

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.

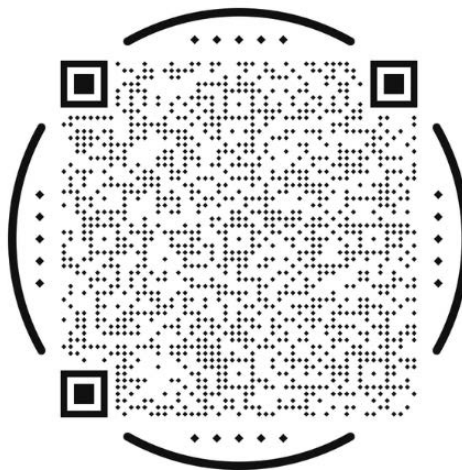
WORD OF WONDER: He will be called Immanuel. —Isaiah 7:14 (NIRV)

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Play Stations:
 - Barley Bin
 - Sticky Textures
 - Ruth Coloring Sheet
- LARGE GROUP
- Snack and Connect
- Word of Wonder
- Circle Time: Match the Cards
- Craft: Sticky Wheat
- Active Game: Stick with Your Partner
- Closing Game: Glean Team!



[Jesus Family Tree Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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

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.



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

Small group leaders should be in place 30 minutes prior to service time. Play Station time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room! Ask preschoolers questions about their week, what they have been learning about God, and engage in play with them.

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: bin, uncooked barley or oats, small cups, various types of tape (masking, clear, duct, washi), hook and loop fasteners, magnets, magnetic whiteboard, felt board, felt characters, coloring utensils

RESOURCES: [Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas what we'll be learning about today?"

Play Station: Barley Bin

Set-up: Fill a bin with dry, uncooked barley or oats. Add a few small cups to the bin for the kids to use to scoop the barley.

Play: Let the kids explore playing with barley in the bin.

Play Station: Sticky Textures

Set-up: Set out pieces of various types of tape (e.g., clear, masking, duct, and washi). Also set out the hook and loop fasteners, magnets and whiteboard, and a felt board with felt characters.

Play: Encourage kids to explore various "sticky" textures. Point out how all these things are different, but they all cause things to stick together.

Play Station: Ruth Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the coloring sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. They can also turn the sheet over and draw their perfect birthday party.

HEAD TO LARGE GROUP!!

Snack and Connect

While snack is being eaten, show kids how you open your Bible and find the book of Ruth.

*Allow kids to open, touch, and look at the Bible. Explain how these stories are real and given to us by God to learn about Him! Read pages 118-123 in the [Laugh and Grow Bible](#).

"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."

Word of Wonder

"Ruth, Obed, and David were all in the family that led to Jesus. God had a plan to bring Jesus into the world years and years before Jesus was born. Our Word of Wonder is from Isaiah 7:14: "He will be called Immanuel." Immanuel means "God with us." Let's use these motions to help us remember our Word of Wonder."

WORD OF WONDER

He will be called Immanuel.

—Isaiah 7:14 (NIRV)

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

- **HE WILL BE**—Point up.
- **CALLED**—Cup hands around mouth.
- **IMMANUEL**.—Make prayer hands (with palms pressed together).
- **ISAIAH 7:14**—Hold your hands in front of you with palms together, as if holding a book.

"Great job doing the motions! Let's play a game to help us remember our Word of Wonder. We're going to play Pass the Clap! Instruct kids to sit in a circle and hold their hands, palms up, to their sides. Kids should put their right hand on top of their neighbor's left hand.

Now that everyone is sitting with their right hands over their neighbor's left hands, we can pass the clap! Let's say our Word of Wonder together. I'll start our clap chain. We will pass the clap every time we say a word from our Word of Wonder. Let's see how many times we can get through it!"

Start the clap chain by having all the kids say "He" as you clap your right hand onto the right hand of the person on your left. Continue the chain with the whole group saying "will" each time the next person claps his right hand onto the hand of the person on his left. Continue, going through the Word of Wonder several times.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What does Immanuel mean? What does it mean to have "God with us"?**
- **God celebrates faithfulness. He is faithful too. How has God been faithful to us?**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for celebrating faithfulness.

