

DEVOTIONAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Ever After

STUDY

There's a reason why kids grow up enjoying fairytales and why grownups continue to be intrigued by them. Especially when we feel like we have little control in real life, we find solace in fairytales, where everything works out perfectly and everyone gets their fairytale – albeit, fictional – ending. But what if there was a story where the extraordinary circumstances were real? Could a story like this exist? This month, you are going to look at the story of Ruth to see how God truly writes the best stories for us – full of companions, hope, boldness, and the knowledge that God is always taking care of us! Find these truths for yourself and be even more inspired as you teach. To get ready for teaching about Ruth, **spend a few minutes reading the stories we'll be teaching kids.** As you do, think about what God has taught you (and is still teaching you) through these passages, and how these Big Ideas have been true in your life.

WEEK 1: God gives us companions (Ruth 1; Acts 2:1-6).

WEEK 2: God gives us hope (Ruth 2; Romans 5:1-5).

WEEK 3: God gives us boldness (Ruth 3; Psalm 42).

WEEK 4: God always takes care of us (Ruth 4; Psalm 16).

PRAY

Let's flashback to your fairytale, you know, the one you thought about when you were a kid. We all know that the things we dream about as kids don't always come to fruition as adults. But the desires behind the dreams that make our fairytales tend to stay the same. Talk to God about the companions you wanted and needed then. Talk to God about the hope or boldness you wished for when something significant happened to you. Take the knowledge that God is always taking care of us into another conversation about your life in the present. The Scripture this month helps will help you learn how to experience the hope that Ruth and her companions did. **Which passage of Scripture or Big Idea from this month is most relevant to you right now?** Spend a few minutes asking God to show you how you've already grown in this area, plus the next step you need to take in order to keep growing.

GROW

So what's your next step? Challenge yourself not only to identify who your companions are and where your hope and boldness come from but also to actively try to be a companion that someone else needs. God uses others to cause hope and boldness to spread. **Whatever your next step is right now, take it. Then help kids do the same.**