

Week 1 - You'll Never Guess What Happened

Lesson Overview:

Today's Point: God provides for us in surprising ways.

November Bible Verse:

I Thessalonians 5:18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

Read the scripture passage to familiarize yourself with the story.

Bible Story: Ruth 1-4 (The story of Ruth and Boaz)

Supporting Scriptures: Matthew 6:19-21, Proverbs 31:10-31, Psalm 37:4-6

Gospel Connection: Just as Ruth found a new family and future through Boaz, we find our eternal family and future through Jesus. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross secures our place in God's family, providing us with hope and salvation.

Videos:

Ruth and Boaz: https://youtu.be/irThVpdeSXk?si=pKjwrMhGnn4DDaT_

November Songs:

I Thank God: https://youtu.be/kkehaekJo_g?si=7HGfIGhSBWcuh7o2

Thankful: https://youtu.be/U_ewLEvA8_o?si=18JfEICuy9bQ8xaT

Schedule:

Warm Up Question (3 min.):

What is the strangest/hardest job (chore) you have ever had to do?

Review Classroom Rules (3 min.)

Review giving and collect offerings (2 min.)

Review point and Key verse: (5 min.)

Point: God provides for us in surprising ways.

Key Verse:

I Thessalonians 5:18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

Say: Hello, everyone! I'm so glad to see all of you. Today, we're starting a new lesson series focused on Thankfulness. Have you ever felt both super excited and a little nervous about change? Maybe it's starting a sport or meeting new friends. Change can feel like a roller coaster – thrilling but also scary!

Over the next few weeks, you'll learn how God provides for us in every season, just like He provides the harvest in the fall. We'll try to spot the good things God is doing, even when things are changing. Get ready for fun fall activities, amazing Bible stories, and a chance to grow a thankful heart that's as big as a prize-winning pumpkin!

Activity (5 min.)

Ruth's Relay Race

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Relay batons (or any small, safe object to pass between runners) Cones or markers to set up the relay course

Large bags or baskets to collect 'grain' (could use crumpled paper or small balls)

Say: Today, we're learning how God provides for us in surprising ways, just like He did for Ruth. Our next game will show us how working together and supporting each other can lead to amazing outcomes. This game is called "Ruth's Relay Race."

Here's how we'll play:

1. We'll form two teams. Each team will have a start line and a finish line, with a basket at the end to collect your 'grain.'
2. At my signal, the first person in line will race to the basket with a baton, grab a piece of 'grain,' and race back to hand off the baton to the next teammate.
3. The next teammate will do the same, and this will continue until all the grain is collected.
4. The goal is to see which team can gather all their grain the fastest, showing how working together helps achieve great things.

Say: Great job, everyone! Just like you worked together to collect the grain quickly, Ruth received help in her time of need. Together with Boaz, they accomplished something wonderful. God often uses our relationships with others to provide for us, showing His love and care in surprising and exciting ways.

Bible Story (15-20 min.)

The Story of Ruth and Boaz

Today's Point: God provides for us in surprising ways.

Learning Objectives: After this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Summarize the main events in the story of Ruth and Boaz.
2. Identify the central message or theme of the story.
3. Describe how characters in the story respond to major events and challenges.
4. Make connections between the story and their own experiences.

Say: Today, we're going to hear an amazing story about how God takes care of us in ways we don't expect. In our Bible story, a woman named Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth. They lived a long time ago when there wasn't enough food in their town of Bethlehem. They were dealing with some major changes. Ruth's husband died, and then she moved to a different country to stay loyal to her mother-in-law, Naomi. They didn't know what was going to happen next and didn't even know how they would find food. But they trusted in God, and he provided for them in surprising ways, which we'll see in this story.

Show Story Video: (3.5 min.)

READ: Ruth 1:1-5

Naomi, her husband, and their two sons moved to a place called Moab to find food. But then something sad happened. Naomi's husband died. Her sons got married, but then they died too. Poor Naomi was left with just her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth.

- Have you ever had to move to a new place or say goodbye to someone you love? How did that make you feel? Sometimes, life can be really hard, just like it was for Naomi. But even in those difficult times, God is still with us and has a plan.
- How do you think Naomi felt? She was probably very sad and worried. Sometimes we feel sad or scared too. But even when things look bad, God is still watching over us.

READ: Ruth 1:6-18

Naomi decided to go back home to Bethlehem. She told Orpah and Ruth to go back to their families. Orpah said goodbye, but Ruth didn't want to leave Naomi alone. Ruth said, "I'll go with you. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." Wow! Ruth chose to help Naomi even though it was hard.

Ruth chose to stay with Naomi even though it was difficult.

- Can you think of a time when you had to make a difficult choice to help someone else? When we choose to be kind and loyal, like Ruth, we're showing God's love to others.

