



3rd – 5th

September 5-6, 2015

DATE

Ruth

LESSON TITLE

Ruth; Philippians 4:13

WHERE TO FIND IT

God invites us into his family.

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (20 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (10 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

This month, our memory verse is Philippians 4:13: For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. Learn it ahead of time to prepare to talk about it (and why we memorize verses) with kids!

check-in/out

As kids leave, encourage them to explain the family portrait to the adult picking them up.

large group heads up

Ruth wasn't from Israel. That means she wasn't part of God's family at first. The fact that she got to marry into God's family and be in the direct line of Christ shows us that God invites everyone to follow him.



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

FIND YOUR PLACE

**Break kids into small groups of 6-10, even if one person is leading all of them. You might want to do a practice round to demonstrate how this works.*

- Give each kid **a sheet of paper** to use as their “seat.” (Can use chairs instead if you have enough in your room.)
- Choose one kid to be “it” and sit down on their paper
- Everybody else create a circle around “it” and sit on your papers. Those papers are now official seats.
- Remove the paper from the center—that’s not a seat anymore!
- “It” sits on the floor and looks at one person in the circle and asks, “Do you love your neighbor?”
- The person can say “yes” or “no”
 - If yes, then the two people on either side of that person need to stand up and switch seats. “It” tries to beat them to it!
 - If no, that same person must say, “But I do love _____” (any attribute). Any kids who fit that description must get up and find a new seat while “it” tries to beat them to it.
 - Examples of attributes: But I do love...people with dark hair, people wearing red, people in sandals, people with painted fingernails, etc.
- Every time there’s a switch, “it” asks somebody “Do you love your neighbor?” again. The person who’s last to the seat becomes “it” so kids should constantly be switching.
- **Then debrief** (get a variety of viewpoints):
 - How did you feel when you couldn’t find a seat? Why?
 - How did you feel when you were in the center? Why?
 - How did you feel when you were in the circle? Why?

Before you go to Large Group, you can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader’s instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) understand that God wants everyone to be part of his family and (2) identify a friend they'd like to invite to follow Jesus or at least learn about Jesus with them.

Why? Jesus commanded us to go and make disciples or to make his family bigger. We want to encourage kids to follow that mandate.

Tip: Make sure to take the large tear-off sheet of paper back to the room with you!

small group

REVIEW AND DIG DEEP

1. Why wasn't Ruth a part of God's family at first? (she was from Moab; God's family was from Israel)
2. How did Ruth and Naomi become friends? (Ruth was married to Naomi's son)
3. How did Ruth take care of Naomi? (she went home with her and got a job)
4. How did God take care of Ruth? (he caused Boaz to leave food out for her, then marry her)
5. How did Ruth get to become a part of God's family? (marry Boaz and eventually Jesus was born into her family line)
6. Why does God want EVERYONE to be a part of his family? (he loves every one of his creation)

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Part 1:

- Give each kid a piece of **colored paper**
- Tell them to draw themselves with **markers or crayons** (or both)
- As they draw, ask them who told them about Jesus or brought them to Kids' Club for the first time.

Part 2:

- Choose an area of the room and have kids lay their self-portraits next to each other.
- Stand back and tell them this is a family picture. Ask them how we're all family (remind them that God is like our perfect dad. When we follow him, he views us as his kids!)
- Then have kids go back and draw somebody they *want* to be part of God's family!

(Continue on the following page)

***After kids finish, pray together and ask God to give all of them (and you!) the strength to invite others into his family this week. Ask kids to say the name of the person they want to join God's family.**

Extra time? Play the Connect Time game again.

LARGE group

special notes

If you want to get more (or fewer) kids involved in the game at the end (about ways to invite others into God's family), feel free! Adapt it to fit your room and personality style.

presenter tips

Even though this lesson is all about inviting others to join God's family, keep in mind that some kids may be hearing this for the first time—or may not have made a choice to follow God yet themselves. Use language that includes kids, wherever they may be on their faith journey.

script

WELCOME AND INTRO (6 min.)

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here. Your game looked pretty fun. Raise your hand if you got to be "it." (Let kids respond.) Raise your hand if you always had a seat and never had to be "it." (Let kids respond.) Which did you like best? (Let kids respond.)

Now I want to know how it felt when you were trying for a seat, and you couldn't find one. Raise your hand if you either lost your seat or *almost* lost your seat (let kids respond). Who wants to come up here and tell us about it? (Let 3-5 kids come up and share how they felt scrambling for a seat. Then let them go back to their seats in the audience.)

Thanks for sharing, you guys! Sometimes it's frustrating to feel like you don't have a place. In a game, it's supposed to be that way, but sometimes we're not invited to a party or people leave us out of a conversation, or we just feel like we don't belong. Can you guys think of a time that's happened to you? (Pause.)

We're going to watch a quick clip to imagine how this feels. This is from a movie called *Inside Out*, where emotions are characters. As you watch, imagine how you would feel if you were the all-blue character called Sadness.

Video: First Day of School (about 1 minute)

Wow, so how did sadness feel? (Let kids respond.) Yes, she felt like she wasn't needed or wanted, like she didn't have a purpose. That doesn't feel very good, does it?

GOD'S FAMILY (1 min.)

