



Ruth and Naomi

Lesson Aim: To know God gives us special friends who worship Him with us.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The King Who Watches Over Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Ruth 1:8-18

What He Has Done: God gave Ruth and Naomi a special friendship.

THE WAY

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Unit 7: The King Who Watches Over Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
33	Deborah, the Judge, Judges 4:4-5; 5:7	God gave the Israelites a judge named Deborah.	To know God gives us people to help us.
34	Gideon Goes to Battle, Judges 7:17-21	God gave Gideon and His people a victory.	To know we can trust God.
35	Samson and the Gate, Judges 13:5; 16:2, 3	God made Samson strong.	To know God makes us strong.
36	Ruth and Naomi, Ruth 1:8-18	God gave Ruth and Naomi a special friendship.	To know God gives us special friends who worship Him with us.
37	Samuel and Eli, 1 Samuel 3:1-10	God called Samuel.	To know we should listen to God.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Isaiah 44:24-28. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord for the relationships You give us. Help the children understand the picture that the story of Ruth gives us of godly relationships and of the role of a redeemer. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Friends! Use opportunities during class time to talk with the children about how to be a good friend.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of friends
		Coloring Center: Ruth and Naomi	Coloring pages of Ruth and Naomi, crayons or markers
		Play-Dough Center: Going on a Trip	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Puppet Center: Friends from God	Two or more hand or finger puppets
		Game Center: I Have a Good Friend	Beach ball or other soft ball
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Song Suggestions: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"	Praise music, optional: musical instruments, rope Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Can Do Everything" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Here Am I" "I Am with You" "I Will Listen" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "Sing Praises"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 7, Lesson 36
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Ruth 1:8-18	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Ruth 1:16 Visual: Picture of the Bible story or a heart, picture of friends
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Ruth and Naomi Magnets	Sturdy flesh-colored and white paper, felt or cloth, two magnets (peel-and-stick recommended), glue or glue stick, crayons or markers
		Game: Traveling Friends	None
		Game: Worship God with My Friends	None
		Snack: Traveling Treats	Trail mix
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's: Unit 7, Lesson 36
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Ruth 1:8-18	None
	Up to 10	Game: Jesus Gives Me Strength!	Soft ball for rolling
	Up to 10	Game: Memory Verse Echo	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about friendship

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The King who watches over us

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of friends. **Let this stamp (or sticker) help you remember we can love God together.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: RUTH AND NAOMI

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Ruth and Naomi, crayons or markers

DO

Children color their picture as they talk about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

Our coloring page today is a picture of two friends. Their names are Ruth and Naomi. God gave them a very special friendship. Do you have a special friend? (Children respond.) **What do you like about your friend?** (Children respond.)

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: GOING ON A TRIP

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking about taking a trip. Encourage children to make items they might take on a trip with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

In our story today, Ruth and Naomi go on a trip. Have you ever visited a new place with your family? (Children respond.) **What or who did you see when you were there?** (Children respond.)

Let's pretend we are packing to go on a trip. What would you take with you? (Children respond.) **Can you make something with the play-dough that you would take on your trip?**

THE WELCOME *continued...*

PUPPET CENTER: FRIENDS FROM GOD

SUPPLIES

Two or more hand or finger puppets

DO

Children act out things they like to do with their friends.

TALK ABOUT

I am so thankful God gives us friends. My friends are very special to me. What do you like to do with your friends? (Children respond.) **Let's give names to the puppets. What do you think they would do if they were friends?** (Children respond.) Encourage the children to act out things friends do together using the puppets.

GAME CENTER: I HAVE A GOOD FRIEND

SUPPLIES

Beach ball or other soft ball

DO

Children play a ball tossing game and remember God gives us friends.

TALK ABOUT

Point to each child and say, **"You are my friend. God gave us friends so we could worship Him together. Let's play a game with our friends."**

Say, **"I have a good friend, a good friend, a good friend,
I have a good friend and his/her name is name of child."**

Toss the ball to that child. Have the child toss it back to you. Do this until each child has been chosen. You could then have the child who catches the ball toss it to a friend.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

**"I can do
everything**

(I) Point to self.

Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up.
The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.

**through Him
who gives me**

(Him) Point to heaven.

(gives) With the thumb touching the fingers, the hand moves in a forward motion away from the body.

strength."

Both closed fists are thrust forward in a forceful manner.

Philippians 4:13

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The King who watches over us

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



I'm so glad you came to church today! God loves when we come together to worship Him. Let's thank Him for our friends. Have children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, we come together to sing Your praises, to hear Bible stories, and to learn about You. Thank You for the friends You have given us. Amen.**



Is God watching over you? (Yes!) We know God is always with us and He is mighty to save. Sing: "He Is Mighty to Save."

