WEEK 2
LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God gives us opportunities.

BIBLE

Ruth Meets Boaz: Ruth 2

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 | Gleaning Grain

- INSTRUCTIONS: *For this activity, tear up brown and yellow construction paper strips and hide them around the room. Provide brown paper lunch bags for kids to collect the "grain" they find. Have kids collect the pieces until all are located, or set a timer for when they should stop.*
- Today, in our Bible story, we are going to learn how Ruth had to work in a field to collect food for her and Naomi to eat. Let's find out whose field she ends up working in.

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

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | Ruth 2 (Ruth Meets Boaz)

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below! Have kids help you make various sound effects as you tell the story.*
- Hello, little heroes! Welcome back. I'm ready to talk more about superheroes with you.
    - **What are some superpowers that superheroes have?**
    - Yes, superheroes in movies and shows can run super fast and are super strong. The *Unsung Heroes* in our Bible story did not have superpowers, but they had a super God who was watching over them.
    - **Boing! Put your hands around your eyes like binoculars.** God watched over them, and God watches over you, too!

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- Now, on to the Bible story. When we left, our duo, Ruth and Naomi, had arrived in Bethlehem. They were both widows, which means they had lost their husbands.
    - Womp, womp.
    - The story starts out very sad. Don't worry, it gets better!
- Ruth decided to go out and find work. One way for her to work and get food was to glean. Sometimes, when farmers went out to collect their crops, they would miss some. People like Ruth could come in and pick up those leftovers. That was called gleaning.
    - Sweep!
    - Pretend to pick up grain from the ground.
- The owner of the field Ruth worked at was a man named Boaz. He was very kind to Ruth. He told his workers to look out for her. But that's not all. When Ruth told Naomi she went to Boaz's field, Naomi was so happy. You see, Boaz was part of Naomi's family.
    - Kaboom!
    - God led Ruth to the right place. When Naomi and Ruth needed help, God sent along the right opportunity so they could get what they needed.

BIG IDEA | God gives us opportunities.

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Introduce the kids to today's Big Idea using the following hand motions:*
    - God *(point up to the sky)*
      gives us *(point to yourself)*
      opportunities *(place hand above eyes and look from side to side)*

VIDEO | Teaching Video (Week 2)

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Play this week's episode of Cali's World.* (https://vimeo.com/996232750/91fd1087e0) *If you're short on time, show the illustrated Bible story video. (https://vimeo.com/996233118/540d31f596)*

ACTIVITY | Gathering Friends

- INSTRUCTIONS: *For this activity, call out the different prompts below—feel free to add your own—and have the group join in on a group hug for that person. If more than one person fits the description, have them do multiple group hugs so everyone is included.*
    - *Who has black hair?*
    - *Who has a dog?*
    - *Whose birthday is in December?*
    - *Who is wearing blue?*
    - *Who wears glasses?*
    - *Who is wearing white shoes?*
    - *Who plays a sport?*
    - *Who has a brother or sister?*
- Great job gathering up your friends today. It's nice when we can be kind to each other, right?
- God did that for Ruth and Naomi. God gave Ruth the opportunity to work in a field that belonged to a kind person like Boaz. God gave Boaz the opportunity to show kindness to Ruth, who was new in town.
- When we need help, **God gives us opportunities.** You know what else? When others need help, **God gives us opportunities** to help *them.*

PRAYER

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- God, thank you for giving us opportunities when we need help. Please help us find opportunities where we can help others, too. Amen.

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

SHARING TIME

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Sit in a circle together and have kids take turns answering the following questions:*
- Whose hometown was Bethlehem? Naomi. Ruth and Naomi came back to Bethlehem from Moab.
- What did Ruth do to take care of herself and Naomi? She went to work at a field collecting (or gleaning) grain.
- Who was kind to Ruth? Boaz.
- Who is the hero that gives us opportunities? God! God gives us opportunities.
- Let's think of some opportunities God gives us to help others. How can you help a friend or family member?

MEMORY VERSE | Zephaniah 3:17a (NIV)

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words (and the Scripture reference) to the tune of "Itsy Bitsy Spider." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say them using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.*
- "The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves."

PLAY TIME

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