Sample Lesson

Lessons for the Leader

The birth of a child is a time of joy and celebration. As parents, grandparents, and close friends hold the tiny infant in their arms, their minds and hearts fill with dreams of what the child will mean to all of them.

• Read Ruth 1–3. Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth, returned to Bethlehem after the deaths of their husbands. Naomi and Ruth entered Naomi’s hometown poor and alone. Ruth went to gather leftover grain from a field, so she and Naomi would have something to eat. Boaz, the owner of the field and relative to Naomi, learned about the condition of the two women and set about helping them.

• The law held that a man’s brother or closest male relative would marry his widow to ensure that the family line would continue. (See Deuteronomy 25:5-10.) At Naomi’s prompting, Ruth approached Boaz and asked him to redeem her, which included marrying her. Boaz told her that a closer male relative held that responsibility. However, if that relative did not redeem Ruth, Boaz would.

• Read Ruth 4:1-17. The other redeemer relinquished his claim, and Boaz took Ruth as his wife. In time the Lord gifted Boaz with Ruth and a son. Naomi’s friends gathered to celebrate this new grandson. Naomi’s friends praised God that He provided Naomi with a grandson to care for her in her old age. The women also praised God for Ruth. Ruth’s love for Naomi was evident in the way she had unselfishly remained with her and cared for her.

• The women named the boy Obed, which means “servant.” Perhaps this name was chosen because of Ruth’s service to Naomi. Or perhaps they believed the child would serve the needs of his grandmother, Naomi. Or perhaps the name was prophetic. Obed became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David. From his line would come Jesus, the Suffering Servant and our Redeemer.

As you look at faces of the children, thank God for them. Ask God to help you lead the children in worship.

What do these symbols mean?

Application Activities Format: Follow the numbers with arrows for a 30-minute, large group plus 20-minute Application Activities format. Follow all the numbers for a 45- to 60-minute large group only format.

Pull It Together: Indicates everything needed to gather and prepare for the activity.

Teacher Tip: Helpful advice.

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Ruth Took Care of Her Family

Focus Passage: Ruth 1:22; 2:1-23; 4:13-17

Key Bible Verse

Show family love to one another (Romans 12:10).

Life Application

I can show love to family members.

Level of Biblical Learning

I can show my family I love them.

Session at a Glance

Introduction to Worship (6 to 8 minutes)

Greet the Children

Play “Gather the Grain”

Worship (30 minutes/45 minutes)

Sing “Praise Him, Raise Him”

Sing “I Just Keep Trusting My Lord”

Talk about Mother’s Day

Pray

Unscramble Words

Learn Motions

Tell the Bible story

Review and Learn Bible Verse

Use Worship Guides

Make Application

Present the Offering and Pray

Sing “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Transition

Application Activities (20 minutes)

Wrap Up (10 minutes)
Introduction to Worship

1. Greet the Children
   - Show children where to place offerings.

2. Play “Gather the Grain” (6–8 minutes)
   - Give a grain picture to each child.
   - Instruct: “I will call out grains. When I say ‘Go,’ find the other children with matching pictures and stand together. If I do not call your grain, you stand still. Listen for your grains.”
   - Call out grains, varying the ones called.
   - Show the pictures for children to see as well as hear the grain types called.
   - Challenge children by having two grains find each other (oats find corn).
   - Invite the children to sit in a circle and play “Fruit Basket Turnover” using the grain names.
   - Conclude by calling all grains to sit together and put their cards on the floor by them. Cards will be used during the Bible story.

Worship

3. Sing “Praise Him, Raise Him” (2 minutes) (Download at lifeway.com/worshipkidstyle)

4. Sing “I Just Keep Trusting My Lord” (3 minutes) (Download at lifeway.com/worshipkidstyle)

5. Talk about Mother’s Day or Father’s Day (3 minutes)
   - Mention that today is set aside to show love to our mothers/fathers or the people who care for us.
   - Invite children to talk about ways they showed love to their mothers/fathers or other family members today.

6. Pray (1 minute)
   - Thank God for family members.

7. Unscramble Words (7 minutes)
   - Assign children to groups of two or three.
   - Explain: “When your group finds an envelope, open it and place the letters inside in the correct order to spell two words. There are clues on the letters to help you spell the words.”
   - Encourage groups to search the room for envelopes.
   - Assist with reading the words.
   - Display the verse.
   - Lead the children in saying aloud the verse.

