

Ruth

Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of Ruth.
- The children will tell how God gave Ruth a family.
- The children will show one way they can show love to their families.

Lesson Text

Ruth 1-4

Scripture Memory Verse

"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God my God."

Ruth 1:16

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: A Place for Me

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: A Place for Ruth

Craft: Family Circle

Scripture Memory: Yours and Mine

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

God's Young Heroes Lesson 4



Ruth

A Place for Me

The children will preview today's Bible Story as they make a special place mat.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 piece of construction paper, 9" x 12"
- glue stick
- crayons and markers
- glitter pens, stickers and ribbon

For the teacher:

- scissors
- clear contact paper (optional)

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

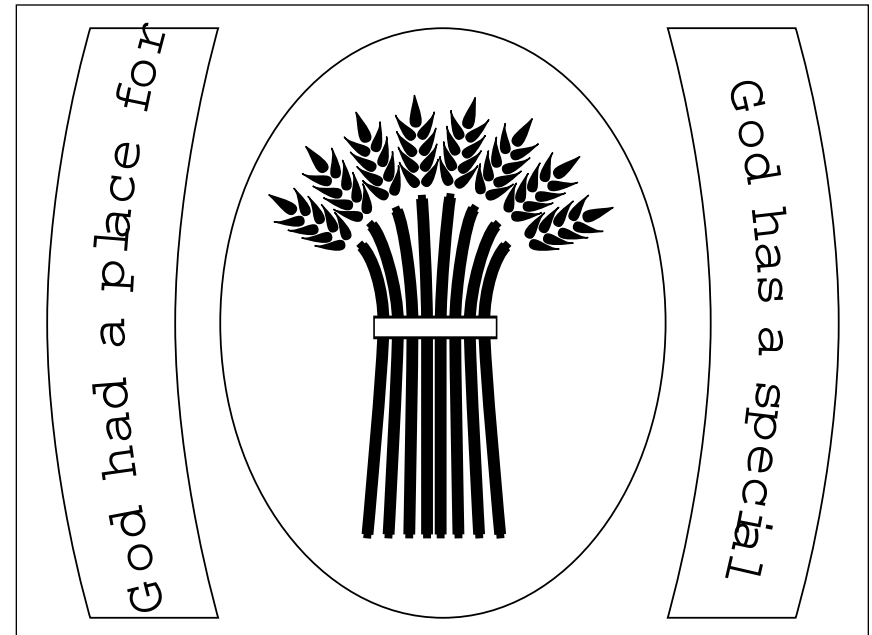
1. Cut out the place mat centerpieces from the copies of Reproducible Page A.
2. Make a sample place mat to show the children.

Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Tell them that today's lesson is an exciting story of a young girl named Ruth. Explain that God gave her a place in a very special family whom she loved very much.
2. Show the children the place mat that you prepared. Read the words on the place mat to them.
3. Distribute the construction paper, place mat centerpieces you prepared and glue sticks. Tell the children to color and decorate the centerpieces, and then arrange and glue them to the construction paper.
4. Distribute additional decorating materials such as glitter, stickers or ribbon.
5. Circulate among the children to offer help and encouragement. Make sure the children write their names on their place mats.
6. Collect the place mats. If time and supplies permit, have an assistant cover them with clear contact paper. If not, suggest that the parents laminate or cover them with clear contact paper at home.

Teacher Tips

- Adapt this activity to your own creativity and resources. Place mats can be made from a variety of materials such as fabric, felt or foam.
- To make this extra special, invite parents to make a minimal donation to cover extra or "special" costs.



B

Ruth

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A Place for Ruth

The children will participate in this Bible Story as they learn how God made a special place for Ruth.

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Materials

For each girl:

- 1 piece of white cloth or lace, 12" x 12"

For each boy:

- 1 towel
- 1 piece of string or cord, 24"

B

For the teacher:

- large writing surface
- sheet or shawl

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Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher

IMPORTANT: For sanitary reasons, the children should not share anything that is worn on their heads. Each child should wear a different headpiece. If you do not have enough supplies, use pieces of facial tissues or cut up cheese cloth for the girls, and simple rope head bands for the boys.

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Preparation

1. On the large writing surface, neatly write in large letters: Ruth; Naomi; Boaz.
2. Practice presenting this Bible Story using the script.
3. Give your copy of Reproducible Page B to your assistant to play the role of either Narrator or Naomi.

E

Introducing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Ruth. Tell the children that this week's lesson is about how God placed a young woman named Ruth into a very special family. Explain that their place mats from Preclass are a reminder that God had a special place for Ruth in her family and God has a special place for each of them in their families.

Y

Introducing the Characters

Tell the children to look at the names on the large writing surface. Say each one with them together.

