

LESSON 2 RUTH

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Honors Faithfulness

SCRIPTURE: Ruth 1–4

GOD'S BIG STORY: Ruth cares for her mother-in-law, Naomi, and God honors her faithfulness by providing her with a husband and giving her a place in the family tree of Jesus.

WORD OF WONDER: The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel. —Isaiah 7:14 (NirV)

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: Who sticks by you no matter what?
Interactive Game: Honor Where Honor Is Due
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Responding in Worship
- Blessing Your Kids



Large Group Estimated Schedule:

20 minutes prior to service time - SG leaders are in place. Kids are seated in game rotations. The Bible story coloring sheets are available to color. Upbeat music is playing.

10 minutes prior to service time - LG leader is on mic introducing themselves and creating banter with kids

5 minutes prior to service time - LG leader asks Welcome Question and the slide is displayed

2 minutes prior to service time - 2 minute countdown and clean-up

Right at service time - LG leader begins with welcome and declaration

Large group runs 25-35 minutes

Small group runs 25-35 minutes

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Honors Faithfulness

SCRIPTURE: Ruth 1–4

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14

Isn't it awesome how God orchestrated the line of Jesus to include "foreigners" and "strangers"? From the very start, God was showing us that Jesus came to save the whole world—not just the children of Israel. Read Ruth 1:16–18.

By following Naomi, Ruth became a stranger in a strange land with strange customs. She had probably never even heard about the one true God before this! Ruth was most likely clueless about most of Israel's religion—God's rules, all God had done in the past, and all of God's promises. But Ruth chose faithfulness to her mother-in-law, and God blessed her.

I hope Ruth's story encourages you. You do not have to be an expert in following God in order to become part of His family. You don't need to know all the right words to pray or all the right sacrifices to give. Instead, you just need to accept God's invitation to follow Him in faith. And praise be to God! Because God honors faithfulness.

—Callie Bogle

Children's Ministry Associate

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The author of the Book of Ruth is anonymous. It takes its name from one of its main characters, a Gentile widow who commits to following her mother-in-law, Naomi, back to the land of Israel.

WHAT?

The Book of Ruth tells Ruth's story. She and Naomi faced an uncertain future in the land of Israel, but in the end, God showed His love for Ruth and Naomi by giving them a new family and a bright future.

WHERE?

The story begins with Naomi and her family moving to Moab. The Moabites were kin to the Israelites, listed as descendants of Abraham's nephew Lot (Genesis 19:30–38). The Moabites worshiped many gods instead of the one true God.

WHEN?

This story is set during the time of the judges, when Israel was governed by God-appointed leaders rather than kings. This was a period of frequent upheaval in Israel, and famines would have caused those who were able to leave to do so.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Ruth was from a godless people. And yet, the Lord welcomed faithful Ruth into His family—hinting at the blessing her offspring would be to the entire world. From Ruth's descendants, Jesus was born—the true blessing to all nations.

Large Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Honors Faithfulness

SCRIPTURE: Ruth 1–4

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:1

As kids arrive...

Around 10 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop as the LG leader gives a welcome. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Be sure to move to their level and introduce yourself to any new friends. Welcome kids by name and ask them to come up with one word to describe their week. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding to what they say.

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

Welcome Question 1–2 min

SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

About 5 minutes before service begins,, display the Jeremiah Welcome Question: “Who sticks by you no matter what?”

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

At your start time ...

Welcome the kids in with a smile. Invite one of them to help you read the Welcome Question. Call on 1-2 kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **Who sticks by you no matter what?**

"Today we're going to talk about a woman who stuck by someone and how God honored her faithfulness. But first, it's time to be curious."



Interactive Game: Honor Where Honor Is Due

SLIDES: WHERE HONOR IS DUE

"Today we're going to be talking about honor, but what does honor mean? Honor means to show someone respect for who they are and what they've done. I'm going to show you ways we can honor people. Pay close attention! We'll play a game to see if you remember!"

SLIDE: KING AND QUEEN

In some countries, people show honor to a king or queen by bowing. Demonstrate a bow. Encourage kids to practice bowing.

SLIDE: MILITARY OFFICER

In the military, people show honor to superior officers by giving a salute. Demonstrate a salute and have kids practice saluting.

SLIDE: JUDGE SLIDE

When a judge walks in a courtroom, everyone stands up to honor the judge. Demonstrate by squatting down and then standing back up. Encourage kids to do the same.

SLIDE: TEACHER SLIDE

At school, we show honor by raising our hands when we want to speak instead of interrupting our teacher or other students. Demonstrate raising your hand and have kids do the same.

