per child  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Great Hope" (track 5)





## We Can Have Hope Supplies

2 craft sticks  
tape  
scissors  
Bible  
cookie sheet  
cereal flakes  
hand towel  
**Teacher Pack**  
“Friends” figures

## ! ALLERGY ALERT

## We Can Have Hope Easy Prep

Cut out the “Friends” figures, and tape them to craft sticks. Place the stick puppets inside your Bible. Put a layer of cereal flakes on a cookie sheet.

during the lesson. When singing, give toddlers rattles, and encourage them to shake the rattles to the rhythm of the music.



**God loves his children.  
He wants us to trust him.  
He wants us to hope in him.  
God gives hope.  
God loves his children.  
He wants us to trust him.  
Praise him, praise him,  
God gives hope!**

## 2

## BIBLE EXPLORATION

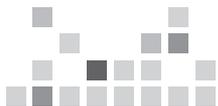
# We Can Have Hope

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Invite two toddlers to sit down with you. Place your Bible in front of the children. Have the cereal tray nearby.

Say: **The Bible tells us of many people who hoped in God. Can you find some people in my Bible?** Let the children look for the Ruth and Naomi puppets. Give each child a puppet as you say: **This is Ruth, and this is Naomi. They had great hope in God. When they were hungry, God provided grain for Ruth to pick up. Would you like to pick up some grain?** Allow the children to pick up several pieces of cereal. **God sent a man named Boaz to take care of Ruth and Naomi. Boaz filled Ruth's shawl with grain to take to Naomi.** Drape a hand towel over one of the toddler's shoulders. **You be Ruth. Here is a shawl. Can I fill your shawl with grain to take to our friend Naomi?** Have the toddler hold the towel with both hands. Pour some cereal flakes into the towel, and encourage the toddler to deliver the cereal in the towel to the other child. Encourage the child pretending to be Naomi to say, “Thank you, Ruth. Thank you, Boaz. Thank you, God.” Give the children a chance to exchange roles.

Say: **Soon Ruth married Boaz. The whole village saw how God takes care of his people. The villagers said, “Praise the Lord.” Can you say “Praise the Lord”?** Encourage the children to repeat the words. **Ruth and Naomi hoped in God. You can ► HOPE IN GOD, too.**



### 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## Buckets of Hope

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Boaz told his harvesters to leave some “good-to-eat” grain for Ruth to gather. I hope you can find something good to eat in this rice.** Let one child at a time dig down in the rice to find a cookie. Allow the children to find and eat one cookie at a time. **You hoped for something good. What a surprise you found! God has lots of good surprises for us to find. We can ► HOPE IN GOD.**

## Show Your Hope

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing this action song to the tune of “This Little Light of Mine” (not on CD), encouraging children to do the motions indicated in the words:

 **I have hope in God.  
I’m gonna nod my head.  
I have hope in God.  
I’m gonna nod my head,  
Nod my head, nod my head, nod my head.**

For “nod my head” substitute the words “clap my hands,” “stomp my feet,” or “turn around.”

Say: **We can ► HOPE IN GOD.** Nod your head one more time.

## 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](http://group.com/digital).



### Buckets of Hope Supplies

plastic bucket  
uncooked rice  
small cookies

### ! ALLERGY ALERT

### Buckets of Hope Easy Prep

Fill a small plastic bucket about half full with uncooked rice. Add a layer of small cookies and then another layer of rice.

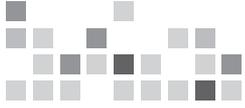
### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

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 4 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book.





### Sing and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Great Hope"  
(track 5)

## 2-YEAR-OLD

### 1 GETTING STARTED

## Sing and Celebrate

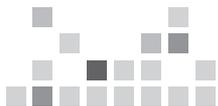
### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Sing "Great Hope" (track 5) to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" anytime during the lesson. Play the song on the CD. Have children clap on the words "in the Lord." Encourage them to raise their arms over their heads on the words "Praise God."

 I've got great hope in the Lord,  
In the Lord, in the Lord.  
I've got great hope in the Lord,  
Praise God, praise God, praise God!  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

Sing "God Gives Hope" (not on CD) to the tune of "Down by the Station" anytime during the lesson. Help the children form a train and walk together as you sing.

 God loves his children.  
He wants us to trust him.  
He wants us to hope in him.  
God gives hope.  
God loves his children.  
He wants us to trust him.  
Praise him, praise him,  
God gives hope!



**2** BIBLE  
EXPLORATION

# Ruth Had Hope

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to the book of Ruth. Show the stick puppets.

Ask:

- Have you been to a new place before?

Say: **Ruth and Naomi went to a new place. They didn't know anyone there. They needed to make new friends. This is what they did. Do what I do.**

- Ruth and Naomi went to a new place. (Walk in place.)
- They didn't know a single face. (Shake your head.)
- They wanted to make new friends. (Shake hands with person next to you.)
- They needed food to eat. (Bring fingers and thumb to mouth.)
- They needed a place to sleep. (Lay head on folded hands.)
- Ruth and Naomi went to a new place. (Walk in place.)
- They didn't know a single face. (Shake your head.)
- Ruth and Naomi had hope in God. (Point overhead.)
- They knew he'd take care of them. (Hug self.)
- God helped them make new friends. (Shake hands with person next to you.)
- God helped them find food to eat. (Bring fingers and thumb to mouth.)
- God gave them a place to sleep. (Lay head on folded hands.)
- Ruth and Naomi had hope in God. (Point overhead.)
- They knew he'd take care of them. (Hug self.)