8. Learn Motions (3 minutes)
   - Direct children to look at their grain cards.
   - Say all the words, guiding the children with that grain to wave their papers.
   - Teach groups the motions to dramatize their assigned words.
   - Say: “Listen closely for your word in our Bible story. When you hear your word, do the motion.”

9. Tell the Bible Story (6 minutes)
   - Open your Bible to the Book of Ruth.
   - Tell the Bible story, pausing at the words in bold to lead children in motions.
Ruth Took Care of Her Family  
*Ruth 1:22; 2:1-23; 4:13-17*

Naomi and Ruth were relatives or family members. Naomi was Ruth’s mother-in-law because Ruth married Naomi’s son. When Naomi’s husband and Ruth’s husband died, Naomi decided to move back to Bethlehem. Ruth moved to Bethlehem with Naomi.

Ruth and Naomi needed food to eat. Ruth went to a field to gather grain to make bread. Ruth walked behind the workers in the field, picking up the grain left on the ground.

Boaz, the owner of the field, saw Ruth picking up the grain. Boaz asked the workers to tell him everything they knew about Ruth.

Boaz said to Ruth, “Do not go to any other field to work. When you are thirsty, drink water from the water jars.”

Boaz also invited Ruth to eat with him and his workers. After eating, Ruth went back to the field to gather more grain.

At the end of the day, Ruth took the grain home. Ruth told Naomi about Boaz. Naomi told Ruth that Boaz was one of Naomi’s relatives.

Boaz and Ruth married. Later, Ruth and Boaz had a baby boy named Obed. Naomi helped take care of Obed. Naomi, Boaz, Ruth, and Obed were a family who loved and helped each other.

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**Review and Learn**

*Bible Verse (5 minutes)*

- Display the picture.
- Ask the girls the review questions in the left column.
- Ask the boys the review questions in the right column.
- Say: “Our Bible verse is Show family love to one another (Romans 12:10). Let’s say that together.” Repeat several times.
- Conclude: “All of us can show love to our family members.”

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**Use Worship Guides (5 minutes)**

- Distribute Worship Guides and pencils.
- Draw attention to the pictures of Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi.
- Say: “Put a square around the person who is different in each row (across). Circle the pictures that are the same in each column (down).”
- Invite children to fill in the missing words to today’s Bible verse by looking at the word box, counting the number of letters in each word, and writing the words in the blanks.

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**Make Application (6 minutes)**

- Create groups with up to 10 children each.
- Chart the number of children who showed love to family members during the past week.
- Read aloud the phrase at the top of each column on the chart.
- Direct children to raise their hands if the phrase describes a way they showed love this week.
- Invite one child at a time to help count the number of children and place stickers or check marks on the chart to represent each child who responded.
- Lead children to think of other ways they can show love.

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**Present the Offering and Pray (2 minutes)**

- Place the offering container in view.
- Say: “We show our love for God by giving our offerings. We pray, asking God to help the church use the offerings we give. Our offerings are used to help people and tell people about God’s love. Pray with me.”
- Pray.

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**Sing “All Things Bright and Beautiful” (2 minutes) (Download at lifeway.com/worshipkidstyle)**

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**Transition to Application Activities or Wrap-Up**

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Wrap-Up
(Large Group Only Format)

16 Sing “Do the Right Thing” (2 minutes)
(Download at lifeway.com/worshipkidstyle)

17 Review (3 minutes)
• Say: “Our Bible verse says what? Say it with me.
  Show family love to one another (Romans 12:10). Say it one more time.”
• Lead children to say the verse.
• Show today’s teaching picture.
• Lead the children to identify the people in the picture.
• Quiz children on who Ruth, Boaz, Naomi, and Obed were and how they showed family love.
• Conclude: “Ruth took care of her family. God planned for family members to love one another. We can show family love to one another.”

18 Pray (2 minutes)
• Say: “Let’s say a prayer thanking God for our families and asking God to help us show love to our family members.”
• Invite volunteers to pray.

