

Large Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (10 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (30 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Small Group (20 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect 1. Bible Story

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue App and ParentCue.org

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Ruth

Ruth 1

Supporting: Ruth 2-4

Bottom Line

God can give you courage when you don't know what's next.

Memory Verse

"When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you"
Psalms 56:3



Inclusive Pro Tips

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

① Opener

AUDIO → Play high-energy music as kids enter.
SLIDE → Theme
Optional Video → Theme Loop

→ Host enters.

Optional Video → Countdown
Optional Video → Theme Intro
Optional Video → Theme Loop

HOST: “Hey there, adventurers! Welcome back to our ‘On the Move’ headquarters! Are you ready to explore some new paths today? (WAIT FOR CHEERS.) Fantastic!

“In today’s game, ‘Choose Your Path Adventure Walk,’ we’re all going to be brave travelers! See these paths on the floor? (POINT TO TAPED PATHS THAT LEAD TO THE THREE LANDMARK SPOTS.) And see these cool Landmark Spots?

→ Point to the three landmark markers—“Mountain Peak,” “Shady Oasis,” and “Whispering Woods.”

“Here’s how it works: Everyone is going to start here at our ‘Crossroads!’

→ Gather kids in a central starting spot.

“When the music starts, I’ll call out a Landmark. You need to choose a path and travel along it—you can walk, skip, hop, whatever feels like an adventure—until you reach that Landmark! When the music stops, freeze at your Landmark! Then we’ll get a new destination! Ready to choose your path?

“Okay, travelers! First Landmark is . . . the Mountain Peak! Music, please!

AUDIO → Play high-energy music

→ Play the music in short bursts, approx. 20-30 seconds.

→ Kids choose paths and move to the “Mountain Peak” landmark. Host encourages different travel styles.

(STOP MUSIC.) “Freeze! Great job reaching the Mountain Peak! Now, from the Mountain Peak, your next destination is . . . the Shady Oasis! Music!

AUDIO → Play high-energy music

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

→ Kids travel back to the Crossroads and choose new paths to the “Shady Oasis.” Repeat 2-3 more times, using different landmarks and encouraging kids to try different paths.

(AFTER THE LAST ROUND) “Amazing job, pathfinders! You bravely chose your way and kept moving, even when you didn’t know exactly what each path would be like! That’s a lot like life sometimes—we don’t always know what’s next on our journey.

“And that leads us to our big idea for today: [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when you don’t know what’s next. Let’s say that all together: [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when you don’t know what’s next!”

HOST and KIDS: [BOTTOM LINE] “God can give you courage when you don’t know what’s next.”

“He truly can! Now, let’s get our hearts ready to worship the God who guides us on every unknown path!”

② Worship

→ Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: “Hey, everybody! What’s up? It is SO good to see all of you here today! That last game looked like a ton of fun—you guys were crushing it! Now, we get to switch gears just a little bit and do something super important, something that helps us connect with God, the One who gives us strength and courage for all those challenges. That’s worship! This is our time to sing, to shout, to focus on how amazing God is, and to tell Him how much He means to us. Are you ready to make some noise and give God your best today? Awesome! Let’s get started!”

Video → Goodbye Yesterday - Amazing Kids

“Awesome! Let’s say our Memory Verse together. It’s Psalm 56:3.”

SLIDE -> Memory Verse

“Let’s read it together:”

WORSHIP LEADER and KIDS: “When I’m afraid. I put my trust in you. — Psalm 56:3”

WORSHIP LEADER: “Trusting God! That’s key. When we trust God, we can have confidence no matter what others say or do, because we know who God is and what He says about us. He is faithful, He is powerful, He is good! And we are His child—a child of a Father who loves us!”

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

Video → Who You Say I Am - Amazing Kids

“Wow, that was incredible worship, you guys! I love hearing your voices and seeing you connect with God like that. Now, let’s get comfortable, find our seats, and get ready to dive into God’s Word to hear an amazing true story from the Bible!”

③ Bible Story

SLIDE -> Theme Background

- Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.
- The three tent signs should be placed at three places on stage—the yellow fabric and “grain” are placed near the “Boaz’s Field” tent sign along with the bag/basket. The prop box/bin is nearby and easily accessible to the Storyteller.