SLIDE: PARENT/CAREGIVER

And at home, we honor our parents and caregivers by listening to what they say. Demonstrate listening by cupping your ear with your hand. Pause for kids to do the same.

Now, let's see if you remember all these ways of showing honor! We have a king and queen, a soldier, a judge, a teacher, and parents or caregivers. When you see the picture, show me that you remember what I taught you about how to honor that person!"

Display the King and Queen Slide, Military Officer Slide, Judge Slide, Teacher Slide, and Parents/Caregivers Slide in random order. Model the appropriate responses and encourage the kids to do the same. Once kids catch on, stop modeling each response to make the game more challenging. Call out the name of the slide as each slide is displayed. Switch slowly between the slides at first, then speed up as you switch between slides. Make it fun!

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

You all did a great job honoring others today! Did you know that God sometimes honors us? Today we are going to look at the story of a woman named Ruth. God saw how faithful Ruth was, and He honored her for it. Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD HONORS FAITHFULNESS**.



Declaring God's Wonder

1–2 min

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You ask me to be faithful to You, (Kids repeat.)

And You honor me when I am faithful! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Repeat)
You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Repeat)
And I am Your kid! (Repeat)
You know me, love me, and lead me. (Repeat)
You ask me to be faithful to You, (Repeat)
And You honor me when I am faithful! (Repeat)
My life can tell of Your wonder! (Repeat)

Prayer of Invitation

1 min

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, You are so faithful! We invite Your Holy Spirit to teach us about You. Help us to honor You in how we listen and learn. Help us to understand how You want us to be faithful. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

8–10 min

"The word faithful means "loyal and trusting." We can be faithful to God, even when it's hard. God is always faithful to us and wants us to be faithful! When we sing and worship Him, we are being faithful! These songs are a celebration of the best gift God ever gave us—Jesus!"

WORSHIP VIDEOS: Joy, Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Word of Wonder

1–2 min

SLIDE: WORD OF WONDER

"The Word of Wonder for The Jesus Family Tree series is Isaiah 7:14. God honored Ruth's faithfulness by giving her a place in the family tree of Jesus. Jesus was Ruth's direct descendant (or relative). This verse promises that God will save His people—and us—through Jesus. Let's read the Word of Wonder together!"

The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel.
—Isaiah 7:14 (NIRV)

God's Big Story

6–8 min

SLIDE: TITLE SLIDE

Tell the kids that today's story comes directly from God's Word, the Bible, and that this story is true. Have kids open their Bibles to Ruth 1 in the Old Testament. Encourage volunteers to help kids find the passage and ask older kids to help younger kids.

Let's start by watching part of God's big story directly from the Bible!"

VIDEO: GOD'S BIG STORY

In God's Big Story:
Ruth
Ruth 1–4

LESSON 2 RUTH EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

5–7 min

SUPPLIES: bandanas (1 per pair of kids), play food (optional), baby dolls or stuffed animals (optional)
RESOURCES: Moab Sheet, Home Sheet, Wheat Sheet, Baby Sheet

Ahead of time, set up the room with four distinct areas toward which kids will walk. Place the Home Sheet on the wall or on an object that will serve as the starting point. Display the Moab Sheet on the wall or on an object kids will walk toward. Place the Wheat Sheet on the next wall or on an object kids will walk toward. Finally, place the Baby Sheet on the last wall or on an object kids will walk toward. Prior to beginning, gather kids at the starting point labeled “Home,” where you will begin the story, and put them in pairs. Volunteer leaders should help tie a bandana around the inside legs of each pair as if preparing for a three-legged race.

Leader Tip: If your area is a small space and doesn’t allow for a lot of movement, consider holding up each sign at the appropriate time during the Experience It! Script and allowing kids to follow you around the room in follow-the-leader style.

"Today we are going to hear about Ruth and how she stuck with Naomi during hard times. Since Ruth stayed with Naomi, we are going to stick with our partners as we listen to this story. You'll have a few tasks to do along the way to help tell the story, so everyone be sure to listen carefully!"

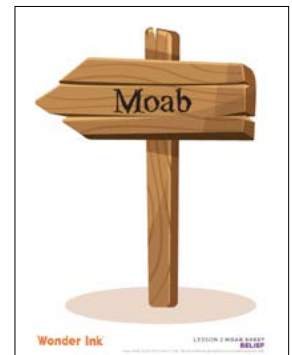
Even after humans disobeyed God and went their own way, God had a plan to heal His relationship with them and the rest of creation—He would bless the whole world through a special family. And that family was Abraham's. After Abraham and Sarah's son Isaac was born, their family grew into a large nation of people, just as God had promised. The nation became known as Israel, and for a time, God gave the people leaders called judges. During the time of the judges, many of the Israelites turned away from God and did what was right in their own eyes. But even during this difficult time, there were faithful people—people God would include in the family line of Jesus. One such person was Ruth. This is her story.