19 Apply (3 minutes)
• Instruct: “I will say a family member such as ‘brother’ or ‘mother.’ I want all who know a way to show love to that member to raise their hands. I will call on some of you to tell me ways to show love.”
• Call out family members, allowing several children to respond each time.

20 Dismiss Children to Parents

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Wrap-Up
(Application Activities Format)

16 Sing “Do the Right Thing” (2 minutes)
(Download at lifeway.com/worshipkidstyle)

17 Review Application Activities (2 minutes)
• Invite groups to show and tell about their activities.
• Say: “Our activities helped us know that we can show love to our family members.

18 Review (3 minutes)
• Say: “Our Bible verse says what? Say it with me.
  Show family love to one another (Romans 12:10). Say it one more time.”
• Lead children to say the verse.
• Show today’s teaching picture.
• Lead the children to identify the people in the picture.
• Quiz children on how Ruth, Boaz, Naomi, and Obed were a family who loved and cared for one another.

19 Apply (3 minutes)
• Instruct: “I will say a family member such as ‘brother’ or ‘mother.’ I want all who know a way to show love to that member to raise their hands. I will call on some of you to tell me ways to show love.”
• Call out family members, allowing several children to respond each time.

20 Dismiss Children to Parents

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Pull It Together 17
• Use “Teaching Picture: Ruth” from step #10.

Pull It Together 18
• Use “Teaching Picture: Ruth” from step #10.
Application Activities

Select from the following choices. Each choice is designed for 20 minutes of small group time.

**Worship Through Dramatic Play**

*Create a Town*

- Comment: “Ruth showed love to Naomi by moving with her to her hometown and searching the field for grain so they would have food to eat. Naomi showed love to Ruth by helping her take care of baby Obed.”
- Challenge the children: “Let’s create a town full of families who show love to one another. Some of you can build the buildings such as grocery store, gas station, zoo, and other buildings you would like in our town. Some of you can set up our dollhouses. Others could create farms.”
- Encourage the children to construct the town and play out being family members in the town.
- Talk about what it means to **show family love to one another**.
- Encourage the children to use the dolls to make up and role-play scenarios showing family love.
- Assist the children by suggesting some possible scenarios. Suggestions may include: *helping parents clean the house, preparing a family meal, helping care for a younger brother or sister, and saying kind words to a family member.*
- Say: “Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz showed family love to one another. We are to **show family love to one another** (Romans 12:10).”
- Lead children to clean the area.
- Pray.

**Worship Through Arts and Crafts**

*Make Hanging Handprints*

- Talk about how Mother’s/Father’s Day is a special day to show love to our mothers/fathers or those who take care of us.
- Direct children to put on painting smocks.
- Give each child a piece of construction paper.
- Assist the children as they punch a hole about two inches from each of the two top corners of the paper. Children can choose portrait or landscape views.
- Help the children cut yarn to lace through the holes and tie to use as hangers.
- Distribute the notes and instruct the children to glue notes on their papers, leaving adequate room for handprints.
- Help each child paint one hand, gently place it on the paper, press down, and lift off.
- Urge children to wash their hands in the pail of soapy water.
- Allow children to paint pictures for their mothers or other caregivers.
- Continue: “Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz showed family love to one another. We are to **show family love to one another** (Romans 12:10). We can show love to our mothers or those who take care of us by creating pictures for them. What are some other ways to show love to family members?”
- Lead the children to help clean the area.
- Pray.

**Pull It Together**

- Dollhouse dolls; accessories such as a play car, furniture; dollhouse; blocks and other building toys; plastic animals

**Teacher Tip**

Provide rickrack or other embellishments for the children to add to their handprints.
Worship Through Games

Explore Nature Items

Option 1: Find Nature Items

• Line the children up to take a nature walk.
• Distribute bags.
• Give instructions throughout the walk about what you want the children to find. Find dry, wet, green, smooth, bumpy, soft, or crumbly items.
• Mention that Ruth showed love to her mother-in-law, Naomi, by going into the fields to search for grain so they would have food to eat.
• Talk about ways the children can show love to their family members.