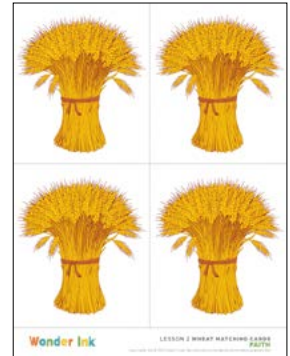
Circle Time: Match the Cards

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), laminator or cardstock (optional, prep only)

RESOURCES: [Wheat Matching Cards \(2 sets\)](#)

Before the kids arrive, print two sets of the Wheat Matching Cards front-to-back so that one side of each card has the wheat image. Cut the cards apart. For extra durability, laminate the cards or print on cardstock. Set up the game by arranging the cards with the wheat images facing up.

This is a memory game. Kids can take turns turning over cards to find a match. Once a match is found, invite that kid to answer a question. Continue until all questions have been answered. You may need to play a couple of times to get all the questions answered. The questions are also listed below.



"In our story, Ruth showed faithfulness to her mother-in-law Naomi, and to God. Ruth stuck with Naomi, and God blessed Ruth for being faithful. What did Ruth pick from the field? Allow the kids to respond. That's right—wheat! Let's play a game with matching cards to see how well you can stick the matches together."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When Naomi and her family had to leave Israel, where did they go? (*Moab*)
- Who came with Naomi when she left Moab to go back to her homeland? (*Ruth*)
- What did Ruth collect in Boaz's field? (*wheat*)
- Who was Obed's grandson? (*King David*)
- Who can you be faithful and loyal to this week?
- What do you think it means to be faithful?
- How can you celebrate God's faithfulness this week?

"God saw Ruth's love and faithfulness to Naomi. God celebrated Ruth's faithfulness by blessing Ruth with a husband and a baby. Many years later, Jesus came from the family line of Ruth and Boaz! We can be faithful to our friends, our family, and to God. To be faithful, we need the strength to stick with God no matter what. Let's pray and ask God for that strength right now!"

Craft: Sticky Wheat

SUPPLIES: [Coloring Page](#) (1 per kid), paper (1 sheet per kid), glue stick (1 per kid), uncooked barley or brown shredded paper (or uncooked whole oats)

Allergy Caution: Be aware of any food allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

"Today we heard about how Ruth stuck with Naomi. We also got to explore what she was collecting in Boaz's field—wheat! Let's make a sticky wheat picture to remind us to be faithful to God and to remind us that God celebrates our faithfulness!"



Give each kid a coloring sheet and have them color the picture if they haven't already. Then give each child a glue stick, and a portion of the uncooked barley or shredded paper to represent barley. Let them draw with the glue stick and then stick the barley (or shredded paper) onto the paper to create a masterpiece!

To make the craft more interesting, give kids craft wheat stalks and ribbon. Let them arrange the wheat stalks into bouquets and tie the ribbon to them.

Game: Stick with Your Partner

SUPPLIES: painter's tape; large obstacles such as chairs, toys, or furniture; pencils (1 per every 2 kids, optional)

Before playing, set up the obstacle course by taping a path on the ground wide enough for the pairs to walk through. Along the path place chairs, toys, or furniture for the kids to jump over or walk around. Then have each kid find a partner and line up at the starting point. If using the Maze Puzzle Sheet, print enough sheets for each pair of kids. Set out sheets with one pencil per pair.

"We've talked a lot today about sticking with others and being faithful. Now it's time for us to try it in real life! One pair at a time, you and your partner will work together to get through the obstacle course. The trick is you both must keep your arms around each other's shoulders (or keep elbows linked) the whole time. If you let go, you go to the back of the line to try again!"

Make It Inclusive!

If a child has mobility issues, she can navigate the paper maze with a partner while both kids hold onto a pencil the whole time.

Closing Game: Glean Team!

SUPPLIES: multicolored craft sticks (at least 1 package; with 4 colors)

To set up the game, scatter the colored craft sticks on the floor throughout the room. If you don't have colored craft sticks, you can use markers to mark a dot or stripe on the ends of the sticks.

"Today, we're talking about faithfulness and sticking with friends. Now we're going to pretend to be Ruth one more time. Remember what she was doing in the field? Allow the kids to respond. She was collecting wheat! In this game, you and your team will search the room to collect your team's colored sticks, which we will pretend is barley. Let's see how fast we can collect every stick!"

Assign kids to teams that match the colors of the craft sticks (red team, blue team, etc.). Instruct them to go around the room and search for their team's colors, but tell them that they should leave the other colors alone. Encourage kids to see how fast they can collect all the sticks. Then scatter the sticks and play again.