INTRODUCTION

STORYTELLER: “Hello, everyone! I’m so excited to tell you about something so amazing we’re doing this year! We’re going through the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

“God gave us the Bible so we can learn about Him, and as we read through the Bible this year, we’ll get to know Him better!

GOD’S BIG STORY OPENER (OPTIONAL)

“We’re going to go through God’s Big Story! (GESTURE TO SLIDE.)

SLIDE -> God’s Big Story

“Each week, we’ll talk about an important true story from the Bible, and we’ll add a picture of that story here to our timeline! (GESTURE TO TIMELINE.) So we can see where we’ve been in God’s Big Story!

“Let’s recap where we’ve been in God’s Big Story so far!

“Way back in the very beginning of God’s Big Story, we learn that God made the very first people. Their names were Adam and Eve. And God made Adam and Eve for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But they sinned, and it pulled them away from God. God wanted them to be close to Him, but they couldn’t anymore! It was so sad. And everyone who was born after Adam and Eve was born with the same problem—they couldn’t be close friends with God either.

“And awful things happened to the world too. Pain, sickness, and death entered into it.

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

“But God didn’t want to leave things that way! He wants people close to Him! He made people to be His very close friends. So He started His great rescue plan. And this great rescue was going to come through a family! So God started His great rescue with a man named Abraham. God chose Abraham and promised to bless the whole world through his family. Abraham’s family grew and grew and grew—just like God had said—and became God’s people. Eventually, God’s people were enslaved in Egypt. But then God called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt to freedom. God had brought His people to freedom!”

“God had a beautiful land picked out for His people—the Promised Land! While they were on their way there, they chose not to trust God. It hurt Him so deeply. So they had to wait 40 long years to enter it. But after 40 long years, they entered the Promised Land! In order to settle in it, they had to get the evil people who were living there out! And they did.

“God’s people were settled in the Promised Land! And that’s where we are in God’s Big Story.”

SETTING UP THE STORY

“We’re journeying right along in the Bible! Today, our true story comes from a special book in the Bible called Ruth. (HOLD UP BIBLE.) It’s a story about moving, about family, about kindness, and about having courage when you just don’t know what’s next. We’re going to act out our story today! Give a hand for three of our actors—Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah!

→ Call up Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah actors.

Direct the Naomi actor to stand at the “Bethlehem” sign. Direct the Ruth and Orpah actors to stand at the “Moab” sign.

“Now, on to our story! A long time ago, during the time when God’s people were led by special people called ‘judges,’ there was a woman named Naomi (GESTURE TO NAOMI ACTOR) who lived in Bethlehem with her husband Elimelek and their two sons. But a terrible famine came—that means there was no food growing. So, Naomi and her family had to move to a faraway country called Moab to find food.

→ Naomi actor (WITH HER IMAGINARY HUSBAND ELIMELEK AND SONS) mimes sadly packing her bundle and “traveling” to the designated “Moab” spot on stage.

“In Moab, something really sad happened. Naomi’s husband, Elimelek died. After he died, Naomi’s two sons married women from Moab—their

names were Orpah (GESTURE TO ORPAH ACTOR) and Ruth. (GESTURE TO RUTH ACTOR.)

“But Naomi’s two sons died too. Poor Naomi! She was left in a foreign land with no husband, no sons, and only her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth.

→ Naomi actor shows sadness; Ruth and Orpah actors gently comfort her.

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

RUTH STAYS WITH NAOMI

STORYTELLER: “One day, Naomi heard that the famine was over back in Bethlehem. She decided it was time to move back home.

- Naomi actor looks towards the “Bethlehem” sign on stage (WITH HER BUNDLE ON HER BACK). Ruth and Orpah actors prepare to go with her (WITH THEIR BUNDLES). The three actors start walking to the “Bethlehem” sign, but stop partway there.

“As they started their journey, Naomi stopped. She turned to Orpah and Ruth.

- Actors stop on the way to the “Bethlehem” sign.

“Naomi said to them:

- Open the Bible to Ruth 1:8 (NIRV) and read.

