

Small Group Leader Guide

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."
Psalm 56:3**

Inclusive Pro Tips



This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the Special Needs Resource Kit for more ideas for adapting each segment.

Today's Suggested Schedule

Greeting & Prayer (5 minutes)

The leader greets the children and asks how they are doing. After a brief time of sharing, the group participates in a short prayer activity to prepare their hearts for the lesson.

Small Group Activity (20 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Roll and tell
2. Vroom, Vroom Memory Verse

Pray & Dismiss (5 minutes)

After small group time, the leader closes in prayer. Then the children are dismissed.



SOCIAL

Opening Activity



What You Need

- ☐ A Spinning Wheel
- ☐ Prayer Chart

①

What You Do

Pray for your group before they arrive -> Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Recall a time when God gave you the courage to do something you didn't think you were ready for. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside of you and help you take the next step! Ask God to help the kids trust Him when they feel nervous or unsure. Whether it's a big change or something small, pray that kids would know God is with them even when they don't feel ready.

- Choose a child to spin the wheel.
- Each number matches a prayer prompt on the chart.
- After spinning, the child finds the matching prompt, reads it, and prays.
- Let a few more children take turns spinning the wheel and praying.

②

What You Say

"Prayer is how we talk with God, our loving Father. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing—talking to Him anytime, anywhere. Whatever you do, begin with prayer. When you do, you can trust that God is in control and working in every situation."

Transition -> Lead your group to the small group activity

ACTIVITY ONE

Roll and Tell

Bible Story Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Roll and Tell" Activity Page
- ☐ Matchbox or Other Toy Cars



Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider your group's needs and adjust the activity accordingly. If playing this game on a table works better for your group, please do so!

Allow the kids to have movement breaks between each picture.

Invite kids to participate by choosing a feeling face that matches that part of the story (For example, kids might make a worried face for picture 3, or a happy or relieved face for picture 4.)

①

What You Do

1. Gather the kids together.
2. Lay out the pictures from the "Roll and Tell" Activity Page on the floor in order. Leave 1-2 feet of space between each picture.
3. Give each kid a toy car.
4. Point to "Picture 1." Invite the kids to stand a few feet away and roll their cars to land on it.
5. Once everyone has had a turn, instruct the kids to "park" the cars along the edge of the picture.
6. Gather to talk about what's happening in the story.
7. Repeat this process for each picture, moving from one to the next in story order.

Picture 1: Naomi with Ruth and Orpah

→ There was a famine in Bethlehem, so Naomi, her husband, and her two sons moved to Moab. While they were in Moab, Naomi's husband died. Her sons married Ruth and Orpah, but her sons died too.

Picture 2: Ruth Stays with Naomi

→ Naomi heard that the famine was over in Bethlehem and wanted to go back home. Naomi encouraged Ruth and Orpah to stay in Moab. Orpah chose to stay home with her family in Moab, while Ruth chose to go with Naomi to Bethlehem, take care of her, and follow the one, true God.

Picture 3: Ruth Gathers Grain

→ Life was hard for Ruth and Naomi in Bethlehem because they didn't have jobs. They weren't sure how they would even eat! But Ruth picked leftover grain from a field that belonged to Boaz to help Naomi.

Picture 4: Boaz Helps Ruth

→ Boaz asked about Ruth and learned that she had been helpful to Naomi. He told Ruth not to pick grain from any other field and made sure she had enough. Later, Boaz married Ruth, and they had a baby boy!

Continued on the next page. ->

ACTIVITY ONE

Roll and Tell

Bible Story Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Roll and Tell" Activity Page
- ☐ Toy Cars



Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider your group's needs and adjust the activity accordingly. If playing this game on a table works better for your group, please do so!

Allow the kids to have movement breaks between each picture.

Invite kids to participate by choosing a feeling face that matches that part of the story (FOREXAMPLE, KIDS MIGHT MAKE A WORRIED FACE FOR PICTURE 3, OR A HAPPY OR RELIEVED FACE FOR PICTURE 4.)

②

What You Say

"Whoa! Why do you think Ruth chose to stay with Naomi instead of going back home? (INVITE RESPONSES.) That's right! Ruth wasn't just a very good and loyal friend, she wanted to follow God! She didn't know anything about what was ahead—she was moving to a new town, and she didn't know how she would take care of Naomi. But Ruth did know one thing, that God was worth her trust. And God took care of everything Ruth needed! He made sure she had food, was safe, and He even sent her Boaz! God took care of everything. And the same God who helped Ruth is with YOU too!