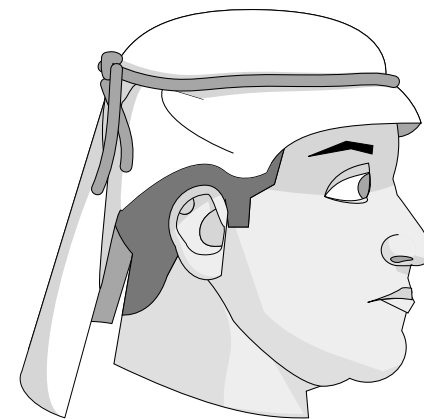
- *RUTH—She is the main character in our story. Ruth was a young*

woman and her husband died. Ruth was very devoted to her family and showed them how much she loved them.

- *NAOMI—She was the mother of Ruth's husband. After Naomi's husband died, both of her sons died too. She was very sad for a long time because of this. But Ruth loved Naomi and stayed with her and together they were a family for each other.*
- *BOAZ—He was an important man in the town of Bethlehem. He had money and land and many servants. When Ruth came to work for him, he was very kind to her. After Boaz saw the excellent work that Ruth did and how kind she was to her mother-in-law, he wanted to marry her. Boaz and Ruth started a family of their own and Naomi was not sad anymore.*

Tell the girls in your class that they will play the part of Ruth, and the boys the part of Boaz. You will play the part of Naomi. (If you are a man, you may want to have a woman play this part and you can narrate the story.) Have Naomi wrap herself in the sheet as a large shawl over her head and shoulders.

Place a white cloth on top of each girl's head. Place a towel over the top of each boy's head, but not covering his face. Secure this in place with the string, as shown.



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Ruth

Presenting the Bible Story

NARRATOR: *At the beginning of the story, Ruth's husband dies. Have the girls pretend to cry.*

NAOMI: *Ruth, now that my son, your husband, is dead, you should go back to your family. What can I do for you? My husband is dead and my sons are dead. I can't even give you another husband. Go back to your own family.*

NARRATOR: *Ruth would not leave Naomi. Orpah, the wife of Naomi's other son, did leave and go back to her people. But Ruth would not leave Naomi. She wanted to stay with her. Tell the girls to repeat after you, saying the same words that Ruth said to Naomi in Ruth 1:16: "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God my God."*

NARRATOR: *Naomi agreed and together she and Ruth went to Bethlehem. When they got there the people heard what happened to Naomi. They could see that she was still very sad.*

NAOMI: *Don't call me Naomi. Call me Mara instead. Mara means bitter, and I am sad and bitter because of all the hard things that have happened to me.*

NARRATOR: *As soon as Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem, the barley harvest was beginning. Naomi had a relative named Boaz who was a wealthy man, respected by the people. Have all the boys stand and look important. He had fields of barley that needed to be harvested. Ruth told Naomi that she would go to work for Boaz so that they would have enough to eat. Boaz saw that Ruth was a hard worker and he told the other workers to be kind to her. Tell the boys to wave to the girls. Not long after, Boaz and Ruth were married. Have the boys and girls walk side by side in a line and then sit down. They started a family and Naomi stayed with them. She was not sad anymore.*

NAOMI: *Oh Ruth. God has been very kind to me. You have been better to me than seven sons! Now I am not sad anymore. God has given us both a special family.*

Share and Tell

Have the children sit in a circle. Ask the children what was their favorite part of this story. Remind the children that even though Ruth and Naomi both lost people they loved, God took care of them and gave them a new family. Encourage the children that God places us each in just the right family. Ask the children if they can think of someone who is sad because of a loved one who has died. Encourage them to pray for that person and share the story of Ruth and Naomi with them. Close with a prayer for the children to love their families like Ruth loved Naomi.

Teacher Tips

- Adapt this skit to your class. If you have all girls or all boys, divide the roles between them or do a simple puppet play rather than making the boys be girls.
- If your resources and facility permit, bringing additional props or costumes.



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Ruth

Family Circle

The children will make a craft to remind them that God gives us families.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 cardboard ring, 2"
- 1 piece of fabric, 3" x 6"
- glue stick
- markers and crayons

For the teacher:

- scissors
- stapler

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut the two-inch rings from paper towel or toilet paper tubing.
2. Cut out the napkin ring labels and the instructions from the copies of Reproducible Page C.
3. Make a sample to show the children.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *Today you are learning about a special young woman named Ruth. God placed Ruth in a family and Ruth showed her love to her family in many special ways. Ruth was a hard worker and served her family. She took care of Naomi, her mother-in-law. God blessed Ruth for her hard work and commitment to her family. God gives us families too, and he wants us to show our families how much we love them.* Show the children the sample napkin ring you made. Tell the children that a napkin ring holds a napkin on a dinner table. Explain that the children will each make a napkin ring today, and take home the instructions so that they can make more at home for each member of their family. Read the poem written on the napkin ring label to the children.

