

## WEEK 2 PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

## Ever After

### THE BIG IDEA

God gives us hope.

### THE BIBLE

Ruth Meets Boaz: Ruth 2

## WELCOME TIME

### MUSIC | Enchanted Tunes

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
  - "God Is Always Working" (Kidspring)
  - "Thank You Lord For Making Me" (CAM ArtMade)
  - "Love Won't Let Me Down" (Table Kids)
  - "Thank You" (Orange Kids Music)

### ACTIVITY | Fairytale Foodies

- Hello friends! Welcome to another day of learning about a true fairytale!
- In today's story, we are going to find out that Ruth needed to find a way to feed herself and Naomi.
- **If you were put in charge of making food for your family, would you cook or bake?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Hang a poster board and create columns, one labeled "cook" and the other "bake" (you can also draw a picture of a frying pan and a loaf of bread). Give kids [stickers](#) to place in the column they choose.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers could be given play kitchen toys and invited to make a concoction that represents what they like to bake or cook.
- Thank you for telling me about that!
- **What kinds of food would you cook?**
- **What kinds of food would you bake?**

### ACTIVITY | Once Upon A Time

- Fairytale storytellers have a lot of imagination. They can make a story out of anything.
- Let's try doing it, too!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before kids arrive, print out the images in the printable. Lay them facedown. Start by saying "Once upon a time . . ." and then turn any three papers over. Make up a story to include the three images you flipped over. Turn them over, shuffle the papers around, and have a few kids try it out.*
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Use any three images to tell a story. Have toddlers tell the story back to you or ask them to point to the image you're talking about when you tell the story.*

## TEACHING TIME

### BIBLE STORY | Ruth Meets Boaz

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up the cozy Bible storytime area like last week along with your selected storyteller headpiece. This week, as you tell the story from Ruth 2, select one kid to be Ruth and have them sit next to you. Prepare a basket full of [yellow feathers](#) (to be wheat) and make sure there is a little more than one per person.*
- Welcome back to Bible storytime!
- Last time, we heard a great story about two friends named Ruth and Naomi. We learned that God gives us companions.
  - **Who remembers what a companion is?** That's right, it's another name for friend.
- Their story continues as the two of them arrive in Naomi's hometown. But they didn't have anything. They were probably worried about how they would find food for themselves.
- Ruth told Naomi that she would go work in the fields and see what she could find.
  - It was right around harvest time, which meant that there were lots of workers in the fields, picking up all the food that had grown from the soil.
  - The field that Ruth went to had grain. Grain is things like wheat and barley . . . it's how we get rice and bread.
  - Ruth would follow the harvesters and pick up whatever they left behind. It wasn't a lot, but at least she found something!
  - *[Take the basket and throw the feathers in the air. Tell kids to grab a feather from the ground. Hand the empty basket to kid playing Ruth and have them pick up all the feathers that are left over.]*
- Little did she know, Ruth was working in a field belonging to a man named Boaz. Boaz was actually related to Naomi!
- Boaz was a kind person. When he heard about Ruth's story and how she followed Naomi here from Moab, he told his workers to make sure to leave extra grain for Ruth to take. He also told them to protect her so she doesn't get hurt.
- Isn't that great? This story started out with very little hope. Ruth and Naomi didn't know how they would survive. But now, they had so much hope. They knew God was watching out for them!

**BIG IDEA | God gives us hope.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the same volunteer or puppet as last time deliver the Big Idea to you (written on a paper rolled into a scroll). Have the kids join you in singing the same [Fairytale riff](#) you used last week to call this fairytale friend in!
- It's time to reveal today's Big Idea! Today's Big Idea is . . . oh no, I lost it again. **Can you help me call our fairytale friend to find it for us?**
- [Volunteer appears and hands over Big Idea paper.]
- You're the best, fairytale friend! Today's Big Idea is: **God gives us hope.**
- Let's use some motions to say our Big Idea!
  - **God** (point up)
  - **gives us** (point to self)
  - **hope!** (demonstrate the [sign language for hope](#))