“Both of you go back. Each of you go to your own mother’s home. You were kind to your husbands, who have died. You have also been kind to me. So may the LORD be just as kind to you.”

“Naomi loved Ruth and Orpah, but she thought they would have a better life back with their own families.

“Orpah and Ruth both cried. They didn’t want to leave Naomi! But after Naomi spoke to them again, Orpah made a hard choice. She was super-sad, but she told Naomi goodbye . . .

- Orpah actor waves goodbye to Naomi, looks sad, and slowly “travels” back towards the “Moab” sign, and then sits down off to the side.

“. . . and returned to her people.

“But Ruth? Ruth wouldn’t leave Naomi! The Bible says:

- Open the Bible to Ruth 1:14 (NIRV) and read.

“Ruth held on to her.”

- Ruth actor holds Naomi’s arm or stands very close, looking determined.

“Naomi wanted Ruth to go back home like Orpah was.

“But Ruth looked at Naomi and said something that showed her heart. Ruth wanted to follow the one, true God like Naomi did! Ruth said this:

- Open the Bible to Ruth 1:16 (NIRV) and read.

“Don’t try to make me leave you and go back. Where you go I’ll go. Where you stay I’ll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God.”

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

“Wow! Ruth was choosing to leave everything she knew to move to a new, unknown land with Naomi, because she loved Naomi and was choosing to trust Naomi’s God! So, Naomi and Ruth traveled on together.

- Naomi and Ruth actors “travel” with their bundles to the “Bethlehem” spot on stage, looking a bit tired, but together.

RUTH WORKS IN BOAZ’S FIELD

STORYTELLER: “When they arrived in Bethlehem, things were tough. They didn’t have much. But it was harvest time, and God had a special rule that allowed people who were poor to gather leftover grain from the fields.

“Ruth, being brave and wanting to help Naomi, said:

- Open the Bible to Ruth 2:2 (NIRV) and read.

“Let me go out to the fields. I’ll pick up the grain that has been left. I’ll do it behind anyone who is pleased with me.

“So Ruth went to a field.

- Ruth actor leaves her bundle with Naomi, goes to the sign marked “Boaz’s field” (A COUPLE YARDS OF YELLOW FABRIC), picks up the bag/basket, and begins to gather “grain” (YELLOW YARN/POMPOMS) into her small bag/basket.

“Now, the field Ruth happened to go to belonged to a kind and important man named Boaz. Let’s welcome our Boaz actor to the stage!

- Call up the actor to play Boaz, give him the hat and staff, direct him to stand by “Boaz’s Field” (AREA OF YELLOW FABRIC), and observe Ruth.

“Boaz was actually a relative of Naomi’s husband! He saw Ruth working hard and asked the man in charge of his workers:

- Open the Bible to Ruth 2:5b-6 (NIRV) and read.

“Who does that young woman belong to?”

The man replied, “She’s from Moab. She came back from there with Naomi.”

BOAZ NOTICES RUTH

STORYTELLER: “Boaz was very impressed by Ruth’s loyalty and hard work for Naomi. He went over to Ruth.

- Boaz actor approaches Ruth actor.

“He said to her:

- Open the Bible to Ruth 2:8-9 (NIRV) and read.

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

“Don’t pick up grain in any other field. Don’t go anywhere else. Stay here with the women who work for me. Keep your eye on the field where the men are cutting grain. Walk behind the women who are gathering it. Pick up the grain that is left. . . . When you are thirsty, go and get a drink. Take water from the jars the men have filled.” “He invited her to eat with his workers and even secretly told his men to leave extra grain for her to find!

→ Boaz actor offers Ruth bread and the cup and gestures kindly. Ruth actor shows surprise and gratitude.

“Boaz told her:

→ Open the Bible to Ruth 2:12 (NIRV) and read.

“May the LORD reward you for what you have done. May the LORD, the God of Israel, bless you richly. You have come to him to find safety under his care.”

“Boaz continued to be very kind to Ruth. Because he was a relative, he was able to help take care of Ruth and Naomi. And as time went on, Boaz came to love Ruth for her kindness, her hard work, and her trust in God. So, Boaz married Ruth!

→ Boaz and Ruth actors join hands, looking happy.

