

Lesson 4

God Loves Families

Bible Basis: Ruth 1—4

Lesson Focus: God loves families.

Where Learning Happens



Set up areas for play before children arrive.

Bible Step

Talk Time

■ *Toddler/2 Creative Teaching Aids*—Photo Posters 1—4

Bible Story Time

Ruth 1—4

Bible Review Step

Bible Story Review Time

■ *Toddler/2 Creative Teaching Aids*—Story Figures 1, 2, 3, 5, Story Card 4, Story Mat

Music Time

“THE FAMILY SONG”

■ *Toddler/2 Creative Teaching Aids*—CD, CD player

Craft Step



Family Collage

■ Drawing paper, old magazines or catalogs, cotton swabs, paper cups, glue

■ *Starting Steps* for Lesson 4 for Goodbye Time



This symbol appears whenever preparation takes more than five minutes. A list of classroom supplies for the quarter is included on page 5.

Teacher Devotional

Read Ruth 1:1-22. In Ruth 1:16, Ruth speaks of her loyalty, or undying faithfulness, to Naomi when she says, “Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.” Ruth was a support to Naomi in terms of helping provide food and also companionship. Ruth had a strong understanding of the meaning of loyalty: sticking together regardless of circumstances.

Think about the different ways you show your loyalty to your family, and the children in your class. Faithfully pray for your family and for the families of the children you teach.

Understanding the Bible

The Book of Ruth was written during the period when judges ruled Israel. In a time of warfare and tribal heroes, the Book of Ruth serves as a contrast to the national scene. This book deals with the domestic relations of ordinary people of God, mostly women. It is an example of how a faithful person is rewarded with protection and care.

The main characters in the Book of Ruth are the widow, Naomi, her Moabite daughter-in-law Ruth, and Boaz, Naomi’s relative.

Ruth adopted the God of the Hebrews (Ruth 1:16). She stayed with Naomi and provided food by working in Boaz’s fields. Boaz, in the role of kinsman-redeemer, bought back Naomi’s fields, (Lev. 25:25), and married Ruth (Deut. 25:5-10) to show care for his family.



Your children spend all of their time in this lesson moving, exploring, choosing, and playing in the learning environment. The learning environment is simply the books, toys, blocks, music, stories, and activities your children interact with from the moment they arrive until they go home. While children are busy exploring and playing, you can gather together a small group to hear the Bible story from Ruth 1—4. You can also walk around the room, visit the children at different activities, and use the story mat to present the Bible Story Review.

This lesson is designed to allow toddlers and two year olds to play independently, freeing you to present the Bible Step, Bible Review Step, and Craft Step either to individuals or to small groups throughout the class time.

Where Learning Happens

Table—

The table can be used for a free-play activity, snack, or the craft. For directions on setting up today's craft activity, see *"Family Collage" in the Craft Step, page 25.*

Rug—

This is the place to gather children together for small group activities, depending on the size of your group. Invite them to the rug for the Bible Step, *page 23. Today's Bible story is "God Loves Families" from Ruth 1—4.*

This is also a good place for sharing stories or movement and the Music Time, *page 24. This week sing "THE FAMILY SONG."*

Care Area—

Take time for each child's physical needs, including rest room breaks and diaper changes. Provide water and a snack when appropriate.

Books—

A choice of books to explore pictures and words. *Point out pictures of families to children as you read books. Looking at families will help children understand today's Bible story from Ruth 1—4, "God Loves Families."*

Blocks—

Blocks of different sizes and shapes for building and creative play.

Toys—

A variety of toys appropriate for two year olds to encourage play.

Home Living—

Several baby dolls, blankets, play food, pots and pans, and utensils for children to imitate what they see in real life. *Encourage the children to pretend to be different people in a family. Pretending to be family members will help children relate to today's Bible story, "God Loves Families."*

When Teaching the Bible to Toddler/2s...

In today's Bible story from Ruth 1—4, the children learn that God loves families. A two year old's social life really revolves around his or her family. Be aware of the different family situations in your classroom. Knowing what is going on at home will help you relate to your children. Remember to pray for those families too.



Lesson 4 Focus: God loves families.

Bible Step

Talk Time

■ Materials: Creative Teaching Aids—Photo Posters 1-4

Toddlers love to look at photographs that show children. Sharing what they know about families helps them connect to today’s Bible story, “God Loves Families,” from Ruth 1—4. Invite small groups of four children or less to the rug for Talk Time. Use this rhyme to help capture their attention.

Clap, clap, clap.
Pat your knee.
Clap, clap, clap.
Look at me.

