



## God Redeems – The Story of Ruth

Ruth 1-4

### God Statement: God has a Plan

**KEY VERSE:** “The Lord Himself will go ahead of you. He will be with you. He will never leave you. He’ll never desert you. So don’t be afraid. Don’t lose hope.”  
(Deuteronomy 31:8, NIRV)

## CHECK-IN

*Classroom Teacher*

**(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)**

*As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.*

## EXPLORE ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

**(15 minutes)**

*The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.*

### **DISCUSS: God Redeems**

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God Redeems!

**SAY:** What does it mean to redeem? *Let kids respond.* Redeem means to save. Did you know that God redeems us from our sins? What does that mean to you? What does God redeem or “save” In your life? *Let a few kids respond.* Sometimes we make mistakes and sometimes bad things happen and we want to make things right or fix things.

Who redeems us and makes things new? ***Let kids respond – Jesus/God!*** God forgives us and redeems us when we make mistakes. When we sin, we should ask God to forgive us and redeem those parts in our lives too. Then we try to not do those sins again. We want God to make things new and help us do things better, to follow Him well.

### **MAKE: Story of Ruth Craft Page**

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

**Supplies:** one craft page per child, craft straw/hay pieces, crayons, glue

**Directions:** Pass out one coloring page per child. Have them color their pictures and then glue some small pieces of craft hay to the bottom of their picture.

**SAY:** Today we get to learn about Ruth! Many things happened in Ruth's life, and some of those things were bad things. God still had a plan for Ruth and He redeemed her life and watched over her. Let's make a special craft before we jump into our story today.

# LARGE GROUP

**(25 minutes)**

*Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.*

## WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES

### *Worship Leader & Host*

### WORSHIP

*While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!*

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

#### TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- Help Me Live in Step
- Egypt

## LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

*\*\*\* After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides. \*\*\**

## MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

### *Host*

### MAIL TIME!

*Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.*

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says "hot" or "cold" to give them clues if they're getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

*\*\*\*Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.\*\*\**

***“The Lord Himself will go ahead of you. He will be with you. He will never leave you. He’ll never desert you. So don’t be afraid. Don’t lose hope.”  
(Deuteronomy 31:8, NIRV)***

## **WARDROBE OF WONDER**

*The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.*

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

### **What’s It: Wheat**

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Accept around three questions and then three guesses. You can allow the kids to whisper their guess to their neighbor to allow for more sharing before you reveal the item. Retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

**SAY:** What do you guys see? It’s wheat! Do you guys know what wheat is or what we use wheat for? **Let kids respond.** We usually use wheat to make bread. Back in the Old Testament people usually harvested wheat from their farm to make bread and other types of food. Today we are going to learn about a girl who left everything to work on a farm. Let’s dive into God’s word to discover more about how wheat is connected to today’s lesson!

**\*\*\* After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.\*\*\***

## **BIBLE STORY**

### **Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

### **THIS WEEK’S LESSON: God Redeems – The Story of Ruth**

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

**\*\*\*After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.\*\*\***

**WORSHIP RESPONSE****Host**

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

**DO: BROKEN & RESTORED PAPER – God Redeems**

**Supplies:** paper hearts, markers/pens, tape (1-2 tape dispensers for each class), twine/wire WR station

**Prepare Ahead:** give 1-2 teachers in each class tape dispensers and explain that they will be helping kids tape their hearts back together

**SAY:** God redeemed Ruth in our story today. What does redeem mean? ***Let a few kids respond.*** Great points. Let's think of it this way, I've got a heart here. This heart represents Ruth's life in our Bible story today. Ruth had some really hard things happen to her – ***tear the heart in half*** – her husband died. She was all alone with Naomi – ***tear the heart again.*** It probably left Ruth feeling sad and discouraged – ***tear heart again.***

But God didn't leave Ruth in her brokenness, did he? God sent someone to help make things right for Ruth and protect her. ***Take the tape and put the heart back together.*** God brought back something for Ruth that had been broken or taken away. God made it whole again. ***Hold up the heart to show it back together.***

Just like God put Boaz in Ruth's life to redeem her, God has given us someone even more important to redeem us! Who is that? ***Let kids respond – Jesus!***

God sent His Son, Jesus, to take our place for all of our brokenness and sins and mistakes to make us whole again! John 3:16 says, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life." That means that because of God's love for us and the sacrifice Jesus made, we can have life with Him forever. Let's take a moment and think about how God redeems us!