“And later, God blessed them with a baby boy named Obed!”

→ Optional: Naomi actor shows joy, holds up the toy baby.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Naomi, who had been so sad, was filled with joy! Ruth had taken a huge step of courage to leave her home, move to a new land, and stick with Naomi when she didn’t know what was next. But because Ruth was brave and trusted God, God blessed her. And here’s the super-amazing part: Ruth’s son, Obed, became the grandfather of King David! And many, many, many years later, from King David’s family, God’s own Son, Jesus, was born!

“Ruth trusted God and acted courageously. God was so honored by her trust that He wove her into His incredible plan! God wrote Ruth into Jesus’ family tree!

SLIDE -> Bottom Line

“Ruth didn’t know what her future would hold when she left Moab. But she chose courage and trusted God. Her story reminds us that [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when you don’t know what’s next. Can you say that with me?”

STORYTELLER AND KIDS: [BOTTOM LINE] “God can give you courage when you don’t know what’s next!”

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

HOST: “Wow, what a beautiful story of loyalty and courage! Ruth made such a huge decision to go with Naomi, not knowing what life would be like in Bethlehem. Everything was new and uncertain for her. But she wanted to trust God, so she stepped out in faith and courage, and God guided her and provided for her in ways she couldn’t have imagined.

“That’s such a great reminder for us! We all face times when we don’t know what’s next. Maybe it’s moving to a new town or starting a new school year. Or trying out for a team, or even just wondering what tomorrow will bring. Those moments can feel a little scary. But just like Ruth, we can choose courage. We can trust that God has a plan, even when we can’t see it all. And when we take that brave step forward, like Ruth did when she went to gather grain in the fields, we might find amazing new friends and opportunities, and we’ll definitely learn and grow.

“And we don’t have to try and be brave all by ourselves! When we follow Jesus, God Himself moves inside of us through His Holy Spirit. He is closer than close! So He goes with us every step of our lives. He is the strongest, and biggest, and most powerful, and He is always working for good. When we trust and believe that He goes with us, He can give us the courage to face what’s in front of us when we don’t know what’s next. He goes with us in everything and that can help us be brave!

GOD’S BIG STORY CLOSER (OPTIONAL)

“Let’s take a look at the progress we made in God’s Big Story this week!

SLIDE -> God’s Big Story

“In God’s Big Story, we’re on the path getting closer to this picture of King David! Ruth was King David’s great-grandmother! (GESTURE TO SLIDE.)

“This week we talked about Ruth. She left everything that she knew—her home, her family, everything she had been familiar with—because she wanted to be on God’s team. She wanted to keep being part of Naomi’s family, and she also wanted to be a part of God’s family. God was so honored by her choice of Him and her trust in Him. God took care of everything she needed, and He did something even more special—He made Ruth a part of Jesus’ family tree! Because as we’ll see in God’s Big Story, God was taking care of this family—patiently, tenderly, faithfully, over years and years. And as He took care of this family tree, He was taking care of us. Because our Savior Jesus was going to come from this family tree. And Jesus would rescue us all!

“Let’s put the next image on our timeline!

SLIDE -> Week 4 Timeline Image

→ If you’re making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today’s timeline image on the clothesline.

“This week we talked about Ruth!

20 MINUTES

Story

10 MINUTES

Worship

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

STORYTELLER: "When we think about Ruth, we can remember that even if we don't know what's next, we're never going alone. God goes with us every step of the way. When we believe that He is the strongest, the biggest, and the kindest, and He is with us, He will give us courage to do whatever it is that's in front of us!

"So, when you don't know what's next, ask God to remind you that He is with you, and ask Him for His presence with you to make you courageous. He can help you be brave and do amazing things, just like He did for Ruth. Let's ask Him for that courage right now!

③ Prayer

HOST or STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for the story of Ruth and her amazing courage to step into the unknown. Thank You that You are faithful and You provide for us. Thank You that Your Holy Spirit lives in us. Teach us to live knowing that You go with us everywhere, and teach us how to be brave because we know You are the strongest and You are in us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Transition → Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO -> Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE -> Theme

Optional Video (MEDIA PACKAGE) → Theme Loop