2. Distribute the cardboard rings, fabric and glue sticks. Have the children cover the back of their piece of fabric with glue, as shown in Figure A. Help the children to place the fabric around the ring, folding the excess inside and pressing it on, as shown in Figure B.
3. Circulate among the children to staple the fabric around the ring in three places, as shown in Figure C.
4. Distribute the napkin ring labels you prepared to the children. Have them glue the labels onto their napkin rings, as shown in Figure D.
5. Distribute the instructions you prepared and have the children write their names on them. Roll up the instructions and place them in the ring for the children to take home. Encourage the children to show their napkin rings to their parents and make one for each member of their family.

Conclusion

Encourage the children that each time they look at their napkin rings they should remember that God put Ruth in a family and God put them in families, too. Close with a prayer thanking God for their families.

Teacher Tips

- Think of other creative ways to make or decorate the napkin rings, being careful to watch your time.



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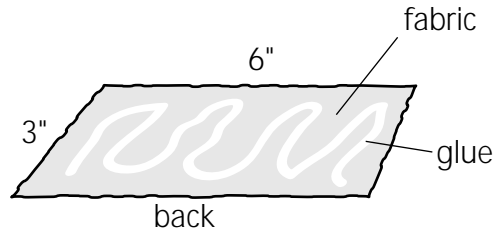


Figure A

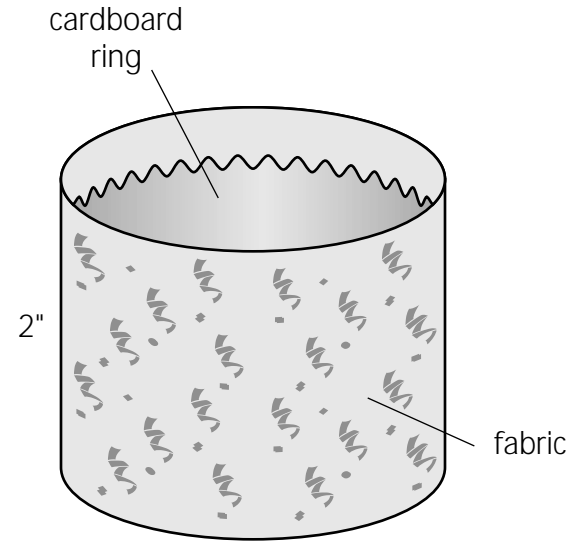


Figure B

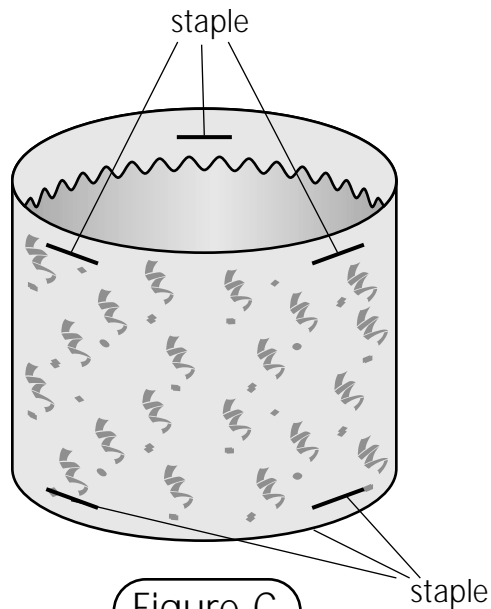


Figure C

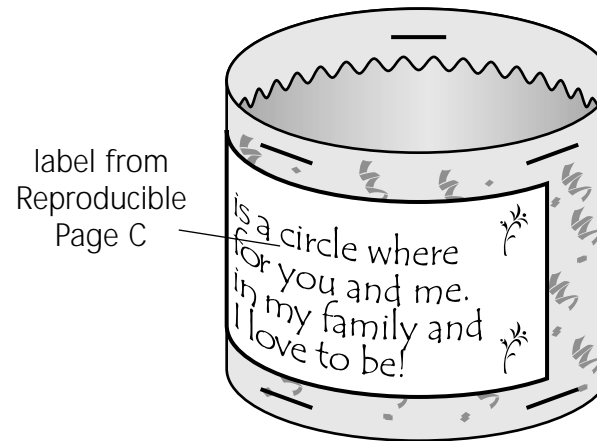


Figure D



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Ruth

Yours and Mine

The children will learn and memorize today's Scripture Memory Verse through this fun activity.

Scripture Memory Verse

"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God my God."

Ruth 1:16

Materials

For the teacher:

- scarf

Preparation

Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *Today we are learning about two women, Naomi and Ruth, whose husbands died. Naomi was Ruth's mother-in-law, which means Ruth was married to her son. When Ruth's husband died Ruth became a widow. Naomi told Ruth to go back to her family, but Ruth would not leave her. Our Scripture Memory Verse is what Ruth said after Naomi told her to return to her family.*
2. Show the children the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Say it to the children three times as they follow silently. Point to each word as you say it. Ask the girls to say it with you three times, as you point to each word. Ask the boys to say it with you three times, as you point to each word. Ask each child to say it together with you to the rest of the group.
3. Have the children sit in a circle. Lead the children in the verse in a call and response style. You say a phrase from the list below and the children repeat it, continue in this way until the whole verse has been said. After you have finished, choose another child to be a leader with you. The two of you lead the rest of the group in the verse. Repeat this two more times with two other children.