Optional: God (point up) **has the whole world** (make a circle with your arms overhead) **in His hands** (hold your hands in front of you). **Can you do that with me?** Repeat with the motions. **God is always watching over us and we know He will care for us because He** (point up) **has the whole world** (make a circle with your arms overhead) **in His hands** (hold your hands in front of you). Sing: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

God cares for us and He is always with us. Let's give our offering as we sing. Sing: "I Am with You" while collecting the offering.



We can do everything through Him! God makes us strong so we can follow Him. Who gives us strength? (God.) Let's say our verse together with the motions.

"I can do everything

(I) Point to self.

Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.

through Him who gives me

(Him) Point to heaven.

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strength."

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Philippians 4:13

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



God watches over us and gives us friends like Delbert and Lello. Let's call them both to come out for a visit. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 7, Lesson 36.



Naomi and Ruth traveled a long way together to reach Naomi's home. God made them both strong for the long trip. Is there anything we can't do through God? (No.) That's right. You can do everything through God who gives you strength. Sing Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Can Do Everything."



Ruth and Naomi

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Ruth 1:16, picture of the Bible story or a heart, picture of friends

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Show the picture of friends to the children. **The people in this picture look very happy. What do you think they were doing that made them so happy?** (Children respond.) **Well, whatever they were doing, I know one thing that would make them happy—they are friends! Do you have a special friend whom you like to spend time with?** (Children respond.)

In our story today, we will hear about two women named Ruth and Naomi. They were family but they were also very special friends. Let's listen. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Ruth 1:16.



WATCH THE WORD: RUTH 1:8-18

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story or a heart from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Ruth grew up in Moab.**
- **Naomi came from Bethlehem.**
- **Naomi missed her home and family.**
- **Naomi and Ruth were friends.**

- **When Naomi went back to Bethlehem,**
- **Ruth wouldn't let her go alone.**
- **"Your people will be my people,"**
- **Ruth said, "Where you go, I go."**

Did Ruth want to go with Naomi? (Yes.) **What did Ruth say to Naomi?** ("Where you go, I go, and where you stay, I stay.")



God gives us friends

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: RUTH AND NAOMI MAGNETS

Purpose: To remind the children Ruth and Naomi stayed together.

Supplies: Sturdy flesh-colored and white paper, felt or cloth, two magnets (peel-and-stick magnets recommended), glue or glue stick, crayons or markers

Prepare: On flesh-colored paper, draw and cut out a 3-inch tall Ruth and a 3-inch tall Naomi. From sturdy white paper, cut a 5-inch x 2-inch banner. Print or write on the banner:

"Where you go, I go."

Ruth 1:16

From felt or cloth, cut two rectangles or triangles as clothes for Ruth and Naomi.

Directions:

1. Color Ruth and Naomi.
2. Glue clothes onto Ruth and Naomi.
3. Glue Ruth and Naomi on opposite ends of the banner so the Bible verse is between them.
4. Attach a magnet on the back of Naomi.
5. Attach a magnet on the back of Ruth.

Craft Discussion:

- **Where was Naomi going?** (To her home in Bethlehem.)
- **Who wanted to go with Naomi?** (Ruth.)
- **What did Ruth say to Naomi?** ("Where you go, I go, and where you stay, I stay.")
- **God gave Ruth and Naomi to each other to be friends. Ruth and Naomi both loved God.**
- **Do you have a friend that loves God?** (Children respond.) **Can you love God together?** (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: TRAVELING FRIENDS

Purpose: Children will experience the story of Ruth traveling home with Naomi.

Supplies: None

Ruth and Naomi walked a long way. They must have had to start and stop many times. Let's pretend we are walking down the long road to Naomi's home in Bethlehem.

Directions:

1. Line the children up in pairs.
2. Lead the pairs in traveling the road together using the instructions below.
 - **Start walking!** (Walk on road.)
 - **Stop for lunch!** (Sit, pretend to eat.)
 - **Start walking!** (Walk on road.)
 - **Stop to sleep!** (Lie on floor.)
 - **Start walking!** (Walk on road.)
 - **Stop at edge of the sea!** (Stop.)
 - **Start swimming through the sea!** (Swim.)
 - **Stop! The sea is too big to cross.** (Stop.)
 - **Start swimming back to shore.** (Swim.)
 - **Stop swimming! You are on shore.** (Stop.)
 - **Start walking!** (Walk to end of road.)
 - **Stop! You are home!** (Cheer.)