READ: Ruth 2:1-13

In Bethlehem, Ruth went to pick up leftover grain in the fields to get food. She ended up in a field owned by a kind man named Boaz. He was actually related to Naomi's family! Boaz was very nice to Ruth and told his workers to leave extra grain for her.

Isn't it cool how God led Ruth to the right field? Sometimes, God guides us to the right place, even when we don't know it.

- Has anyone ever been kind to you when you were new somewhere, like at school or in the neighborhood? (Pause for responses) Boaz was kind to Ruth when she was new. We can be like Boaz and welcome new people, too. How could you be kind to someone new this week?

READ: Ruth 2:14-23

Boaz invited Ruth to eat with him and his workers. He even told his men to drop extra grain for her on purpose! Ruth worked hard all day and brought home lots of food for Naomi. When Naomi heard it was Boaz's field, she was so happy! She knew God was taking care of them through Boaz's kindness.

Ruth worked hard all day to provide for herself and Naomi.

- What are some ways you help out at home or at school? When we work hard and help others, we're showing love and responsibility, just like Ruth did.

God often uses other people to help us.

- Can you think of a time when someone was extra nice to you? That might have been God working through them to take care of you! We can be kind to others, just like Boaz.

READ: Ruth 3:1-18, 4:1-12 (or read the following summary)

Naomi had an idea for Ruth to marry Boaz. It worked! Boaz wanted to marry Ruth, but there was a small problem. Another man had the right to marry her first. But don't worry - God had a plan!

Boaz talked to this other man, and guess what? The man didn't want to marry Ruth after all. So Boaz got to marry her! God brought Ruth and Boaz together in an amazing way.

Sometimes, God's plans for us might seem strange. But we can trust that He knows what He's doing, even when we don't understand.

- Can you remember a time when something didn't go as you planned, but it turned out okay in the end? Just like with Ruth and Boaz, God might have a surprise in store for us!

READ: Ruth 4:13-22

Ruth and Boaz got married and had a baby boy named Obed. Naomi was so happy! She went from being alone to having a new family. Here's the really cool part - Obed grew up to be the grandfather of King David. And much later, Jesus came from David's family!

God turned Naomi and Ruth's sad story into a happy one.

- Have you ever had a bad day turn into a good one? (Pause for responses) God can change our tough times into good ones, too. We can always have hope because God is working things out for good.

Let's look at some other Bible verses that go with Ruth's story:

READ: Matthew 6:19-21

Jesus teaches us to care about things that really matter - like loving God and being kind to others. Ruth cared about Naomi and about following God.

- What are some ways we can show we care about God and others?

READ: Psalm 37:4-6

These verses tell us that when we love God, He gives us good things. Ruth loved God by being faithful, and God blessed her in big ways.

- How can we show we love God in our everyday life?

SUMMARY: So, what did we learn from Ruth's story? God took care of Ruth and Naomi in surprising ways. He led Ruth to Boaz's field, helped Boaz be kind to her, and gave them a new family. God took care of them even when things looked hard.

Remember our main idea? God takes care of us in surprising ways. Just like He did for Ruth and Naomi, God can work in unexpected ways in our lives, too.

GOSPEL CONNECTION: The best part? Ruth's story is part of God's big plan to bring Jesus into the world. Even though Ruth wasn't from Israel, God made her part of Jesus' family tree. This shows us that every single one of us is important to God, no matter where we come from.

Jesus is God's greatest gift to us. Just like Boaz took care of Ruth, Jesus takes care of us. He loves us so much that He died on the cross to forgive us and make us part of God's family forever. When we trust in Jesus, we can be sure that God will always take care of us, no matter what surprises come our way!

Review the ABC's of Salvation

Discussion Questions

Say: Great job, everyone! You all did wonderfully listening to our story about Ruth and Boaz. Remember, our main idea today is that God provides for us in surprising ways. Let's talk about that a little more.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you tell me two or three important things that happened in Ruth and Naomi's story?
2. How did God surprise Ruth and Naomi with His care?
3. What does this teach us about how God might take care of us?
4. Ruth and Naomi faced some big problems. How did they respond?
5. How can we be thankful even when we face hard times?

Bible verse review (5 min.)

Konnect: Divide group into teams and race to get the verse cards in the correct order.

Crosstown: Have the kids repeat the verse with you a few times. See if anyone want to try to say it by themselves.

Ideas for time remaining:

Coloring sheet - talk to the kids about the lesson again

Sword Drills

Free play

"God is My Helper"



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Questions to Discuss With Your Child:

- Can you tell me two or three important things that happened in Ruth and Naomi's story?
- How did God surprise Ruth and Naomi with His care?
- What does this teach us about how God might take care of us?
- Ruth and Naomi faced some big problems. How did they respond?
- How can we be thankful even when we face hard times?



Ruth gleaned in the fields and won the heart of Boaz.
Her son was the grandfather of King David.

Coloring & Activity Pages by: Bible-Printables.com