Leader says:

"Where you go (children repeat)

I will go, (children repeat)

and where you stay (children repeat)

I will stay. (children repeat)

Your people will be my people, (children repeat)

and your God my God." (children repeat)

Ruth 1:16 (children repeat)

4. Choose two children to sit in the middle of the circle facing each other. Give one child the scarf. Explain that the child with the scarf begins by saying, "Ruth said" and then passes the scarf to the other child who says "Where you go" and passes the scarf back. The child says "I will go" and passes the scarf, as so on until the verse is complete.
5. Choose two more children to sit in the center of the circle to do this activity. Encourage the children to help each other if they get stuck.

Two by Two

If you have more girls than boys, you might try this variation. Have the children find partners and say the verse as they do hand clapping and knee tapping motions such as in pat-a-cake or other popular children's chants. Encourage the children to make up their own rhythm and hand motions to accompany the words.

Conclusion

Ask the children why they think Ruth wanted to stay with Naomi. Explain that Ruth loved her very much and wanted to be with her wherever she went. Ask the children if they can think of someone that they always want to be with. Encourage the children that it is love that makes them feel that way. Tell the children that God gives us people to love and stay with. Close with a prayer thanking God for his great love.

Teacher Tips

- Adapt this activity to your group. Think of other creative ways to lead the children in this verse.



Ruth

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“Where you go I will go,
and where you stay I will stay.
Your people will be my people,
and your God my God.”

Ruth 1:16



Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of Ruth.
- The children will tell how Ruth loved Naomi.
- The children will show one way they can show love to their families.

Lesson Text

Ruth 1-4

Scripture Memory Verse

"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God my God."

Ruth 1:16

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Amazing Places

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: Together Time

Game: Acts of Love

Bible Skills: Ruth and Company

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



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class

ACTIVITY

Amazing Places

The children will review this week's lesson as they help Ruth find her family.

Materials

For each child:

- pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

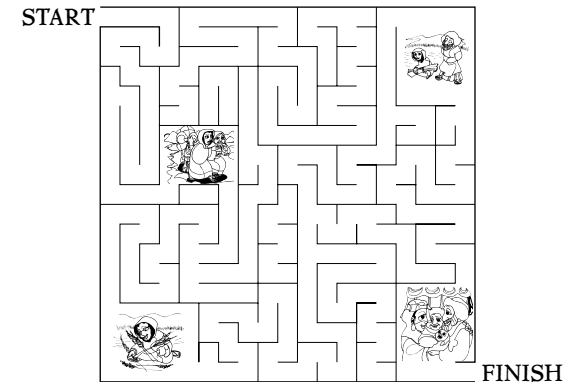
Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page D.

Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Remind them that they are learning about the story of Ruth this week and the special family that God gave her. Show the children your copy of Reproducible Page D. Tell them that they will help Ruth to find the different people in her family as they complete this maze.
2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page D and pencils. Circulate among the children to ask what they remember about this week's story and offer help.
3. Encourage new children to work with those who heard the Bible Story.
4. Make sure the children write their names on their pages.

Teacher Tips

- Have additional activities available for children who finish early.



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Together Time

The children will review this week's Bible Story as they consider ways to love their families just like Ruth.

Materials

For each child:

- markers
- crayons

For the teacher:

- scissors
- stapler

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

Cut out one set of coupons for each child from the copies of Reproducible Page E.

Reviewing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Ruth. *This week our Bible Story was about a young woman named _____.* (Ruth) *In the beginning of the story, Ruth's husband died. Her mother-in-law's name was _____* (Naomi). *Naomi was very sad because her husband and both of her sons had died. Naomi told Ruth to go back to her family since she could not give her another husband. But Ruth would not leave. She told Naomi that she wanted to stay and go with her. Ruth loved Naomi very much. Let's say our Scripture Memory Verse together: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God my God." Ruth 1:16.*

Tell the children that today they are going to make a special set of coupons for ways that they can spend time together with their families to show their love just like Ruth did.

Life Application

Distribute the coupons you prepared, crayons and markers to the children. Read each coupon together to the children. Tell them that each coupon is one way they can spend special time with someone in their family. Have the children color and decorate the coupons. Circulate among the children and help them staple them together to make a little booklet, being careful to put the cover on the top of the booklet. Make sure the children write their names on the cover and each coupon.

