WEEK 2
LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God gives us opportunities.

BIBLE

Ruth Meets Boaz: Ruth 2; Mark 12:38–44

ABOUT THIS WEEK

While some heroes have a signal that flashes when people need help, others need to stay on the lookout for opportunities to help. This week, we'll hear the story of how Ruth met Boaz and how he showed kindness and favor to her. Boaz saw a chance to offer someone help, and his kindness reminds us that **God gives us opportunities** to help others.

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | Hero Training: Opportunities

- INSTRUCTIONS: *For this activity, prepare assorted straws (with at least four different colors) and four bins, hoops, or paper taped to the ground that match the colors of the straws. Spread out the straws on the ground as wide as possible. Set up the "base" (bin, hoop, or paper) in a circle around the straws. Divide kids into four teams and have them stand in a line behind their assigned color. When you say, "Go," one player from each team has to collect a straw of their team's color and bring it to their base. The first team to collect all their straws wins!*
- Last time, we found out that heroes need companions and teams. Today's hero hot tip: Look for opportunities you can be a hero! An opportunity is the chance you get for something good to happen.
- In this training session, you could have been the hero by collecting all the straws for your team at once, but that wasn't the objective. You had your opportunity to shine when it was your turn to collect a straw to add to your base.
- Much like these straws we just collected, Ruth will be collecting some things necessary to her and Naomi's survival in today's Bible story. Pay attention to the hero opportunities that come up in the story!

QUESTION | What is your superpower?

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Ask the following questions. You can have every kid shout their answer but then ask a few kids to share their answers with everyone. Comment briefly on their answers—and have fun with this!*
- Most superheroes have neat superpowers. **Let's name some together! If you could have any of these superpowers, which would it be? Why?**
- Flying, x-ray vision, invisibility, lightning speed, and extra strength make each superhero special. But they are also super imaginary.

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- God gives us different kinds of superpowers. We might call them gifts, talents, skills, abilities, or something else, but the point is we each have at least one thing we can use to serve God and others.
- So, what's your real-life superpower?
- Some people can play music to bring people joy. Some people love to help others in need. Other people can listen, encourage, comfort, show kindness, and all kinds of cool things! These are some qualities of true unsung heroes!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | Ruth 2 (Ruth Meets Boaz)

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Read the passage and retell the Bible story using the Scripture segments and talking points provided below.*
- Hello, it's another busy day at the *Unsung Heroes Herald*! We've been getting tips from all over Bethlehem about a mysterious new lady who just arrived from Moab with her mother-in-law. My main source, the Bible, tells me it's Ruth and Naomi.
    - If you remember from our last front page news, Ruth and Naomi traveled from Moab (Ruth's hometown) to Bethlehem (Naomi's hometown) after Naomi's husband and sons—one of whom was Ruth's husband—had died.
    - Naomi told Ruth that she could do nothing for her, but Ruth decided to stick by Naomi's side anyway.
    - After checking with my sources, we have today's headline: "Local landowner gives a special opportunity to out-of-town visitor."
- Here's what Ruth 2:1–2 had to report.
    - In Bible times, women couldn't just go out and get a job. They had to rely on family members, like fathers and husbands, to care for them. But one of the laws God wanted the people to follow was to protect people like widows, women who had lost their husbands and would not be able to support themselves. This law said that when harvesting a field, workers were to leave some extra crops and grains on the ground so that people in need, like widows, could go and collect them. This was called gleaning.
    - Ruth volunteered to do this job to take care of Naomi and herself. She probably thought she would bring home barely enough to survive. But God led Ruth to the right place at the right time.
- Listen to what our field reporters witnessed in Ruth 2:3–7.
    - We learned here that Boaz was a respected and well-liked member of the community. When he checked in with his workers, he noticed Ruth and wanted to know more about her.
    - It seemed everyone there was impressed with how hard Ruth worked!
- My sources got a first-hand account of the conversation between Boaz and Ruth in Ruth 2:8–14.
    - Ruth did not expect Boaz to treat her so kindly. She was, after all, new in town and had no standing in the community.
    - But Boaz was impressed by everything Ruth gave up so she could be there for Naomi, even now working the fields. He took the opportunity to show kindness to Ruth with more than just words.
- Eyewitnesses report this happened in Ruth 2:13–16.
    - Boaz was generous to Ruth. As a matter of fact, he gave more than what was expected. Not only did he supply her with more food, but made sure Ruth would always glean enough grain to take with her.
    - She couldn't wait to tell Naomi everything that had happened!
- We got an exclusive interview with a friend of the family who told us about the conversation in Ruth 2:17–23.

