

LESSON 2 RUTH

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Celebrates 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: He will be called Immanuel. —Isaiah 7:14 (NirV)

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

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WONDER TRUTH: God Celebrates 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

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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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Celebrates Faithfulness

SCRIPTURE: Ruth 1–4

WORD OF WONDER: Isaiah 7:14

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: 10 sec Countdown

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

SUPPLIES: flower (real or fake)

Include a flower or picture of a flower for Tac to hold.

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: You may remember our friend Tac, the curious cat. He's always asking questions. He has a question for you. Are you ready?

Tac the Cat: Hi, kids! Do you remember me? I'm Tac. For anyone who can spell, that's cat spelled backward!

(Have Tac play with the flower.)

Leader: Tac, what do you have there?

Tac the Cat: Oh, this is my flower! I'm going to give it to my friend Drib the Bird.

Leader: Aw, Tac, that's so nice!

Tac the Cat: Yeah, well Drib has been feeling kind of sad today, so I want to cheer him up.

Leader: Poor Drib! Why is he sad today?

Tac the Cat: Well, he was playing a game with some of our friends, and he lost. He got really upset that he didn't win. He was sitting all alone, not talking to anyone.

Leader: Oh, wow! That sounds hard. So, you're going to give him a gift to help him feel better?

Tac the Cat: Yeah! Even though Drib wasn't very fun to play with after he lost, I still want him to know I'm his friend. So, I sat with him, and now I'm going to give him this flower! Hopefully that will cheer him up!

Leader: Tac, you are being so kind to your friend, Drib! Even though it sounds like Drib wasn't much fun to be around today.

Tac the Cat: I just want Drib to know that no matter what, I'm going to be his friend. Do you think Drib will know that once I give him my gift?

Leader: Aw, Tac, I think Drib already knows that you're always going to be his friend. I think he saw that when you stuck with him even though he was sad.

Tac the Cat: I hope so! Say! I see Drib over there! He's smiling already and waving me over! Here I go to give my gift. Wish me luck!

Leader: OK! Bye, Tac!

"Let's be curious for a minute. Has there ever been a time you stuck with a friend even though sticking with her was hard? Allow the kids to respond. Has there ever been a time your friend has stuck with you, even when it would have been easier for him to leave you alone? Allow the kids to respond. Tac chose to stick with his friend Drib. That is called faithfulness! God sees when we are faithful, and He celebrates our faithfulness!"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD CELEBRATES FAITHFULNESS.**"

Curiosity Activity: Celebration

SLIDES: CELEBRATIONS

Be prepared to display the Celebration Slides. **"Today we're going to talk about how God celebrates our faithfulness. I'm going to show you ways we can celebrate others. Pay close attention. Afterward, we'll play a game to see if you remember!"**

Display the Birthday Slide or Sheet. People have birthdays every year! How have you celebrated your birthday? Allow kids to answer. No matter how you celebrate, usually people sing "Happy Birthday." Let's sing it together! Have kids sing "Happy Birthday."

Display the Winning a Game Slide or Sheet. It feels good to celebrate when our team wins a game. Show me how you would celebrate if your team won a game! Encourage the kids to do a "victory dance."

Display the Anniversary Slide or Sheet. Sometimes people remember a special day by celebrating, and we call it an anniversary. Often, we celebrate anniversaries by giving someone a card. Mime opening a card and have kids repeat the gesture.

Now, let's see if you remember the three ways of celebrating! We have a birthday, winning a game, and an anniversary. When you see the picture, you can celebrate the way we practiced for each occasion."



Display the pictures in random order. Model the appropriate response and encourage the kids to do the same. Once kids catch on, stop modeling each response to make the activity more challenging. Switch slowly between the pictures at first, then increase your speed as you switch between slides. Make it fun!

Make It Inclusive!

Some kids may not be able to easily get up and down. Assure them it's OK to do all the activities from a seated position

"You all did a great job celebrating today! Did you know that God sometimes celebrates us? We're going to hear the story of a woman named Ruth. God saw how faithful Ruth was, and He celebrated her. Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD CELEBRATES FAITHFULNESS."**

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the words and do the motions with you.

"Let's say these words together.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat.)