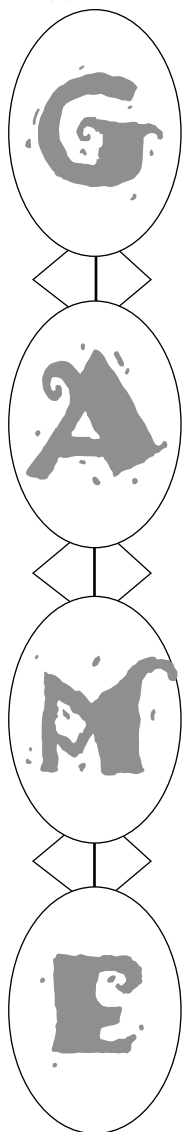
Conclusion

Have the children sit in a circle. Tell the children that when they go home, they will show their coupons to their families. Explain that each coupon is like an invitation from them to spend special time with a person in their family. For example: for the coupon that says "Together Time at a Movie" the child can invite a member of the family to watch a movie with them or go out to a movie together for their Together Time. Tell them to think of ways to make that time special by letting the other person choose the movie. Encourage them to write the day and time that they use each one and keep it in a safe place to remember. Close with a prayer for the children to have a lot of fun loving their families.

Teacher Tips

- Try to collect various local entertainment and restaurant coupons in advance and give one or two to the children as an extra bonus for their Together Time coupon books.





Acts of Love

The children will plan one way to love to their families by playing a game of charades.

Materials

For the teacher:

- hat or small container
- scissors
- watch or timer with second hand
- paper and pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page F, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

Cut out the pictures from your copy of Reproducible Page F. Fold them and place in the hat.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *This week you are learning about a young woman named Ruth. God placed Ruth in a family and Ruth showed her love to her family in many special ways. Ruth was a hard worker and served her family. She took care of Naomi, her mother-in-law. God blessed Ruth for her hard work and commitment to her family. God gives us families too, and he wants us to show our families how much we love them.* Ask the children to name some things that they can do to serve their families. Include ideas from this game in the discussion.
2. Show the children the hat with the pictures inside. Tell the children that on each piece of paper there is a picture of something they can do to serve and show love to their families. This game will be played like charades where the children will try and guess the action in the shortest amount of time.

3. Divide the children into two teams. Decide which team will go first. Have one child from that team stand in front of his team and choose a piece of paper from the hat. Ask the child if he understands the picture. When he is ready, tell him to begin. Keep time until his team guesses what he is doing, and record his time. If the team has not guessed it after two minutes, then stop timing and try to act it out yourself until they get it. Use the chart below for scoring.
4. Let a child from the next team take a piece of paper out of the hat and act it out for his team. Continue until all the papers have been taken.

If a team guesses correctly in:	They receive:
0 to 30 seconds	10 points
31 to 60 seconds	5 points
61 to 90 seconds	3 points
91 to 120 seconds	1 point

5. Total the teams' points and encourage all the children for their participation.

A Different Look

This game can also be played like a picture guessing game. Instead of having the children act out the picture, they can simply be timed for looking at the picture as a team and guessing the action it describes. Score points in the same way.

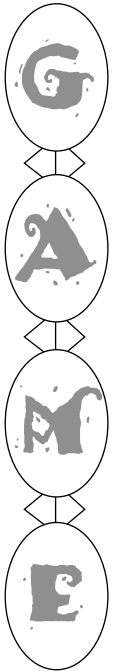
Conclusion

Ask the children what their favorite way to serve their family is. Encourage them that they have lots of new ways to serve and show love to their families this week. Close with a prayer for the children to really have fun serving their families this week.

Teacher Tips

- Draw additional pictures for the children to guess, or let the children think of their own.

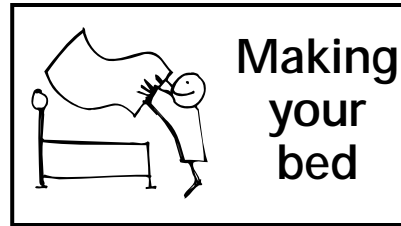




Setting
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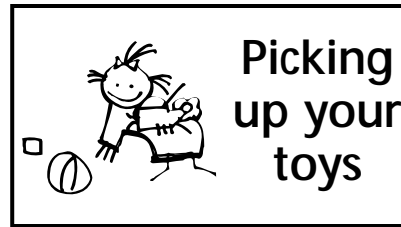
Hugging
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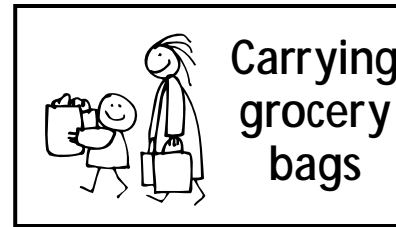
Making
your
bed



Giving
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present



Picking
up your
toys



Carrying
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Washing
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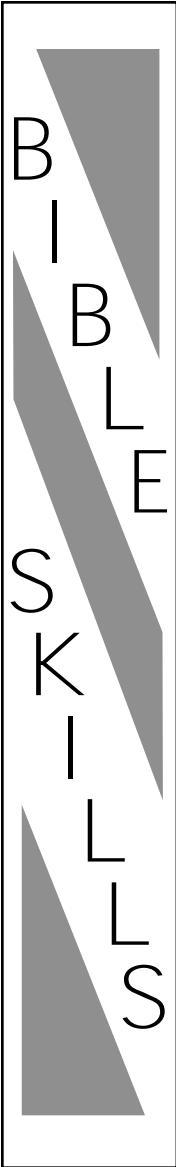
Watering
plants