Well today, we're going to talk about a place where everybody belongs, a place where you know you're invited and where you know you're accepted. That place is God's family!



script continued

We talk a lot about God's family. Well, God started it with a guy named Abraham and his wife Sarah. From there, more and more people began to be born. Eventually they were enough to be a whole nation called Israel. The Israelites were God's family, God's chosen people. They really were set apart and special to God.

But there were other people in the world too, people who weren't related to Abraham and Sarah. And they didn't follow God or know that God promised to send a rescuer named Jesus. One group of people who weren't in God's family was called the Moabites, because they were from Moab. Just like God's family is called the Israelites because they were from Israel.

RUTH (5 min.)

But in the Bible, we find out that God wants EVERYONE to follow him, not just Israelites. When we follow him, we become included in his family! One Moabite woman who experienced this was named Ruth.

Ruth was married to a guy from Israel who followed God. We don't know his name but we DO know his mom was named Naomi. And unfortunately, he died...and so did his dad. So Ruth and Naomi were left alone. Ruth could have gone back to *her* family in Moab. But she decides to follow Naomi back to Israel so she can follow Naomi's God and be part of *his* family!

Let's watch a video to see what happens—look closely to see if Ruth feels left out or like she doesn't really belong. [As you watch, see how Ruth gets to be part of God's family.](#)

Video: KBS / Ruth (about 3 minutes)

So how did Ruth get to be part of God's family? (Let kids respond). That's right, God caused a guy named Boaz to care about her. He saw that she needed food, and he gave it to her. He saw that she needed a husband, and he even married her. And they had kids...who had kids...who had kids...and on and on until who was born? (Let kids say: Jesus.) Yep, Jesus!

GOD WANTS EVERYONE TO BE PART OF HIS FAMILY (1 min.)

And guess what? God loves ALL of us and wants us all to be in his family. It doesn't matter if we live in Israel or Moab or America in _____ (*site location*)—or wherever! Now that God sent Jesus the Rescuer, when we realize that we mess up, believe that Jesus rescued us and choose to follow God, we get to be part of his family!

WE CAN INVITE OTHERS TO BE PART OF GOD'S FAMILY (7 min.)

In fact, Jesus gave his followers a very special job: he said to go and make his family bigger! There are lots of ways we can make God's family bigger. Let's see if we can think of a few. Everybody, stand up! (Let kids stand.) I'm going to say a few ideas. If it's a way to make God's family bigger, stretch your arms out wide, like this. If it's not, shake your head "no" and say "nope." Ready?

- Invite a friend to church so they can hear about Jesus (bigger)
- Tell your friends about Jesus (bigger)
- Be rude to others (nope; could ask kids "why not?")



script continued

- Show your friends that Jesus loves them by helping them out (bigger)
- Make fun of somebody you don't like (nope; ask "why not?")
- Pray that other people will know Jesus (bigger)

Now, can I have three volunteers to share either good or bad examples? (Choose three kids and let them help lead the game.) Great job! OK, you can have a seat. (Let kids sit.)

Does anybody remember who told YOU about Jesus and how they did it? (Let kids respond. *Share your story of how you know Jesus.*) There are LOTS of awesome ways to invite people into God's family.

RESPOND (2 min.)

Here are some the things we talked about: (**click to show slide** with the following bullet points)

- Invite a friend to church so they can hear about Jesus
- Tell your friends about Jesus
- Show your friends that Jesus loves them by helping them out
- Pray that other people will know Jesus

Does anybody think they could do one of these or something else you heard today? (Let kids respond.) Me too! (*Share a personal story of a friend you want to share Jesus with and how you plan to do it*) Let's talk to him together (lead kids in praying something like): Dear God, thank you for inviting each of us to be part of your family and allowing us to know you. We want others to know you too and to experience your love. Please give us the opportunity to share you this week. Amen.

VERSE (1 min.)

Now, before we worship, let's learn our verse for this month. It's a good one—and if you're feeling at all nervous to share Jesus with a friend, this should give you the courage you need.

SLIDE: Philippians 4:13: For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

Let's say that together a couple times (lead kids in repeating it).

WORSHIP (6 min.)

Well done! Now let's worship our rescuer and tell him we love him and are thankful to know him. Everybody stand up and let's sing and dance.

Music Video: Radio

Music Video: Tell the World

**Dismiss kids to small groups*



script continued

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

PREP needs



connect time supplies

Per kid
1 sheet of paper

small group supplies

Per kid
2 sheets of colored paper (a variety of colors in the classroom)

Per group
Markers
1 Bible

large group supplies

Bible

a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Video: First Day of School (from Inside Out; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKSgvG7em-E>)
3. Video: KBS / Ruth (in progress; will be on Vimeo)
4. Slide with this copy:
 - a. Invite a friend to church, so they can hear about Jesus.
 - b. Tell your friends about Jesus.
 - c. Show your friends that Jesus loves them by helping them out.
 - d. Pray that other people will know
5. SLIDE: Philippians 4:13: For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.
6. Music Video: Radio (in K-5 song slide Keynote in genlogin)
7. Music Video: Tell the World (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pjWFXAwKs4>)

connect questions

Tell me about Ruth.
How was Ruth part of God's story?

parent page