GAME: WORSHIP GOD WITH MY FRIENDS

Purpose: Children will worship God together as friends in this variation of "The Farmer in the Dell."

Supplies: None

Ruth went with her friend Naomi. What did Ruth say to Naomi? ("Where you go, I go.") Ruth and Naomi were special friends who worshiped God together. You can worship God with your friends, too.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle holding hands.
2. Choose one child to stand in the middle of the circle. **Teacher Tip:** Have a helper stand with the child.
3. March in a circle while singing (Tune: The Farmer in the Dell):
**"We're here to worship God.
We're here to worship God.
Sing, shout, and praise His name.
We're here to worship God."**
4. The child in the middle chooses another child and says, **"Worship God with me, friend."**
5. That child joins the first child in the middle of the circle.
6. Sing the chorus again.
7. This time the second child chooses another child and says, **"Worship God with me, friend."**
8. Repeat until all the children have been chosen. **Teacher Tip:** If you have a large class, you may want to have two children chosen before singing the chorus again.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: TRAVELING TREATS

Purpose: Children will remember the travels of Ruth and Naomi.

Snack Suggestion: Trail mix (any mix of nuts, dried fruit, and/or chocolate pieces)

Let's pretend we are going on a trip. Before we go, we will eat our snack.

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **God gives us friends to do things together. Where should we go together on our trip?** (Children respond.) **What should we do while we are there?** (Children respond.)
 - **Who did you travel with to worship today?** (Children respond.) **It is great to worship together! We can sing and listen to Bible stories and bless our food together!**
 - **What do you like to do with your friends?** (Children respond.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"I can do everything	(I) Point to self. Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.
through Him	(Him) Point to heaven.
who gives me	(gives) With the thumb touching the fingers, the hand moves in a forward motion away from the body.
strength."	Both closed fists are thrust forward in a forceful manner.
Philippians 4:13	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: RUTH 1:8-18

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **Ruth grew up in Moab.** (Point far away.)
- **Naomi came from Bethlehem.** (Point in opposite direction.)
- **Naomi missed her home and family.** (Make a sad face.)
- **Naomi and Ruth were friends.** (Place hands on heart.)

- **When Naomi went back to Bethlehem,** (Walk in place.)
- **Ruth wouldn't let her go alone.** (Shake head no.)
- **"Your people will be my people,"** (Point to others and then to self.)
- **Ruth said, "Where you go, I go."** (Walk in place.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

GAME: JESUS GIVES ME STRENGTH!

Purpose: Children will realize Jesus gives them strength.

Supplies: Soft ball for rolling

**Our Bible Memory Verse tells us, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."
Jesus is the one who gives us strength.**

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Teacher rolls the ball to a child.
3. Child holds the ball and says, **"I can do everything through Jesus."**
4. **Optional:** Child names an activity that is hard for him or her to do. For example: tying a shoe, riding a bike, sharing toys, counting, reading, or swimming.
5. Together, everyone says to the child with the ball, **"Jesus gives name of child strength!"**
6. Child rolls the ball to another child.
7. Continue playing until each child has a turn.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: MEMORY VERSE ECHO

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Let's practice our Bible Memory Verse, **"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength."**

Directions:

1. Have the children stand in a circle.
2. Divide your class into two groups: the loud echo and the whisper echo.
3. Have them all crouch down until it is their turn to echo the verse.
4. Say the verse. Have the loud group stand and echo your words and then the whisper group.
5. Repeat a few times.
6. If you have time, reassign which group does which kind of echo and play again.
7. Optional: Add some variety to the echo. Do it faster each time or slower or have the children jump up and down, clap, or spin in a circle when it is their turn to echo.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about friendship.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 7, Lesson 36: Ruth and Naomi

PONDER! Ruth and Naomi traveled back to Bethlehem together (Ruth 1:8-18). What did Ruth say to Naomi? ("Where you go, I go, and where you stay, I stay.") Ruth and Naomi were family and they were friends. Who has God given you as family? Who has God given you as friends?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for giving us family and friends so we can do things together. Help us love You together. Amen."

PLAY! Play the "Traveling Friends" game. Use tape or chalk to make a path on the floor or sidewalk. Travelers stand at the beginning of the path. The leader stands at the end. The leader stops and starts the travelers on their journey and adds directions and detours at each stop. For example: skip in a circle, take a nap, swim in the sea, etc.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

**"I can do
everything**

**through Him
who gives me**

strength."

Philippians 4:13

(I) Point to self.

Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.

(Him) Point to heaven.

(gives) With the thumb touching the fingers, the hand moves in a forward motion away from the body.

Both closed fists are thrust forward in a forceful manner.

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.