Taking
out the
trash



Reading
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Ruth and Company

The children will review the key ideas about Ruth, Naomi and Boaz.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 3 index cards, 5" x 8"
- 3 markers: red, blue, black

Preparation

1. On one index card, write in red: Ruth. On another index card, write in blue: Boaz. On the last index card, write in black: Naomi.
2. Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

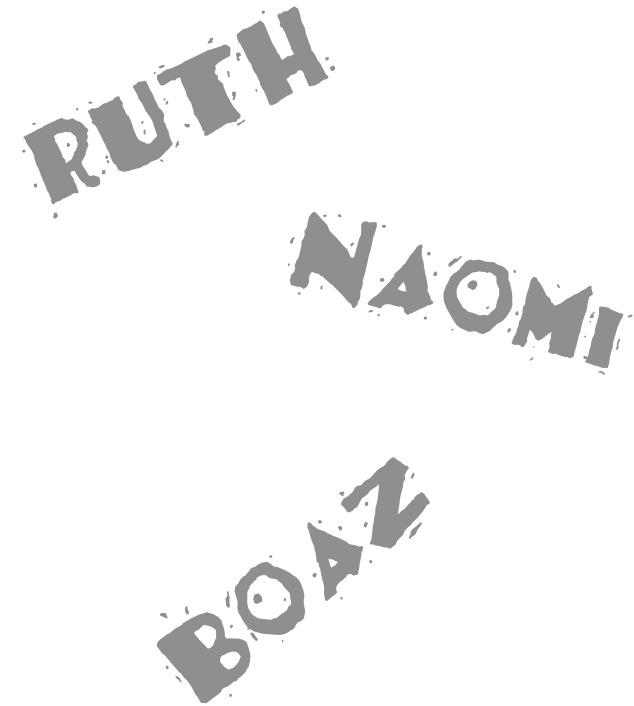
1. Introduce today's activity: *This week you are learning about a special young woman named Ruth. God placed Ruth in a family and Ruth showed her love to her family in many special ways. Ruth was a hard worker and served her family. She took care of Naomi, her mother-in-law. God blessed Ruth for her hard work and gave her a new husband named Boaz. Boaz was a good man who loved Ruth and took care of her and Naomi. In our activity today, you are going to try and guess which character I am talking about: Ruth, Naomi or Boaz.*
2. Have the children sit in a circle. Show the children the three index cards and read aloud the names on each one. Tell the children that they will listen to clues. They will try to be the first one to guess which of these three people you are talking about.
3. Place the three cards in the middle of the circle. Tell the children to sit cross-legged with their hands folded while you read the clue. When you say, "Who am I?" they may put their hand on the card that has the name of who they think it is. Tell the children the correct answer.
4. Continue playing until all the statements have been read. Encourage the children for their participation.

Conclusion

Ask the children which of the three was their favorite character and why. Close with a prayer thanking God for the story of Ruth and for giving all of us our families.

Teacher Tips

- For large classes, make more than one set of index cards and play with two or more groups at a time.



Ruth and Company

Clues

- *This week's Bible Story comes from a book named after me. Who am I? (Ruth)*
- *In the beginning of this story, my husband and both of my sons died. Who am I? (Naomi)*
- *After my husband died, Naomi told me to go back to my family. Who am I? (Ruth)*
- *I said: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God my God." Who am I? (Ruth)*
- *I am a very important man in Bethlehem. Who am I? (Boaz)*
- *When we arrived in Bethlehem, I told the people to call me Mara because my life was so bitter and sad. Who am I? (Naomi)*
- *I am a relative of Naomi and I own a large barley field. Who am I? (Boaz)*
- *I went to work right away in Boaz' field. He was very kind to me and made sure I was safe. Who I am? (Ruth)*
- *I noticed that Ruth was a very hard worker and was very kind to her mother-in-law. I wanted to find out who she was. Who am I? (Boaz)*
- *Now my life is not sad anymore. Ruth and Boaz are married and have a baby. God has given me another family! Who am I? (Naomi)*

