WEEK 4
LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God gives us hope.

BIBLE

Ruth Marries Boaz: Ruth 4

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?

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Superhero Hope Hop

- INSTRUCTIONS: *For this activity, write the letters of "HOPE" on separate pieces of paper. Then, tape the paper on the ground, spreading it out within a preschooler's jumping distance. Have each kid jump from one letter to the next, saying each letter aloud. When they finish, have them strike a superhero pose and yell, "Hope!"*
- Today, we are going to learn about hope. **What is hope?** Hope is when we want something to happen and trust that it will happen.
- Let's find out what Ruth and Naomi were hoping for in today's Bible story.

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

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | Ruth 4 (Ruth Marries 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! I've been having the most superheroic time learning about the Bible with you. When superheroes save the day, sometimes the mayor gives them the key to the city. Usually, it's not a key to the door of the city. It just means that the people who live there love the superhero.
    - **If you were a superhero, what would you want to get instead of the key to the city?**
    - Well, the *Unsung Heroes* in our Bible story didn't get any awards, but they trusted God and got everything they needed! Are you ready to find out how Ruth and Naomi's story ends?

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    - Zip! Let's settle down and find out together.
- So Ruth and Naomi had just moved into town. They had no other family and no money, so Ruth started working in a field.
    - The owner of the field was a man named Boaz, who was kind to Ruth. Boaz was also part of Naomi's family, so if he married Ruth, Naomi and Ruth would have land and everything they needed.
    - Wow! That sounds like a plan.
- But there was a problem. Oh no! Another relative was next in line, and Boaz needed to check with him to see if he wanted Naomi's land first. It turns out the other family member wanted the job. He tried to get Naomi's land.
    - Dum, dum, dum!
    - But what about Boaz and Ruth?
- Boaz reminded the family member that he would have to marry Ruth and continue Naomi's family line. The other man didn't want to do that. He wanted to grow his family line, not take over Naomi's. So, the other family member took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz to show that he was backing out.
    - Splat!
    - This family member was out. That meant Boaz could take over.
- Boaz married Ruth and kept his promise to take care of her family. With God's help, Ruth and Naomi would now live under the care of Boaz and keep their land.
    - Hooray!
    - This is such a happy ending.
- But wait! There's more. Ruth and Naomi's family grew! Boaz and Ruth had a baby named Obed. Naomi had a grandson now.
    - Clap, clap, clap!
    - God gave Ruth and Naomi hope when they had lost everything back in Moab. Now, there was a new hope with this new baby boy. Obed would carry on the family name. Obed's family tree includes King David and also... Jesus! How amazing is that?

BIG IDEA | God gives us hope.

- 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)*
      hope *(jump as high as you can)*

VIDEO | Teaching Video (Week 4)

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Play this week's episode of Cali's World.* (https://vimeo.com/942505712/cc95efd1f1) *If you're short on time, show the illustrated Bible story video. (https://vimeo.com/996233942/148890508e)*

ACTIVITY | Big Idea Corners

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Write each key word from this month's Big Ideas (companions, opportunities, boldness, hope) on different colors of paper (such as green, yellow, blue, pink) and place them in the four corners of your room (or create a smaller playing area using painter's tape). Review the word in each color corner and have kids repeat each Big Idea after you. Then, have a leader stand in the middle of the room, close their eyes, and count to ten while all the kids choose a corner to run to. Without opening their eyes, have the leader call out a color. All the kids in the color corner have to do the corresponding Big Idea with the leader. Repeat until all Big Ideas have been recited a few times. You can allow kids to take turns being in the middle, too.*

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- Let's remember all the hero training we did together. **God gives us companions, opportunities, boldness,** and **hope!**
- Green Corner: **Companions**
    - **God** *(point up to the sky)*
      gives us *(point to yourself)*
      companions *(link arms with others)*
- Yellow Corner: **Opportunities**
    - **God** *(point up to the sky)*
      gives us *(point to yourself)*
      opportunities *(place hand above eyes and look from side to side)*
- Blue Corner: **Boldness**
    - **God** *(point up to the sky)*
      gives us *(point to yourself)*
      boldness *(put your hands in fists and on your hips)*
- Pink corner: **Hope**
    - **God** *(point up to the sky)*
      gives us *(point to yourself)*
      hope *(jump as high as you can)*
- God gave Ruth and Naomi hope today and was with them the whole time. It's kind of like God was "in their corner." God was there for them no matter what!

PRAYER

- God, you are so amazing! You always give us hope. Help us not to give up and keep putting our hope in you. Amen.

SHARING TIME

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Sit in a circle and have kids take turns answering the following questions:*
- **Why couldn't Boaz and Ruth get married right away?** There was another family member who was next in line before Boaz was.
- **What did the other family member do to show he didn't want to take care of Naomi and Ruth?** He took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz.
- **What is something new God gave to Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi?** A baby named Obed. Ruth and Boaz's son and Naomi's grandson.
- **Is there anything you hope for? Like what?**
- **Who is the hero that gives us hope?** God! **God gives us hope.**

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 key words.*
- **"The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves."**

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