

Today's Suggested Schedule—September 28, 2025

Bible Story: Ruth • *Ruth 1; Supporting: Ruth 2–4*

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

Monthly Memory Verse: *When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you.* Psalm 56:3 (NIRV)

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING SMALL GROUP (20 minutes)

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Early Arriver /

Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP (30-35 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

- Introduce Monthly Theme Poster
- Review Monthly Memory Verse Poster
- Review Weekly Bottom Line Poster
- Worship (2 Songs - Video)
- Teaching (Story Lab - Video)
- Review Weekly Bottom Line Poster

SMALL GROUP (25-30 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Reinforcement Activity

Prayer Journal

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction 15 minutes

Opening Activity

Made to Play

What You Need: None

What You Do:

- Welcome kids to the group with a high five or fist bump.
- Direct the kids to stand in the center of your group space.

Play Together:

- Say, “We’re going to play a game called ‘Would You Rather?’ I’ll read a question with two choices. If you pick the first choice, you’ll go to this side of the room (*point clearly to the side of the room*). If you pick the second choice, you’ll go to that side of the room (*point to the opposite side*). Ready?”
- Start off with a practice round.
 - *Would you rather eat pizza or hot dogs for the rest of the week?*
- One by one, ask one of the “Would You Rather?” questions below. As you read each option, point to the side of the room to indicate which side of the room kids are to travel to. Allow time for kids to move to their side.
- Invite a few kids to share why they chose what they did.

Would You Rather?

- Would you rather move to a brand-new country OR stay in your hometown forever?
- Would you rather have to start a new school OR be the new kid on a sports team?
- Would you rather go on an adventure without knowing the destination OR stay home where it's safe?
- Would you rather have to eat a meal you’ve never tried before OR only eat the same food for a whole year?
- Would you rather go on a roller coaster blindfolded OR not ride it at all?
- Would you rather have to do a big school presentation without preparation OR take a surprise test?

What You Say:

“Have you ever had to make a choice without knowing what’s next? (*Invite responses.*) That can feel kind of scary. The good news is God doesn’t leave us alone when things are uncertain. **[Transition]** Let’s go to Large Group to hear a story about someone who had to step into the unknown, and how God gave them courage to do hard things!”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

2. LARGE GROUP

What You Need: TV, Pre-Loaded Video Content

What You Do:

- Introduce/Remind kids about the
 - a. Monthly Theme,
 - b. Monthly Memory Verse
 - c. Today's Bottom Line
- Play 1st and 2nd Worship Songs
- Allow kids to grab a snack
- Play Teaching (Story Lab - Video)
- Review Today's Bottom Line

Lead your group to the Small Group activity.

Groups

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

1. Ruth's Journey Relay

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Move

What You Need “Story Sequence Cards” Activity Page, painter’s tape, and a basket or bin

What You Do:

- Before you begin, tape two start lines on one side of your group space.
- Place the “Story Sequence” Activity Pages in a basket or bin on the other side of the relay space.
- Divide kids into two teams.
- Instruct each team to line up behind a start line.

Move Together:

- One at a time, a kid from each team is to run to the basket, pick one card, and bring it back to their team.
- Once all the cards are collected, the teams are to work together to put the story cards in the correct order.
- The first team to place the cards in order correctly wins!
- Keep the story cards up on the wall or table afterward so kids can revisit them during dismissal or discussion.

Story Sequence:

- There was a famine in Bethlehem, so Naomi and her family moved to Moab.
- While they were in Moab, Naomi’s husband and two sons died, leaving her with her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah.
- Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem after hearing that God had provided food there.
- Orpah went back home to her family, but Ruth refused to leave Naomi, saying: *“Where you go, I’ll go. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God.”* (Ruth 1:16, NIV)
- To help provide food, Ruth went to gather grain in a field that happened to belong to a man named Boaz.
- Boaz showed kindness to Ruth! He told his workers to leave extra grain for her and made sure she was safe.
- Boaz had a special relationship to Naomi’s family—he was someone who could protect Naomi’s family. He was a family protector! So he later married Ruth.
- Ruth and Boaz had a son named Obed, who became the grandfather of King David. Jesus was later born into this same family line!

What You Say:

“Great teamwork, everyone! Ruth had a big choice to make. She chose to leave her home and follow her mother-in-law Naomi to a place she’d never been. She didn’t have a job, she didn’t know anyone, and she had NO idea what would happen next. The only thing she did know was that God was trustworthy. She had no idea what was going to happen in her life, but she wanted to follow Him.