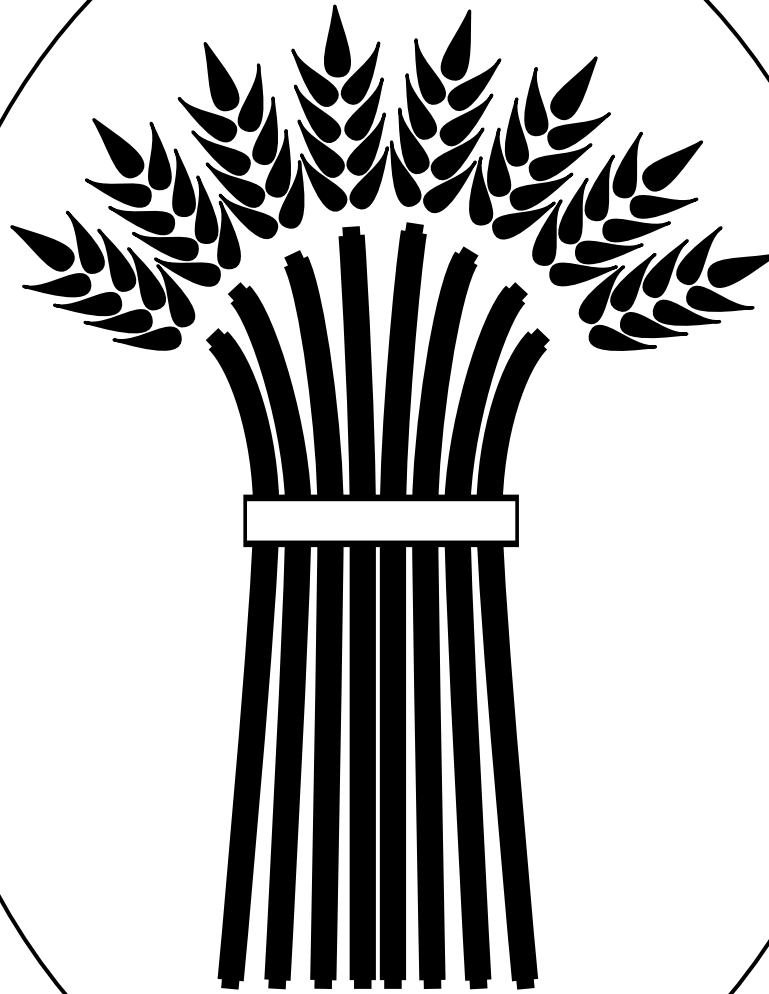


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Core/Preclass
1 copy for each child

God's Young Heroes
Lesson 4

God had a place for



God has a special



Core/Bible Story

1 copy for the teacher

A Place for Ruth

Script

NARRATOR: *At the beginning of the story, Ruth's husband dies. Have the girls pretend to cry.*

NAOMI: *Ruth, now that my son, your husband, is dead, you should go back to your family. What can I do for you? My husband is dead and my sons are dead. I can't even give you another husband. Go back to your own family.*

NARRATOR: *Ruth would not leave Naomi. Orpah, the wife of Naomi's other son, did leave and go back to her people. But Ruth would not leave Naomi. She wanted to stay with her. Tell the girls to repeat after you, saying the same words that Ruth said to Naomi in Ruth 1:16: "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God my God."*

NARRATOR: *Naomi agreed and together she and Ruth went to Bethlehem. When they got there the people heard what happened to Naomi. They could see that she was still very sad.*

NAOMI: *Don't call me Naomi. Call me Mara instead. Mara means bitter, and I am sad and bitter because of all the hard things that have happened to me.*

NARRATOR: *As soon as Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem, the barley harvest was beginning. Naomi had a relative named Boaz who was a wealthy man, respected by the people. Have all the boys stand and look important. He had fields of barley that needed to be harvested. Ruth told Naomi that she would go to work for Boaz so that they would have enough to eat. Boaz saw that Ruth was a hard worker and he told the other workers to be kind to her. Tell the boys to wave to the girls. Not long after, Boaz and Ruth were married. Have the boys and girls walk side by side in a line and then sit down. They started a family and Naomi stayed with them. She was not sad anymore.*

NAOMI: *Oh Ruth. God has been very kind to me. You have been better to me than seven sons. Now I am not sad anymore. God has given us both a special family.*

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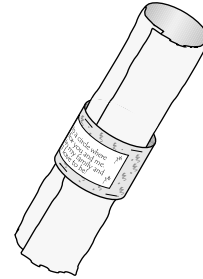
Our family is a circle where
there's love for you and me.
God placed me in my family and
it's where I love to be!

napkin ring label

Instructions to make my "Family Circle" napkin rings

For each ring, you'll need:

- 1 cardboard ring, 2"
- 1 piece of fabric, 3" x 6"
- white glue or glue stick
- scissors
- stapler (optional)



1. Cover the back of the fabric with a thin layer of glue.
2. Cover the ring with the fabric, folding the excess inside.
3. Staple the fabric to secure it.
4. Cut and glue a label (below) on the ring.
5. Let glue dry thoroughly before use.

NOTE: My Family Circle napkin rings are recommended to hold paper napkins only.