**VIDEO | Ever After, Episode 1**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

**ACTIVITY | Gather the Grain**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the group into harvesters and Ruths. Spread out yellow feathers all around the middle of the room. When you say, "Time to harvest," give harvesters ten seconds to grab as much "grain" in their cups. When time's up, say, "Your turn, Ruth," the Ruths go and try to collect as much as they can in ten seconds, also. Repeat until all the feathers are collected. Team with the most "grain" wins!
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Have toddlers follow you around the room. Whenever you drop a feather, have them pick it up behind you. Give them a pail or basket they can put their feathers in.
- Now remember what Boaz asked his workers to do? He asked them to leave extra grain for Ruth. Harvesters, could you give a little bit of your grain to the Ruth team?
- God gave Ruth hope by letting her know that there were people she could trust. Boaz showed her kindness and she was able to take care of herself and Naomi, too.
- **God gives us hope!**

**PRAYER**

- God, you are amazing! You gave Ruth hope when she was in a strange new land and needed to find food. You gave her everything that she needed, like a safe place to gather food and Boaz, a guardian who cared for her! Thank you for giving us hope and taking care of us, too. Amen.

**DISCUSSION TIME**

**SNACK | Wands of Hope**

- In some stories, when someone has no hope, a fairy godmother appears and makes things better!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this clip](#) from Cinderella. Afterward, serve “wands” (fruit skewers) that look something [like this](#). For older kids, provide bowls of each of the ingredients and guide kids in making the wands themselves.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of using skewers, try [this version](#) using pretzel sticks and finger sandwiches.
- We don’t need a fairy godmother to make things better for us. We have God! God always knows what we need. Whenever we don’t know what to do, we can talk to God, because **God gives us hope!**

### ACTIVITY | Basket Full of Hope

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a paper plate and yarn basket for each kid (using [these instructions](#)). Have kids thread the yarn through the holes and secure them. Give them feathers to stick in their basket.
  - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Skip the yarn part. Spread out glue on the basket part of the plate and have toddlers glue on feathers.
- **How do you think Ruth felt when her basket was full of grain?**
- This is what hope feels like! When we are sad or worried about something, God does something to help us know that it’s going to be okay. **God gives us hope!**

### ACTIVITY | Hope Stories

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pick a classic story from a list [like this](#) or your own library. Separate the story into four sections and recruit three other leaders to read a part of the story in different corners of the room. Have kids travel from corner to corner to get the full story. After a lively reading of the story, ask the following questions:
  - Who needed hope in this story?
  - How do you know?
  - How did they find hope?
  - Does this remind you of Ruth’s story? How?

### MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 121:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Gather kids in a circle and have fun with this memory verse game! Sing to the tune of “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes.” Start out very slowly and speed up a little with each repetition. The original lyrics are in parentheses if you want to do the motions, too!
- **The Lord** (head)
- **will watch** (shoulders)
- **over your** (knees)
- **coming and going** (toes, knees, toes)
- [2x]
- **both** (eyes)
- **now and** (ears)
- **forever** (mouth)

- **more** (nose)
- **Psalm** (head)
- **one hundred** (shoulders)
- **twenty** (knees)
- **one** (toes)
- **verse eight!** (knees and toes)

## PLAY TIME

*While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .*

### ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTION:** Print and distribute this week's coloring page along with crayons or markers. Discuss today's Bible story and Big Idea as kids color.

### ACTIVITY | Jumping Adventure

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Collect poster board in various colors. Roll the poster board up in tubes and tape them to the floor to create an obstacle course for jumping.
- Ruth and Naomi went on an adventure together. They walked a long way. Do you think there were any obstacles along their path? Maybe ones they needed to jump over like what we have here today?
- It's a good thing Ruth and Naomi never gave up even though they faced some tough things! Their story reminds us that **God gives us hope!**

### ACTIVITY | Grain Transport

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create an area of the room where kids can pretend to be working in a field (maybe use a fluffy rug to be the field). Cut up strips of paper bags to make piles of grain. Provide baskets, toy shopping carts, strollers, sleds, trucks or wagons as alternative ways they can gather and transport grain.

*Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.*