Show Photo Poster 1. Who can find the little boy? Have a child point to the little boy. The boy is part of a family. Show Photo Poster 2. Who can find the mommy? Have a child point to the mommy. The mommy is part of a family. Show Photo Poster 3. Who can find the daddy? Have a child point to the daddy. The daddy is part of a family. Show Photo Poster 4. Who can find the grandparents? Have a child point to the grandparents. They are part of a family. Who is part of your family? Encourage each child to share what they know about families. Today we’re going to learn that God loves families.



Photo Posters
1, 2, 3, 4

Bible Story Time

■ Ruth 1—4

A toddler’s earliest learning happens in the context of his or her family. Today’s Bible story teaches that God loves families. Have your Bible open to the Book of Ruth. **Our story is from God’s special book, the Bible.**

God loves families.

The Bible tells us about a family.

(Hold hands open like a book.)

The baby in the family was Obed.

(Rock a baby.)

The mommy in the family was Ruth.

The daddy in the family was Boaz.

The grandma in the family was Naomi.

The Bible tells us about a family.

(Hold hands open like a book.)

God loves families.

(Stretch your arms out wide and then hug yourself.)

Repeat the Bible story to help the children learn and remember. You can also read this story from *The Toddler’s Bible* (on the CD in your CTA packet.)



Story Questions

Ask the following questions to review the Bible story:

1. Who was in a family?
(Obed, Ruth, Boaz, Naomi)

2. Who loves families?
(God)



Bible Review Step

Bible Story Review Time

- Materials: Creative Teaching Aids—Story Figures 1, 2, 3, 5, Story Card 4, Story Mat

Touching and moving things are good ways for toddlers to learn. It won't bother the children that a figure is used as different characters throughout the quarter. They will enjoy moving the figures as you tell the story. This week the woman (Figure 1) is Ruth, the baby (Figure 2) is Obed, the older woman (Figure 3) is Naomi, and the man (Figure 5) is Boaz. Encourage the children to handle the figures of Ruth, Obed, Boaz, and Naomi as they help you retell the Bible story.

You can do the Bible Review Step anytime after you have done the Bible Step. Either stay together with the small group you have at the rug or visit children at different activities and tell the Bible Review story.



Story Mat with Story Figures 1, 2, 3, 5, and Story Card 4



Punch out any new figures for the lesson and Story Card 4. Lay the story card next to the story mat.

Lay the figures in front of you before telling the story.

The Bible tells us about a family. In the family was baby Obed. Have a child put Obed (Figure 2) on the mat. **In the family was mommy Ruth.** Have a child put Ruth (Figure 1) on the mat. **In the family was daddy Boaz.** Have a child put Boaz (Figure 5) on the mat. **In the family was Grandma Naomi.** Have a child put Naomi (Figure 3) on the mat. **God loves families.**

Repeat this story with each group of children, even if there is only one child. Toddlers and two year olds learn best when they repeat activities.

Music Time

- Materials: Creative Teaching Aids—CD, CD player



Music filled with energy and action is perfect for toddlers. They learn the way they like best—using their whole bodies and lots of energy! This song reinforces the Bible story from Ruth 1—4 that tells about Naomi's family.

"THE FAMILY SONG"

The complete song is on the CD in the Creative Teaching Aids packet. The words and movements can be found on page 71 of this teacher's guide.

Repeating a song helps children learn it. Repeat this week's song, "THE FAMILY SONG," at least once for each group.



Lesson 4 Focus: God loves families.

Craft Step

Family Collage

The process of doing a craft is one of the ways toddlers and two year olds learn. They discover how glue works by pressing and stamping. Encourage each child to create more than one Family Collage as time allows. All the things your children create are treasures. You can send them all home.

Materials: Drawing paper
Old magazines or catalogs
Cotton swabs
Paper cups
Glue

Before Class: Cut or tear magazine or catalog pictures of people of various ages. You will need several pictures for each child. Pour a small amount of glue into each paper cup.



Set a piece of paper at each place at the table.

Craft Time:

God loves families. Today we'll make pictures of families. Let each child choose three to five pictures. Give each child a cotton swab to use as a brush. Have children brush glue onto the back of pictures, then place the pictures on the drawing paper. Some children may prefer to put the glue on the paper and then stick the pictures on top of the glue. Let the children create more than one Family Collage.

As the children create, talk about the Bible story from Ruth 1—4. **We're making family pictures. The Bible tells us about a family. God loves families.**



Goodbye Time

As they leave, tell all the children, individually, you are glad they came. As you say goodbye, ask, "Who loves families?" Send each child home with his or her very own *Starting Steps*. One side connects each child's family to today's lesson; the other side includes a devotional, parenting tips, and an amusing anecdote.