“She told Naomi: *‘Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God.’* (Ruth 1:16, NIV) What a bold, BRAVE, promise! Ruth meant it. And God was so honored by her trust in Him! God took care of everything she needed—He made sure she had food, was safe, and even provided a family protector in Boaz. And guess what? God did something even more amazing! God wove Ruth into Jesus’ family tree! Ruth was Jesus great-great-many-times-great grandmother! God was so honored by Ruth’s trust in Him that He wrote her into His great rescue plan for the whole world!

“Just like Ruth, you might not always know what’s ahead—like a new grade, a new team, or a tough situation at home or school. But just like Ruth, there is something you can know: you can trust God. He is trustworthy, and He goes with you everywhere! And knowing God is with you and goes with you everywhere can give you courage. **[Bottom Line]** God can give you courage when you don’t know what’s next!”

[Make It Personal] (Share about an age-appropriate time when you didn’t know what would happen next. How did it make you feel? Were you nervous, unsure, or even afraid? Maybe it was starting a new job, trying out for a new hobby, or moving to a new place. What helped you get through that moment? Did you ask God to help you remember He is with you? Did you ask God to help give you courage to do the scary thing? How did you see God give you the courage to move forward?) **[Bottom Line]** God can give you courage when you don’t know what’s next.”

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.
- Adjust the pace or movement style (for example, walking instead of running).
- Allow kids to work in pairs to retrieve their cards.

2. Courage Crossroads

What You Need: “Unknown Scenarios” Activity Page, paper, marker, and painter’s tape

What You Do:

- Before you begin, use the marker to write “Courage” on one piece of paper and “Fear” on another.
- Tape the signs on opposite sides of the room.
 - Set the signs on the floor if taping them on the wall isn’t an option.

Imagine Together:

- Gather the kids in the center of your group space.
- One at a time, read a scenario from the “Unknown Scenarios” Activity Page.
- Ask kids: “If this happened to you, how would you usually react—*with courage or with fear?*”
- Instruct the kids to move to the sign that matches their answer.
- After each scenario, pause and ask:
 - “What would make it easier to choose courage in that situation?”
 - “How could you ask God for help since He wants to give you courage?”
- Continue until every scenario has been read.
- End by reminding the kids: “God gives us courage through the Holy Spirit. We never face anything alone!”

What You Say:

“You know, trying something new can feel a little scary, right? Has anyone ever felt nervous about trying something new? (*Invite responses.*) How about a time you felt afraid but chose courage anyway? (*Invite responses.*)

“But we don’t have to try and be courageous 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. God is the strongest and He goes with us everywhere! And that can help us be brave!

“So the next time you’re at a courage crossroads, remember this: **[Bottom Line]** God can give you courage when you don’t know what’s next. You never face anything alone!”

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.
- Read scenarios more than once and allow additional time to process.
- For an option with less movement, allow kids to point to show their choice.

3. Freeze

Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity

Made to Move

What You Need: Bible marked at Psalm 56:3, and a device for playing upbeat music

What You Do:

- Call on a kid to read Psalm 56:3 from the Bible to the group.
- Repeat the verse several times.

Play Together:

- Say, “We’re going to play a freeze game to help us remember the verse!”
- Play the music while kids move around the room.
- Stop the music and yell, “FREEZE!”
- Call on a kid to say the first word of the verse.
- Play again. This time, when the music stops, direct the first kid to say the first word again, and a new kid to say the second word of the verse.
- Keep playing and adding one word at a time until you finish the whole verse together!
 - If you have a smaller group, encourage the first kid to say the first word of the verse, and then the next word as the verse comes around again!
- Play again if time allows.

Optional Challenge:

- *Reverse the verse at the end and see if the kids can say the verse backward!*

What You Say:

“Wow, you’re learning Psalm 56:3 like CHAMPS! I love this verse, and it reminds us what to do when we’re afraid: Put our trust in God. God invented you! You are His very own idea, and He thought about every detail about you when He made you! He loves you SO much that He sent Jesus to rescue you from sin so you could be close friends with Him again. And when you choose to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in you to be with you and help you every second of every day. God is closer than close because He loves you so much!

“So when you feel nervous, scared, or unsure—like before a big move, trying something new, or standing up for a friend—know that God is with you! Ask the Holy Spirit to give you courage. Stop and take a moment to remember: *When I’m afraid, I put my trust in You. Psalm 56:3 (NIRV)* Just like God took care of Ruth when she didn’t know what she was facing, God will take care of you. **[Bottom Line]** **God can give you courage when you don’t know what’s next!”**

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.
- Allow kids to have the job of calling out “Freeze!”
- Repeat the entire verse every time the music stops to prompt the kid.

