Grow kids

WEEK 4
LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God gives us hope.

BIBLE

Ruth Marries Boaz: Ruth 4; Revelation 1:4–8

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Heroes use their special abilities to serve their communities while hoping their work will bring about more good in the world. This week, we'll learn about how Ruth married Boaz and what was so special about their family line. Ruth and Naomi's story shows us what happens when we stay close to God through difficult times— **God gives us hope.**

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | Superhero Skills

- INSTRUCTIONS: *For this activity, prepare an easel or tape butcher paper up on the wall. Have kids play Pictionary using words from this month's Bible stories (Ruth, Naomi, Boaz, grain, sandal) or superhero-themed words. Write the following words on paper, fold it up, and have kids draw the papers to see which way they have to draw or act out the words:*
    - *Human (Draw normally.)*
    - *Daredevil (Draw while wearing a blindfold.)*
    - *Wolverine (Stick three pencils between their knuckles and draw with all three pencils.)*
    - *Catwoman (Describe the word using only "meows.")*
    - *Doctor Strange (Act out the word using your hands.)*
- Those are some surprising superhero skills! As you drew or acted out these words, you were really hoping that your friends could guess what you were trying to communicate, right? **How did it feel when they guessed correctly?**
- Hold on to that feeling—because that's how Ruth and Naomi felt as God answered their prayers in today's Bible story!

QUESTION | What do heroes hope for?

- 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!*
- **How many superheroes can you think of?** Let's name as many superheroes as we can.
- **If you could sit down and interview them, what do you think they would say if you asked them, "What do you hope for?"**

Grow Curriculum ©2025 Stuff You Can Use. All rights reserved.

- I bet most of them would say they want their friends, family, and city to be safe. Maybe a handful of them would say they hope bad guys would go away forever. In any case, superheroes continue the work of protecting people, hoping that what they do will bring about more good in the world.
- In today's Bible story, our *Unsung Heroes,* Ruth and Naomi, have been holding onto the hope that everything will work out for them, even though they started with nothing. We'll see how God followed through on that hope!

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

SCRIPTURE | Ruth 4 (Ruth Marries Boaz)

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Read the passage and retell the Bible story using the Scripture segments and talking points provided below.*
- Hi heroes! I heard this was the last week of your training, and I can't wait to sit down with you and interview you for the *Unsung Heroes Herald*. But first, I need to tell you all about our latest front-page news! You ready?
- Extra! Extra! Read all about it! A hero story like no other: "Women from Moab find hope with guardian-redeemer's help!"
    - Let me back up a little. So long story short, Naomi and Ruth came to Bethlehem from Moab after their husbands had died. They had next to nothing, but fortunately, Ruth happened to collect grain from a field that belonged to Boaz. Boaz happened to be a kind person and their family's guardian-redeemer—someone who could take over Naomi's family line and land if he married Ruth.
    - Boaz was ready to take on the duties of a guardian-redeemer. The only problem was that another relative was next in line. Boaz could only do all this if the other relative refused.
- What happened next comes from the Herald's most trusted source, the Bible—Ruth 4:1–4.
    - It seemed like the other relative was willing to redeem the land that belonged to Naomi's late husband. Two guardian-redeemers willing to help? This was great news!
    - Well, it was good news for Naomi and Ruth but not so much for Boaz—he wanted to be the one to redeem the land and marry Ruth.
- Our correspondents on site confirmed the events recorded in Ruth 4:5–12.
    - What a strategy! Boaz reminded the other relative that if he followed through as guardian-redeemer, he would have to continue Naomi's husband Elimelek's family line instead of his own. The other guardian-redeemer backed out, removing his sandal to confirm the agreement. Boaz declares publicly that he will marry Ruth and redeem the land for Naomi's family.
    - So Ruth and Boaz got happily ever after, and they gave birth to a son. What about Naomi, you ask?
- Our journalists reveal more about the events that took place afterward in Ruth 4:14–17.
    - When we first started following Ruth and Naomi's story, they both had lost everything. Naomi returned home because she was out of options. She insisted everyone call her "Mara" because her life had become bitter and hopeless. But then, all these little things started to fall into place which led to this moment—Naomi looking upon the face of her new grandson, Obed.
    - She didn't know it yet, but that grandson would grow up to have a son named Jesse, who would become the father of many sons, the youngest of whom would be David. And David would end up becoming a king. If you follow that line even further, we'll learn that Jesus—God's own Son—comes from this family tree, too!
- It is a heartwarming tale of how God had been with Naomi and Ruth through it all, giving them everything they needed, including hope! Pick up your copy of the *Unsung Heroes Herald* for an exclusive interview with our heroines!

Grow Curriculum ©2025 Stuff You Can Use. All rights reserved.

BIG IDEA | God gives us hope.

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

SCRIPTURE | Revelation 1:4–8

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Read the passage out loud or ask a volunteer to read.*
- The book of Revelation is about how God gave John, who was a follower of Jesus, visions about things to come. Some of the things that would happen were sad and terrible. But the running theme throughout this book is that those who trust in God would be safe.
- The book begins with this message of hope we just read together. When followers of Jesus shared the good news with others, the Early Church began, and the believers were spread out throughout the world.
- As these people experienced different kinds of suffering, this passage encouraged them that they were never alone. Jesus will always be with them because he's the one *"who is, and who was, and who is to come."* That means through all of time, Jesus is there!
- Even though Ruth and Boaz wouldn't know it in their lifetime, Jesus would be born into their family tree! The hope that God had given them wasn't just about having a baby and reclaiming all of Naomi's property. It was about a future for the whole world. The savior, Jesus, would come through their line!
- **God gives us hope** in every situation, but has already given us our greatest hope—Jesus!

VIDEO | Teaching Video (Week 4)

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Play this week's episode of Grow TV.* (https://vimeo.com/933128690/00c629cb62)*If you're short on time, show the illustrated Bible story video. (https://vimeo.com/996233942/148890508e)*

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

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 as well. Since this is the last week of the series, if there's time, consider making a "Hope Float" with the group (one scoop of vanilla ice cream with root beer or lemon-lime soda).*
- **Have you ever heard the saying, "hope floats?"** It means that when you have hope, it lifts you and others up. It helps you believe that things will turn out great and allows you to hold on when things get tough. In the story of Ruth and Naomi, there's no doubt that their hope in God kept them afloat through some pretty difficult times!
    - **Think of a time when you were uncertain about something or how a situation would turn out. What would it look like to have hope during this difficult situation?**
    - **Have you ever been in a situation where you didn't know how things would turn out but it ended up being better than you thought?**
    - **When was the last time you didn't feel hopeful?**
    - **Where do you think you can get hope when you need it the most?**
- It's normal to feel hopeless sometimes. Our problems might feel too big for anyone to do anything about *except* we can remember that nothing is too big for God.

- **God gives us hope** and invites us to ask for help!
- Let's clink our hope floats together and shout out a heroic hooray! Hooray!

Grow Curriculum ©2025 Stuff You Can Use. All rights reserved.

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 being our true hero! You give hope in all situations. Help us see your hope and look to that when we feel down about something. Thank you for all of the examples you have given of hopeful situations in the Bible and through the people around me. Amen.

Grow Curriculum ©2025 Stuff You Can Use. All rights reserved.