



## God Redeems

Ruth 1-4

### God Statement: God has a Plan

**“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

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

*Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.*

*As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you’ve completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.*

*If a child brings money for offering, allow them to put the money in the class offering bank. Thank them for sharing with others.*

*If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.*

*Use the “Connect” reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!*

## CONNECT WITH KIDS

*Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.*

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

**The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:**

When a child feels...*(most of the time)*

**SAFE:** physically and emotionally

**SEEN:** known and understood

**SOOTHED:** calmed and supported

They can become **SECURE**.

## EXPLORE ACTIVITY

**(10 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:

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God redeems.

**SAY:** Have you ever lost something? What did you lose? Did you ever find it? How did you feel when you found it? *(listen to responses after each question)*

### PLAY: Pass the Package

**Supplies:** small box with lid, small picture of Naomi, Ruth, Boaz, fake wheat

#### Directions:

- This game is similar to hot potato.
- Put Naomi, Ruth, Boaz, or the piece of wheat in the small box. Put the lid on.
- Sit the kids in a circle.
- Tell the children that you'll play some music (on the TV/ipad). While the music plays, they will pass the box to the person next to them.
- They have to pass the box as fast as they can without making the lid fall off.
- When the music stops, whoever has the box gets to open it.
- When they open the box, have them show the other children what is inside and explain what it is.
- Naomi: That's Naomi! She's a woman from the Bible that we'll hear about today!
- Ruth: That's Ruth! She's a special lady in our Bible story today!
- Boaz: That's Boaz! He's an important guy in our Bible story today!

- Wheat: That’s wheat! I wonder if we’ll hear about wheat in our Bible story today!
- Once you’ve explained, put something different in the box and play again.

## CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

*Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.*

*Try singing: “Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere.”*

## LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

*After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton’s house for Large Group time.*

### WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

**Offering – ASK:** Did anyone bring money for an offering today? This money is used to help other people. You may put your money in the class offering bank.

## WORSHIP

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!*

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to **Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder**. Choose some songs to sing.

- God’s Promises
- Love One Another
- He is God

## READ THE BIBLE STORY

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God’s word!*

This week, read about a Bible story from Ruth 1-4.

Read the Bible story below. Try to engage the child(ren) as you share the story by showing pictures and repeating key words and phrases. It’s ok if you don’t read every word of the story! Kids have very

short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

### **THIS WEEK'S LESSON: The Story of Ruth**

*(Adapted from Ruth 1-4 and TrueWay Kids)*

#### **BIBLE STORY:**

Bring Hamilton (the hedgehog puppet) out and allow the kids to interact with him before you begin the story (they can feel his soft fur, give him high fives, give him a hug, etc.). Use Hamilton to help keep the kids engaged while you share the story (he can do the hand motions, ask the kids questions, etc.).

***Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton is holding a piece of fake wheat.***

**SAY:** Hi Hamilton, what do you have there? ***Hamilton shows us.*** Oh, that's wheat! Wheat is a plant that farmers grow. Have you ever baked cookies before Hamilton? ***Hamilton nods.*** You have! Yum! Then, you probably put flour in those cookies. Flour is made from wheat like this! We're going to hear a story that talks about wheat. Let's listen to this true Bible story.

***Hamilton nods.***

***Share the story of Ruth using the story cards from your folder.***

#### **SAY:**

- Remember Naomi and Ruth from the game we played earlier?
- Naomi and Ruth lived in a faraway land.
- Naomi said she was going to go back to her home.
- Ruth said she would never leave Naomi, so Ruth went with her.
- Back home, Naomi and Ruth didn't have anything to eat. Naomi and Ruth were very poor.
- Naomi told Ruth to go to a field to pick up wheat for them to use to make food.
  - That's just like the wheat you brought us, Hamilton!
  - Hamilton, let's help Ruth pick up some wheat! ***Encourage the children to help you and Hamilton pick up pretend pieces of wheat off of the ground.***
- Ruth picked up every little bit of wheat she could find.
- The owner of the field was a man named Boaz.
- He helped Ruth. He gave her extra wheat.
- Ruth and Boaz fell in love and got married.
- They had a baby boy!
  - Let's rock the baby together!
- God redeemed Ruth and Naomi.
  - Hamilton do you know what redeem means? ***Hamilton nods. Hamilton whispers in your ear.*** That's right, Hamilton! Redeem means to fix something that is sad or broken.
- Naomi and Ruth had no food. That's sad. God gave them food from Boaz's field! God redeemed them! He fixed things for Ruth and Naomi!

- God redeems!

### **SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)**

*This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.*

**SAY:** Today our God statement is God Redeems. We are going to say our God statement in fun ways to help us remember it.

- Have the kids say it in a fun voice.
- Have them say it in a whisper.
- Have them say it in a loud voice.

### **WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)**

*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.*

**SAY:** In our Bible story today, we learned that Naomi and Ruth had some hard times, but God redeemed them!

He fixed the sad things in their life.

He gave them food to eat and a family!

God took care of Ruth and Naomi.

How does God take care of us? (***wait for responses***)

God keeps us safe. (***hug yourself***)

God listens to us. (***cup hand to your ear***)

God feeds us. (***pretend to eat some food***)

God gives us people who take care of us.

***Repeat the words and the motions.***

### **BLESSING (1 minute)**

*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.*

**SAY:** Friends, may you always remember that God wants to help fix the sad and broken things in your life. God redeems! He loves you and loves to take care of you.

## RESPOND ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

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

### PLAY: Find the Wheat

(adapted from TrueWay Kids)

**Supplies:** fake wheat

**Directions:**

- Scatter wheat around the room, pretending the room is a big field.
- Leaders/LITs can hide the wheat for more of a challenge.
- Let the children pick up/look for the wheat around the room.
- When finished, count the wheat in the harvest!

**SAY:** Let's pretend our classroom is a big, big field, like the one Ruth picked up wheat in. I'm going to hide some wheat around the room.

When I say "GO," I want you to see how much you can pick up!

**(say go, and after a few minutes, call the kids back to you)**

**SAY:** Let's count how many pieces of wheat you picked up!

God gave Ruth a place to find food.

He fixed what was sad and broken.

God redeems!

## PLAY!

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!*

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

### Suggestions of activities:

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

## CHECK-OUT

### (end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"