4. Pray and Dismiss

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect

What You Need: Beanbag or soft ball

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to sit with you in a circle.
- Share with the kids that prayer is a conversation they can have with God anytime, anywhere, about anything!

Reflect Together:

- Say: "I'm going to toss this beanbag to one of you. When you catch it, say a two-word prayer request. Just two words! It could be something like a *math test*, *my friend*, *feeling scared*, or *grandma sick*."
- Pause to give the kids a moment to think about their two words.
- Begin tossing the beanbag around the circle until each kid gets a turn to share their two words.
- After each kid shares, instruct them to pass the beanbag back to you as you say a one-sentence prayer for them.
- Keep your prayers simple and affirming.
 - For example, if a kid's prayer request is "school's hard," you might say: "God, please help Jalen with his schoolwork."
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

"God, thank You that we can talk to You anytime, anywhere, about anything. You are always listening because You care so deeply for us! Sometimes, we don't know what's going to happen next. When we feel nervous, confused, or even afraid, help us trust that You are with us, You are the strongest, and we can be brave because we go everywhere with You! We love You so much. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

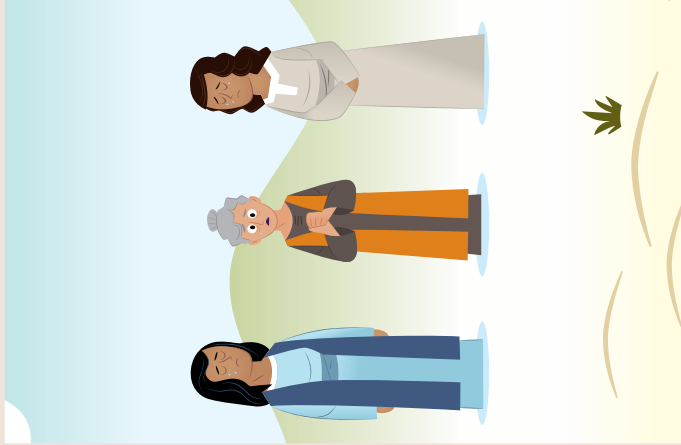
As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show them the story sequence cards and share what they remember about Ruth's story! Encourage them to share that: **[Bottom Line] God can give you courage when you don't know what's next.**

Inclusive Pro Tips:

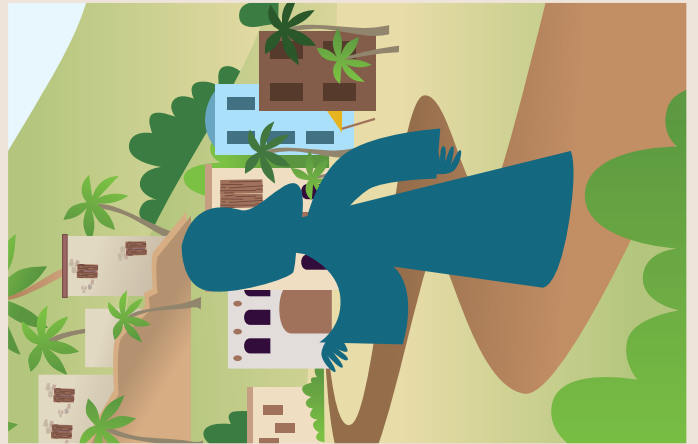
- Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.
- If any kids prefer to whisper to you instead of share aloud, allow them to do so. Let them hold the beanbag silently as a reminder that God hears their prayers!
- Offer adaptive seating or fidget tools to all kids.



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1. You're starting a new school and don't know anyone.
2. Your family is moving to a new town, and you're nervous about leaving everything behind.
3. You are trying out for a sports team, but you're afraid you won't be good enough.
4. You have to speak in front of the class for a presentation, but you feel really nervous.
5. Your friend is being left out, and you feel unsure about standing up for them.
6. You want to invite a friend to church, but you're scared they might say no.
7. You're learning a new skill (like playing an instrument or trying a new hobby), but it feels really hard.
8. You made a mistake and need to apologize to someone, but you're afraid of their reaction.
9. You're about to start a new grade, and you don't know what your teacher or classmates will be like.
10. You feel like God is leading you to do something kind for someone, but you don't know how they'll respond.