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    - Well, what do you know? The plot thickens! How fortunate that the field Ruth chose to work in happened to belong to Boaz, who also happens to be a relative of Naomi's!
    - This meant that Boaz could do more than give Ruth extra grain—he could be the one to unlock Naomi's late husband's inheritance for them! What an opportunity!
- That's all we've got for now, but stay tuned... I'm pretty sure the next edition of the *Unsung Heroes Herald* will have more on this story!

BIG IDEA | God gives us opportunities.

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Introduce the kids to today's Big Idea:*
- Let's say it together: God gives us opportunities.

ACTIVITY | Glean Your Team

- INSTRUCTIONS: *For this activity, prepare colored dot stickers with as many colors as needed so that at least two kids have the same color. Have kids stand in a circle facing outward with their eyes closed. Go around the circle and place a dot on each kid's forehead (have other leaders help you if it's a large group). When you give the signal, kids can open their eyes and spread out. They have to locate the other members of their color team—without speaking. Once everyone has found their team (have a leader confirm), have them stand together in a group superhero pose.*
- You weren't allowed to speak in this activity but found ways to glean your teammates together in one place. I noticed that most of you took this opportunity to help each other figure out where they belonged because you couldn't see your own dot!
- God gives us opportunities, and a lot of those opportunities might be to benefit someone else, not just ourselves. Just like Ruth used her opportunity to take care of Naomi and Boaz used his to take care of Ruth, we can also use every opportunity God gives us to help others!

SCRIPTURE | Mark 12:38–44

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Read the passage out loud or ask a volunteer to read.*
- Jesus cared about people who society did not take care of. In this passage, Jesus warned against dishonorable people who mistreated people who were vulnerable and needy, like widows—women whose husbands had died. Widows were disadvantaged in those days because they didn't have anyone to provide for and protect them.
- Yet Jesus was moved by how even a widow, who had next to nothing, gave everything she had to God when she offered up her two small coins. She took this opportunity to show her faith in God to provide for her. And Jesus took the opportunity to notice and bring it to everyone's attention that she gave everything she had. It must have been a humbling reminder for those who had more what they could *do* to help people like her!
- Naomi and Ruth were also widows. They had very little to survive on. But they, like the widow in the passage we just read, trusted God and made the most of every opportunity they got. The same is true for us. Whether we have a lot or a little, God gives us opportunities to trust God and to do the most with whatever we've got!

VIDEO | Teaching Video (Week 2)

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Play this week's episode of Grow TV.* (https://vimeo.com/933126373/2b6f86f355) *If you're short on time, show the illustrated Bible story video.(https://vimeo.com/996233118/540d31f596)*

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

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REFLECTION | Hero Hangtime

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Have kids pair up with others in the group or with a leader and share their responses to the prompts below with their partner. Afterward, have them share with the rest of the group, and be sure to share your thoughts.*
- Some superheroes encountered pretty difficult circumstances that somehow turned into opportunities for them to develop their hero ways. Batman starts out only wanting to find the person responsible for his parents' deaths but soon becomes the protector of Gotham City. Ruth and Naomi lost their families and had to start over in a new town.
    - Have you ever lost something or someone really important to you?
    - How were you able to find comfort when you were feeling sad?
    - Did this experience bring out anything good or helpful in other ways?
- We don't need to experience tragedy to become heroes. But the Bible teaches that hardship doesn't separate us from becoming heroes. God helps all of us find our way no matter what we go through.
    - How do you think Ruth felt about the opportunities God gave her?
    - What about Boaz? Naomi?
- We can see through Ruth and Naomi's story that even when we don't realize it, God gives us opportunities that will help us, help someone else, or lead us to trust God more!
- Thank your hero buddies for hanging out with you!

MEMORY VERSE | Zephaniah 3:17a (NIV)

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: memory verse coloring page, sign language motions, or choose from this list of our favorite memorization techniques!*
- "The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves."

PRAYER

- God, thank you for giving us endless opportunities to serve you and others. Help us not to let a single opportunity slip by, but give us the ability to step up and do what we can to help others. Thank you for being our true hero. Amen.

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