Our family is a circle where there's love for you and me. God placed me in my family and it's where I love to be!	Our family is a circle where there's love for you and me. God placed me in my family and it's where I love to be!
Our family is a circle where there's love for you and me. God placed me in my family and it's where I love to be!	Our family is a circle where there's love for you and me. God placed me in my family and it's where I love to be!
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Take-home Instructions

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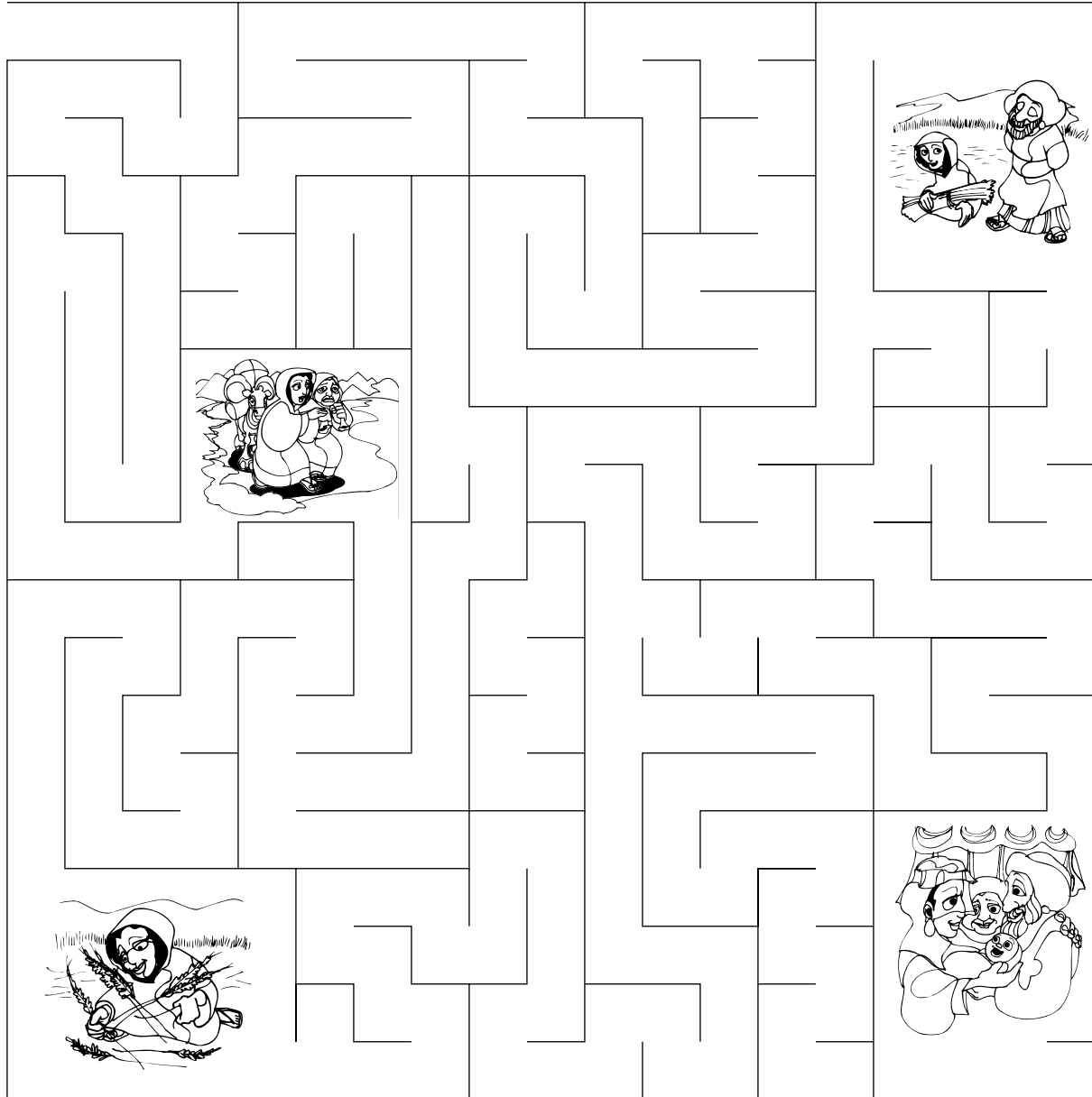
Amazing Places

Name _____

Supplement/Preclass
1 copy for each child

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START



FINISH



Supplement/Life Application
1 copy for each child

TOGETHER TIME COUPON

Go to a Movie



TOGETHER TIME COUPON

TOGETHER TIME COUPON

Play a Game



TOGETHER TIME COUPON

TOGETHER TIME COUPON

Take a Walk



TOGETHER TIME COUPON

TOGETHER TIME COUPON

Go on a Picnic



TOGETHER TIME COUPON

This

**TOGETHER TIME
COUPON BOOK**

belongs to _____

TOGETHER TIME COUPON

Read a Story



TOGETHER TIME COUPON

TOGETHER TIME COUPON

Do a Puzzle



TOGETHER TIME COUPON

TOGETHER TIME COUPON

Go for a Bike Ride



TOGETHER TIME COUPON

Supplement/Game
1 copy for the teacher

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