At that time there was a great famine in the land of Israel, so there wasn't enough food to eat. To go find a safer place to live, a woman named Naomi traveled with her husband and their two sons to a land called Moab.

OK, everybody, let's imagine that we're on a journey to Moab just like Naomi and her family!" Direct kids to walk toward the Moab Sheet.

Make It Inclusive!

Some kids may not be able to participate in this way. This activity can be modified by allowing pairs to walk arm-in-arm, or this activity can be altered altogether. Consider other options, which may include allowing one partner to walk blindfolded while the other gives directions.



"The people of Moab worshiped many different gods instead of the one true God of Israel. Naomi and her family lived in Moab for many years, and her sons married women from there. Sadly, Naomi's husband and her two sons died, leaving her alone in a faraway place with only her sons' wives, Ruth and Orpah.

One day, Naomi heard that the famine in the land of Israel was over, and she decided to return to her own country. Naomi encouraged Ruth and Orpah to stay in Moab, their homeland, and find new husbands there. Orpah listened to Naomi and returned to her own family, but Ruth held tightly to Naomi and refused to go. Again, Naomi urged Ruth to go back to her family and their gods.

But Ruth loved Naomi too much to abandon her. "Don't try to make me leave you and go back," Ruth told her mother-in-law. "Where you go I'll go. Where you stay I'll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God" (Ruth 1:16, NIV). Ruth had made up her mind. She would be faithful to Naomi no matter what.

Let's see what it's like to be faithful like Ruth by staying side-by-side with our partners. It's time to journey back home! Direct kids to walk back to the starting point. After they get back to the starting point, have leaders help them remove the bandanas from their legs. They can sit down as you continue.

You did a great job sticking by your partner's side. Now even though you're not tied together anymore, you still want to listen for your next task as we continue the story of Ruth!

God honored Ruth's faithfulness, and He had an amazing plan to bless Naomi and Ruth at the same time. When they arrived in the land of Israel, Ruth began to work in a field picking up fallen grain so that she and Naomi could make food for themselves.

OK, I need one partner in each pair to be Ruth. Who wants to pretend to pick grain? Volunteer leaders can help direct one person in each pair to stand up and walk toward the Wheat Sheet. Instruct kids to pretend to pick up grain. After picking up the grain, they can return to their partner with the food they have gathered.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. If time and space allow, consider having play food scattered across the floor or kids to pick up. Explain that Ruth picked up grain to make food, just like they are picking up food.

Good work being faithful like Ruth! The grain Ruth gathered was in a field that belonged to a man named Boaz, who happened to be a relative of Naomi's former husband. Boaz had heard about Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi and was impressed by her. He was so impressed that he decided to marry her, and he took Ruth and Naomi into his family and provided for them. Boaz and Ruth had a son, and Naomi helped to look after the little boy. His name was Obed, and his grandson would become the greatest king of Israel: King David.

We have one more task. Let's have our other partner pretend to be Ruth now! This friend will stand up, walk toward the baby sign, and walk back while pretending to hold a baby.

You all did an excellent job helping me tell the story of Ruth and her faithfulness!

Ruth made a difficult decision to leave everything she knew and care for her mother-in-law. God honored Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi by providing for them, giving Ruth a new home and a child. That child became the grandfather of King David. And because of Ruth's faithfulness, God made her an ancestor (or a relative) of His Son, Jesus. God honors faithfulness."

Connecting the Wonder Truth

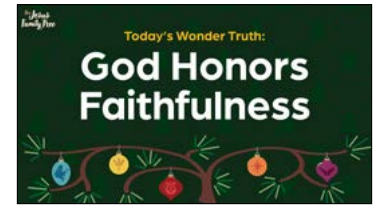
1–2 min

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD HONORS FAITHFULNESS**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Ruth was from a group of people who did not know the one true God. Yet, the Lord welcomed faithful Ruth into His family—hinting at the blessing her offspring would be to the entire world. Through Ruth's family line, Jesus was born—the true blessing to all nations."



Responding in Worship

6–8 min

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

VIDEO: BAPTISM

*Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. There are no motions to this video. Please refer to the Worship Posture Tutorial on the resource page before leading.

WORSHIP VIDEO: SILENT NIGHT



Blessing Your Kids

SLIDE: BLESSING

Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: "May God give you strength to be faithful to Him and to others, and may He bless and honor your faithfulness. May He bless you and keep you in the coming week and bring you back here to learn more about His love for you!"