"God was so honored by Ruth's trust in Him! He was so honored, that He wrote her story into something way bigger! Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David, and many, many generations later, another baby was born into David's family. Do you know who that was? (PAUSE.) That's right. It was Jesus! God wrote Ruth into Jesus' family tree!

"Whether you feel unsure about your first soccer practice or nervous about your move to a new school, remember you're never alone. God is with you. God will go with you in whatever you're facing, and He is the strongest! And that can give you courage to face what's next. So whatever God calls you to do, remember: [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when you don't know what's next.

Transition -> Tell your group about an age-appropriate time when you trusted God by stepping into the unknown. Maybe you left a steady job to start a new company. Maybe you moved to a new city without knowing anyone. How did trusting God, even when you weren't sure what was coming next, help you to have courage?

ACTIVITY TWO

Vroom, Vroom, Verse

Memory Verse Activity

MADE TO
↓
Create

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible marked at Psalm 56:3
- ☐ "Adventure Verse" Activity Page
- ☐ Toy Cars
- ☐ Coloring Supplies



Inclusive Pro Tips

Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly. Be mindful of any physical needs present.

Adjust where this activity takes place (ON THE FLOOR OR AROUND A TABLE) depending on the needs of your entire group.

① What You Do

1. Invite a kid to open the marked Bible to Psalm 56:3 and read the Memory Verse aloud. (READ IT YOURSELF IF NEEDED.)
2. Repeat the verse together several times.
3. Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
4. Give each kid a car and an "Adventure Verse" Activity Page.
5. Point out the words of the Memory Verse along the road.
6. Set out the coloring supplies and encourage the kids to color the road on their page.
7. Invite the kids to "drive" their car along the road as they say the verse slowly together.
8. Say the verse in various ways.
→ Whisper, robot voice, fast, or slow, etc.
9. Help the kids write their names on the page.
10. Encourage the kids to take their "Adventure Verse" Activity Page home and practice the verse with family!

② What You Say

"Wow! Look at these fun roads and the truth you're learning! Our Memory Verse this month tells us something BIG: When we feel afraid or unsure, we can put our trust in God.

"So, tell me: when I'm afraid, when you're afraid, who can we put our trust in? (PAUSE.) God! That's right! You can trust God no matter what. On good days, on bad days, and on days with lots of ups and downs!"

"When we memorize the Bible, God's Word, it isn't just a 'cool' thing to say. It's true! It gets stored in our hearts and the Holy Spirit helps us remember it. We CAN put our trust in God. He is strong, He keeps His promises, and He never changes! Take your page home to share this verse with your family! No matter what happens, remember [BOTTOM LINE] God can give you courage when you don't know what's next."

K-1st Grade

Small Group

September — Week 4

MONTLY MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE!



What You Do

- Have all the kids recite the memory verse out loud together several times.
- Explain that this practice helps everyone learn and feel more confident.
- Ask the kids to raise their hands if they want to try saying the verse on their own.
- Invite one child at a time to come up to the Memory Verse Challenge Spot.
- When a child recites the verse, let them choose a prize from the prize box!
- Please tell the kids if they're not ready this time, that's okay---you can always try again next month!



Pray and Dismiss

Prayer Activity



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ No Supplies Needed

②

What You Say

“God, You are AMAZING! (REPEAT)
 Thank You for loving us, (REPEAT)
 for guiding us, (REPEAT)
 and for giving us courage (REPEAT)
 when we’re afraid. (REPEAT)
 Help us to trust You (REPEAT)
 no matter what comes our way, (REPEAT)
 because YOU are with us always (REPEAT)
 and You are the strongest! (REPEAT)
 We pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen! (REPEAT) ”

Transition -> As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share their Adventure Verse Activity Page from the “Vroom Vroom Verse” Activity. Challenge them to share the verse with their grown-up!

Inclusive Pro Tips



Consider the needs of your group and adjust the activity accordingly.

If a kid needs more space, allow them to sit outside the circle and still be included.

Offer adaptive seating and fidget tools to utilize during prayer time.

1



Naomi with Ruth and Orpah

2



Ruth Stays with Naomi

What to Do:
Print on paper, one set for each Small Group.
Page 1 of 4

"Roll and Tell" Activity Page
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"Roll and Tell" Activity Page
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3



Ruth Gathers Grain

4



Boaz Helps Ruth

What to Do:
Print on paper, one set for each Small Group.
Page 3 of 4

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What to Do:
Print on cardstock, one for every kid.

"Adventure Verse" Activity Page, NIRV
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