Option 2: Observe Nature Items and Make a Classroom Mosaic

• Place a variety of nature items on a table.
• Urge children to pick up the items, look at them under the magnifying glass, and describe how the items look and feel.
• Let each child select and glue an item to the heavyweight paper to make a classroom mosaic.
• Mention that Ruth showed love to her mother-in-law, Naomi, by going into the fields to search for grain so they would have food to eat.
• Talk about ways the children can show love to their family members.
• Conclude: “Ruth worked in Boaz’s fields gathering grain for her and Naomi. Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz showed family love to one another. We are to show family love to one another (Romans 12:10).”
• Lead children to clean the area.
• Pray.

Pull It Together

• Giant Game Floor Mat*, spinner; five pieces each of red, blue, green, yellow, and orange construction paper (or colors to match your spinner)
• Place construction paper in mat. Each row should have a different colored insert.
• Lay the mat on the floor in an open area.

*Giant Game Floor Mat (001114564) may be ordered through LifeWay Christian Resources Customer Service Center at 1.800.458.2772 or online at www.lifeway.com.

Teacher Tip

Use the “Grain” (CD) pictures instead of colored paper. Print and cut grain pictures apart from other text and place grain pictures at the beginning of each row.

Pull It Together

• Variety of nature items, glue, magnifying glass, heavyweight paper, lunch bags or small zip-lock bags
• Post a sign to let parents know you will be taking a nature hike.

Teacher Tips

Help kids relate taking a nature hike: “Ruth went to the fields and gathered grain. We cannot gather grain in the fields, but we can gather nature items to enjoy.”

Provide various grains to be used in the mosaic.

Worship Through Exploration and Discovery

Play in the Field

• State: “We will pretend to play in a field by placing our hands on one of the colored crop pictures when we take turns spinning the spinner.”
• Spin the arrow on the spinner. Announce the color where the arrow lands.
• Ask a question or give an instruction to the children whose hands are on the selected color.
  - Red Crop: “Say today’s Bible verse.”
  - Blue Crop: “Tell something you remember about today’s Bible story.”
  - Green Crop: “How do you show love to your family members?”
  - Yellow Crop: “How do your family members show love to you?”
  - Orange Crop: Name a family member.
• Direct children to choose a new crop (color) after each question.
• Allow a child to spin each time.
• Play several times, making sure each child has a chance to respond.

Variation

• Rearrange the colors to create mazes on the mat.
• Challenge children to step on certain colors of the maze to get from one side of the field to the other.
• Conclude: “Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz showed family love to one another. We are to show family love to one another (Romans 12:10).”
• Pray.
Barley

Thirsty

Oat

Boaz

Grain Pictures
Worship KidStyle Preschool Edition, Sample Lesson
Grain Pictures
Worship KidStyle Preschool Edition, Sample Lesson
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Here’s a special handprint
So you can recall
Exactly how my fingers looked
On this special day
When I was young

Happy Mother’s Day!

Here’s a special handprint
So you can recall
Exactly how my fingers looked
On this special day
When I was young

Happy Father’s Day!

Here’s a special handprint
So you can recall
Exactly how my fingers looked
On this special day
When I was young

Happy Mother’s Day!

Here’s a special handprint
So you can recall
Exactly how my fingers looked
On this special day
When I was young

Happy Father’s Day!
Name the women in our Bible story.
(Ruth, Naomi)

Review Questions
Worship KidStyle Preschool Edition, Sample Lesson

How did Ruth help Naomi?
(moved with her to Bethlehem; gathered grain)

How did Boaz help Ruth?
(gave her food to eat and water to drink; let her gather grain in his field)

How did Naomi help Ruth and Boaz?
(took care of Obed)

How can you show love to a family member?
(varied responses)

Our Bible story:
(Boaz, Obed, Ruth, Naomi)

Name the man and the baby boy in our Bible story.
(Boaz, Obed)

Name the women in our Bible story.
(Ruth, Naomi)
Show family love to one another.

(Romans 12:10)
Ruth Took Care of Her Family
Ruth 1:22; 2:1-23; 4:13-17
Directions:
Use the words in the Word Box to complete the blanks.

WORD BOX
another

Show family love to one another.

Romans 12:10

Directions:
Put a square around the person who is different in each row (across). Circle the pictures that are the same in each column (down).

Show family members how to love one another.

Ruth 1:22; 2:1-23; 4:13-17

Ruth
Boaz
Naomi
Worship KidStyle Preschool Edition
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(Older preschoolers age 4–Kindergarten)

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