Say: **God brought Ruth and Naomi to a new home and gave them everything they needed. God sent Ruth to be Boaz's wife, and they lived happily together for God. Ruth and Naomi hoped in God when they needed many things. We can ► HOPE IN GOD, too.**



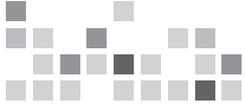
### Ruth Had Hope Supplies

- Bible
- 2 craft sticks
- scissors
- tape
- Teacher Pack**
- "Friends" figures

### Ruth Had Hope Easy Prep

Cut out the "Friends" figures, and tape them to craft sticks.





### Hoops for Hope Supplies

3 hula-hoops

### We Have Hope in God Supplies

My Bible Snuggles or 1 copy per child of the "Put Your Hope in God" page (at the end of the lesson)

masking tape  
washable paint  
1 sponge and 1 paint smock per child  
clothespins (optional)  
shallow tray  
paper towel

### We Have Hope in God Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Snuggles student book. Use one 3-inch and one 4-inch strip of masking tape to form a cross at the bottom of each handout. Place a folded paper towel in the bottom of a shallow tray before pouring in washable paint, to keep the sponge from absorbing too much paint.

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

### Hoops for Hope

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Lay three hula-hoops on the floor touching each other. Let one 2-year-old at a time jump from one hoop into the next. As the child jumps into the first hoop, say: **Hope**. As he or she jumps into the second hoop, say: **In**. As he or she jumps into the third hoop, say: **God**. Make sure to allow each child to finish the course.

Ask:

- What do you hope God will do?

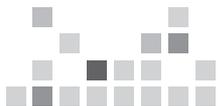
Affirm that God takes care of our every need, just as he did for Ruth and Naomi. Say: **It's good to ► HOPE IN GOD.**

### We Have Hope in God

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Work with one child at a time.

Say: **We always have hope in God. The cross reminds us of hope.** Dip a sponge into the paint. To minimize mess, attach clothespins to the sponges for the children to hold. Let the 2-year-old dab the sponge all over the bottom of the paper, covering the masking tape. Wait for the paint to set a bit. Then say: **I'm going to take the tape off your picture. I hope I'll still be able to see the cross!** Remove the masking tape, and a cross print will remain. Show the child the cross. **No matter what happens, we can always have ► HOPE IN GOD.**



## Weaving Faith at Home

### What You'll Do

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](http://group.com/digital).



### 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)



HOME  
CONNECT®

## Growing With Jesus



### Hope in God

Your greatest investment as a Christian parent is in the hope that your child will come into a full relationship with Jesus Christ. The little prayers you say together, the songs you sing, and your commitment to bring your child into God's house are all concrete evidence of your hope in God.

Your child learned to hope in God (from Ruth 2–4). 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

#### H-O-P-E

Hold your baby on your lap, facing outward, as you do the following rhyme together:

**H is for your little hands that can do God's will.**

*(Clap baby's hands together.)*

**O is for the only God. Rest in him; be still.**

*(Hold baby's hands still.)*

**P is for the patience that only God can send.** *(Pat baby's hands on thighs.)*

**E is for "Everything will work out in the end."** *(Hold baby's arms outstretched, and then cross them over chest. Repeat motions several times.)*

**Put your hope in God.**

*(Give baby a hug.)*

#### TODDLER

#### Show Your Hope

Sing this action song to the tune of "This Little Light of Mine," encouraging your child to do the motions indicated in the words:

**I have hope in God.  
I'm gonna nod my head.  
I have hope in God.  
I'm gonna nod my head,  
Nod my head, nod my head, nod my head.**

For "nod my head" substitute the words "clap my hands," "stomp my feet," or "turn around."

Say: **We can hope in God.** Nod your head one more time.

#### 2-YEAR-OLD

#### Rings of Hope

Use masking tape to make three large rings on the floor, touching each other. Let your 2-year-old jump from one ring into the next. As your child jumps into the first ring, say: **Hope.** As he or she jumps into the second ring, say: **In.** As he or she jumps into the third ring, say: **God.** Make sure to allow your child to finish the course.

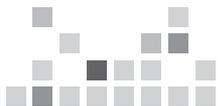
**What do you hope God will do?** Affirm that God takes care of our every need, just as he did for Ruth and Naomi. **It's good to hope in God.**

#### Use these ideas to help your child become a FaithWeaver:

- With your child, fill a small envelope with a treat. Say that you are going to hide the envelope, and when your child finds it, he or she can have the treat. Allow time to search for the envelope, and then help your child find it. Remind your child that you care about what he or she hopes for and that God cares about our hopes, too.
- Celebrate our hope in God by singing this song to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat":  

<b>Hope, hope, hope in God.</b>	<b>Hope, hope, hope in God.</b>
<b>There's hope for every day!</b>	<b>Clap, and shout "hooray!"</b>

**OK**  
TO COPY



# Put Your Hope in God

**OK  
TO COPY**