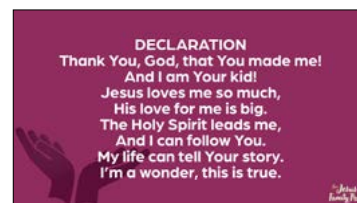
March like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **"God, thank You for celebrating faithfulness. Thank You for Your faithfulness to us! Help us to follow You and be faithful, even when it's hard. In Jesus' name, Amen."**

Worship

"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! This song is a celebration of the best gift God ever gave us—Jesus!"

WORSHIP VIDEOS: Silent Night (Born is the King), Jesus Savior of the World

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Ruth in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if holding a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Ruth in the Bible!"

VIDEO: GOD'S BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: tape, toy food, basket, baby dolls

RESOURCES: [God's Big Story Sheets](#)

Ahead of time, set up the room with four distinct areas for the kids to walk to. Print the God's Big Story Sheets. Place the "Home" sign on the wall (or place that will serve as the starting point). Display the "Moab" sign on the wall or place that kids will walk toward first. Place the "Wheat" sign on the next wall or place that kids will walk toward. Scatter toy food near the Wheat sign and place the basket nearby. Finally, place the "Baby" sign on the last wall or object kids will walk toward. Place dolls by the Baby sign.

Gather kids in front of the Home sign where you will begin the story, and put them into pairs.



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 script and allowing kids to follow you around the room in a follow-the-leader style.

"Today, we're going to hear about a woman named Ruth and how she stuck with her mother-in-law. Like her, we're 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 this story, so make sure to listen closely!"

Even after humans disobeyed God and went their own way, God had a plan to fix 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. Soon, Abraham's family grew into a large nation called Israel, just as God had promised.

For a time, God gave Israel leaders called judges. During the time of the judges, many of the Israelites disobeyed God. But even during this hard time, there were faithful people God chose to include in the family line of Jesus. One of those people was Ruth.

At that time Israel had no food, so there wasn't enough 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.

Let's imagine that we're on a journey to Moab just like Naomi and her family! Direct kids to walk toward the Moab sign.

Make It Inclusive!

Some kids may not be able to participate in this way. If so, allow them to hold the signs throughout the story and have the rest of the group walk in place.

The people of Moab worshiped many different gods instead of the one true God. 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, one of whom was Ruth.

One day, Naomi heard that Israel had food again and she decided to return to her own country. Naomi encouraged her daughters-in-law to stay in Moab, their homeland. One daughter-in-law listened to Naomi and stayed, but Ruth stuck with Naomi and chose to go with Naomi to her home country.

“Don’t try to make me leave you,” 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.

It’s time to journey back home! Direct the pairs of kids to walk back to the starting point. After they get back to the starting point, they can sit down as you continue.

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

God celebrated Ruth’s faithfulness, and He wanted to bless Naomi and Ruth together. When they arrived in Israel, Ruth began to work in a field picking up fallen grain so that she and Naomi could have food. Direct kids to walk to the Wheat sign.

OK, now you can pretend to be Ruth and pick up this food! Allow kids to pick up the toy food and place it in the basket.

Good work being faithful like Ruth! The field Ruth gathered grain from belonged to a man named Boaz, who happened to be a relative of Naomi’s husband. Boaz had heard about Ruth’s faithfulness to Naomi, and he thought she was special. He even decided to marry her! He took Ruth and Naomi into his family and gave them what they needed. Boaz and Ruth had a son. His name was Obed, and his grandson would become the greatest king of Israel—King David.

We have one more task. Let’s pretend to be Ruth again and walk toward the Baby sign. Allow kids to go to the Baby sign and pick up the dolls and rock and cradle them.

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

Ruth made a hard decision to leave everything she knew and care for her mother-in-law. God celebrated Ruth’s faithfulness by providing for Ruth and Naomi and 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 Jesus. We can remember that God celebrates faithfulness."

Connecting the Wonder Truth

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

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

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

Ruth was from a group of people who did not know the one true God. Ruth was faithful to God, and she got to become a part of God's family. Through Ruth's family line, Jesus was born—the true blessing to all nations."

Prayer and Blessing

Close by praying with kids, thanking God for His faithfulness.

"God, thank You for Your faithfulness to us! Help us remain faithful to You! We love You! In Jesus' name, Amen."

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: "God celebrates faithfulness! May you feel celebrated, loved, and treasured by God! May you always remember He is faithful to you."