

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.

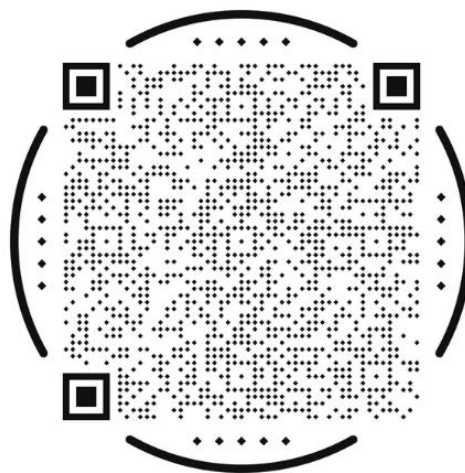
WORD OF WONDER: The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel. —Isaiah 7:14 (NirV)

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Curiosity Questions
- LARGE GROUP
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Word of Wonder: Isaiah 7:14
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Responding in Worship: Where Can I Be Faithful?



[Kings & Prophets Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

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.

Small 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

Pre-Service (15–20 min)

Small group leaders should be in place 30 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

While kids are playing in their opening activity groups, Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

I’m curious ...

- Have you ever wondered what it would be like to move away from your home?
- How do you show honor to people you respect?

RESOURCES: [Ruth Coloring Page](#)

Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

Head to Large Group!

Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5–8 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Distribute Bibles to all kids and help them find the book of Ruth. Encourage kids to find the passages in their own Bibles and follow along. Remind kids the chapter is the big black number, and the verses are the little black numbers. If kids struggle with finding passage, have volunteers assist them.

Read Ruth 1:11–18; 2:1, 5–8; 4:13–17.

- **Have you ever had to wait a long time for something? How did that feel?**
- **What sad things happened to Ruth and Naomi?**
- **How did Ruth take care of Naomi?**
- **Why did Boaz marry Ruth?**
- **Ruth showed faithfulness by taking care of Naomi. How can you show faithfulness by taking care of someone?**
- **Being faithful can mean sticking with something even when it's hard. What are other ways you can be faithful?**
- **Why is faithfulness so important to God?**
- **What did you like best about today's part of God's big story?**

"Ruth stuck with Naomi even when it was hard. God honored her faithfulness. We can be faithful too. We can be faithful to do what we say we're going to do and to help people who need us. We can be faithful to God by loving Him and obeying Him. Let's ask God to help us be faithful to others and to Him."

Leader Tip: The concepts of honor and faithfulness are abstract and might be difficult for some kids to understand. Listen to their answers. Gently correct or redirect them if they express ideas such as "If I obey God, He will give me everything I want!"

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Ask the kids to share any prayer requests or praises they have. Encourage them to listen to one another. Listening is part of faithfulness! Guide kids who are comfortable to take turns praying out loud, and remind them that God hears them—no matter what. Remind kids to thank God for His faithfulness, and remind them to ask for His help to be faithful to Him.

Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8–12 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Distribute Bibles to all kids and encourage kids to find the Ruth in their own Bibles. Be sure to help new kids who are not familiar with the Bible. Show them the table of contents and page numbers.

Give a brief overview of the history and context using the info on page 3 of this guide.

Invite 3 volunteers to read Ruth 1:11–18; 2:1–8; 4:13–17.

- **Have you ever had to wait a long time for something? How did that feel?**
- **What are the hardships Ruth and Naomi faced?**
- **In what ways did Ruth stay faithful to Naomi?**
- **How did God honor Ruth's faithfulness?**
- **How does it make you feel when someone sticks by your side?**
- **How can you show Ruth's kind of faithfulness to someone in your life?**
- **How can you show faithfulness to God?**
- **What did you like best about today's part of God's big story?**

"Ruth showed faithfulness to Naomi by staying with her and helping her in hard times. God honored Ruth's faithfulness. You have shared some great ideas for ways we can be faithful too. Now let's thank God for His faithfulness to us and ask for His help to be faithful to others and to Him!"

*****Have kids turn to their RBKids Notes Page and invite them to fill in the questions and spaces. Talk through each section with them, engaging in conversation about their answers. Instruct them to use the bottom "Small Group" section to write any thoughts, prayers, or questions from today that they want to talk to their parents about when they get home.**

Prayer Time: Older Kids

Provide time for kids to share any prayer requests or praises they have. Ask for a couple of volunteers to lead the group in prayer. Encourage them to take time to pray for each other's needs, requests, and praises. Remind them that praying is a way we can show faithfulness to God. By praying for the needs of other people, we can show faithfulness to them too! Remind kids that Jesus loves them and wants to hear from them—aloud or silently.

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)

Word of Wonder 2–3 min

"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 descendent (or relative). This verse promises that God will save His people—and us—through Jesus. Let's read the Word of Wonder together!"

Have the kids open their Bibles to Isaiah 7:14 and display the Word of Wonder Slide on the screen. Read the verse together once or twice. If using the NirV, consider dividing the room into four groups (perhaps by age). Have each group read one of the four sentences in the verse, and then have everyone say the reference together. You can repeat this several times with a different group starting each time, so that all four groups say all four sentences of the verse.

Talk about these questions:

- **This verse says that God will give us a sign. What is a sign? What does a sign do?**
- **Immanuel means "God with us." What other names have you heard used for Jesus?**

Leader Tip: A simple definition for the word virgin is "an unmarried woman." If kids ask about the word, keep your answer short and encourage them to talk with their parents about it.

Word of Wonder Activity 4–5 min

SUPPLIES: easy-to-catch balls (1 per group)

Each group will need one easy-to-catch ball. The group leader will toss the ball to a kid while saying a phrase from the verse. The kid will toss it back to the group leader, repeating that section of the verse.

Break the verse down as follows:

- 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

Leaders can repeat this as often as time allows, tossing the ball to different kids for each part of the verse each time.

Responding in Worship: Where Can I Be Faithful?

SUPPLIES: posterboard (4 sheets), sticky notes and markers (enough for each kid to use), tape (optional)

RESOURCES: [The Jesus Family Tree Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Create four stations in the room: Family, Friends, School, and Church by writing each of those words on a different posterboard.

Invite a different group leader to hold each posterboard sign in a different area of the room. Have sticky notes and markers at each station. If you have fewer than four leaders, tape each posterboard to a wall.

Leader Tip: The leaders holding the posterboards can encourage and help the kids at their stations.

Gather kids together.

"Today we're going to take some time to ask God to show us ways we can be faithful in four important areas of our lives: in our families, with our friends, at our schools, and in our church.

Point to each of the stations as you name them. **When you get to each station, take a sticky note and a marker. Pray, asking God to show you a way He invites you to be faithful in that area of your life. For example, you might write,**

"Do my chores every day" for Home or "Be kind to someone who seems sad" for Friends. You can also draw little pictures on your sticky notes rather than write if you'd like. Older kids, you can be faithful by helping younger ones write their words if they need help!

You can go to the stations in any order!" You can also invite small groups to travel together from station to station, depending on your space and context.

Leader Tip: If some kids in your ministry are homeschooled, they can still write or draw ways they can be faithful in their schooling.

Play music softly while the kids move from station to station. Consider songs from [The Jesus Family Tree Elementary Spotify playlist](#).