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn on soft worship music in the background. Pass out one heart and marker/pen to each kid and ask them to follow your prompting as you lead them in this activity. As you pass out the items, ask kids to write their names on their hearts.

**SAY:** Just like Ruth, we all have broken parts in our story. Maybe we have done something wrong and sinned recently. Maybe a friend hurt your feelings. Maybe you have been really afraid of something. As you think of something, rip your heart in half. Take a moment and look at the paper. We are all broken.

**DIRECTIONS:** Invite kids to think about their brokenness for a moment. Then, encourage them to find a teacher in their group with tape who will help them put it back together. As their heart is put back together, they can pin it on the wall and say “God redeems me!”

**SAY:** God redeems us! He gave His Son, Jesus, in our place to make us whole again. As we look at all those hearts on the walls, we don’t just see the rips, but we see the tape that makes them whole! That’s what Jesus does for us! Let’s pray and thank God for His Son, Jesus, who redeems us.

*Close time in prayer.*

*\*\*\*After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Offering slides.\*\*\**

## OFFERING

### Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to explain that every week, we provide an opportunity for our Woodmen Kids to participate in tithing. We believe God is our provider, and it is our privilege to give back to God what He has so graciously given us. Then, remind kids that if anyone brought an offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

*Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering.*

*\*\*\*After Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.\*\*\**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – ACTS Gift of Love

### Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the PowerPoint to display important announcements.

### ACTs Gift of Love

**SAY:** Can anyone here tell me what your favorite holiday is? Is it Easter? Maybe Thanksgiving? How about Christmas? **Pause.** What do you enjoy the most about Christmas? **Choose a few kids to respond.** For many of you, receiving gifts is a big part of your Christmas holiday but did you know that there are many children who are unable to open presents on Christmas?

**SAY:** Our mission focus for the next several weeks is Gift of Love. Gift of Love is a super special event that allows families in need to shop for Christmas gifts at a very low cost! And guess how you can be a part of it? Your family can help by donating new toys/clothes/activities/games/etc. for the families to shop for. Did you notice the big

Christmas trees when you came in today? When you leave, talk to your family about picking an ornament off the tree and shopping for a specific age/gender – like a 12-year-old girl or a 7-year-old boy. Then, bring your UNWRAPPED item back in and put it under the tree next weekend!

**SAY:** Let's take some time now and pray for each kid who will receive those gifts.

***Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who will participate in Gift of Love.***

***\*\*\*After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.\*\*\****

## **BLESSING**

### ***Host***

*Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.*

***May God redeem the broken pieces of your life! May you believe that God loves you beyond words!***

## SMALL GROUP

### *Classroom Teachers*

**(10 minutes)**

#### **Younger Kids:**

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today? (God Redeems.)**
  
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Ruth 1:11-22**
  - What happened to Ruth's husband and sons? (They died.)**
  
  - What did Naomi tell her daughter in laws to do? (Go back where they came from.)**
  
  - What did Ruth say to Naomi when Naomi told her to go (v16.)? (Where you go, I'll go. Where you stay, I'll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God.)**
  
3. **Ruth's story isn't all butterflies and rainbows. Her story is broken but God brought it back together. He redeemed it. Just like Ruth, we too will face trials and sad things. The world is broken but God is the redeemer. Take a couple of minutes as a group reflecting how you have seen God being the redeemer in your life.**
  - What does this look like?**
  
  - What does this mean?**
  
  - How can we continue to live out the truth that God is the redeemer? Spend some time as a group discussing and sharing.**

**Close small group in prayer.** *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*



## RESPOND ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

**(10 minutes)**

### **DISCUSS:**

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

### **PLAY: God can help me, ball toss**

**Supplies:** 1 ball

**Directions:** Have children get into a circle and sit on the floor. Have one child take the ball and share a way that God can help them (with their school work, when things happen, to get along with siblings, to take care of their family, etc.) Then have them roll the ball to another child in the circle. Have that child share one way that God cares for them, then pass the ball. Continue until all children have had a turn.

**SAY:** Today we got to learn about how God took care of Ruth! He redeemed her life and helped her and took care of her. Let's play a special game to remember and share how God takes care of us too.

## CHECK-OUT

*Classroom Teacher*

**(end of service)**

*As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.*