



Ruth and Naomi

Lesson Aim: To know God can bring good from hard times.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Watches Over Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Ruth 1:16; 2:8-12; 4:14-17

What He has done: God provided blessings for Ruth and Naomi.

Key Verse: Ruth 1:16

THE WAY

Christ Connection: James 1:17

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." "He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep." "The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." Psalm 121:1, 2, 4, 8

Unit 7: The King Who Watches Over Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
33	Deborah Leads the Israelites, Judges 4:4-9, 13-16	God sent Deborah as a judge to lead Israel.	To know God watches over His people.
34	Gideon Defeats the Midianites, Judges 7:2-7, 16-21	God made the army small to glorify Himself.	To give God the glory for our victories.
35	Samson and His Strength, Judges 14:5-6a; 15:12-15, 20	The Holy Spirit gave Samson strength.	To know God gives us power.
36	Ruth and Naomi, Ruth 1:16; 2:8-12; 4:14-17	God provided blessings for Ruth and Naomi.	To know God can bring good from hard times.
37	Samuel and the Ark of God, 1 Samuel 5:1-4; 7:3-5, 12-13	God protected the people from their enemies.	To know the power of God's presence.

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 Ruth gives us of godly relationships and the role of a redeemer. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Three-Legged Relay	4 scarves, floor tape or chalk
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Lift Up My Eyes" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am with You" "To Him Who Sits On the Throne" "Not by Might" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "How Great Thou Art" "How Great Is Our God" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Songs 4 Worship Kids Volume 1 Sunday School Jamz by Worship Jamz
		Worship Scripture Reading: Job 19:25	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 36 King City Chronicles script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Ruth 1:16; 2:8-12; 4:14-17	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: James 1:17	
	Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Shaft of wheat, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Lift Up My Eyes," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Gleaning Wheat	Wheat crackers and cheese or bread and butter
	Up to 10	Craft: Blessing Envelope	White standard size envelope, crayons, additional black crayons, slips of paper, pencils, coins
	Up to 10	Game: Pass the Praise	Shaft of wheat
	Up to 5	Discussion: Ruth's Relatives	Bible, open to Ruth 4:17
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Watch Tag	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Hot Potato Scramble	Sturdy brown paper, scissors, marker, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Lift Up My Eyes," CD player, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: Who do you like to travel with?

GAME: THREE-LEGGED RELAY

Purpose: To introduce the story of Ruth and her travels with Naomi.

Supplies: 4 scarves, floor tape or chalk

Let's see how closely we can stay together with our partners as we race in a three-legged walking relay.

Directions:

1. Use floor tape or chalk to mark the start/finish line and a halfway line at the other end of the play area.
2. Divide into four teams.
3. Each team divides into pairs.
4. Have the teams line up in their pairs side by side at the start/finish line.
5. Give the first pair of each team a scarf.
6. The pair ties the right ankle of one player to the left ankle of his or her partner.
7. On your signal, the four sets of partners walk quickly to the opposite side of the play area, touch the halfway mark, and return to the start/finish line.
8. The pair unties their scarf and gives it to the next pair.
9. The next pair ties their ankles together and repeats the relay.
10. Continue the relay until each pair has a turn.
11. The first team to have all their pairs complete the race is the winner.

Today, we will explore the story of Ruth. We will see how she stayed with Naomi, her mother-in-law, as they traveled to Bethlehem and lived there together.



The King who watches over us

THE WORSHIP

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 music as children move to the designated area.



We worship God as the King who watches over us as our Redeemer. A redeemer is someone who pays a price to save someone (or something) from something bad. The Lord Jesus is our Redeemer. He paid the price with His life to save us from a life apart from God. Read Job 19:25.



Let's sing about how He saves us and watches over us. Sing Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Lift Up My Eyes."

Sing: "I Am with You" as offering is collected.

In today's story, we will hear how Naomi's friends praised God for the way He blessed Naomi. Let's give all our praise now to our God who sits on the throne. Sing: "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" and "How Great Is Our God."



Perform King City Chronicles script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 7, Lesson 36.



You may also choose to sing songs that focus on Jesus as our Redeemer and Savior.



God blesses Naomi and Ruth

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned God chose Samson to be judge over Israel for 20 years. He gave Samson great strength. Can you tell me some of the things Samson did when the Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power? (Samson defeated a lion, defeated 1,000 men with a donkey's jaw bone, destroyed the Philistine's temple, etc.)

Today, we will learn about Ruth. If a Bible Timeline is available, point out Ruth. For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the Got Time? segment of this lesson. **We don't know exactly when Ruth lived but we do know it was during the time when judges ruled over Israel. During those years, there was a famine in the land. That means there was not enough food to eat. Because of the family, a woman named Naomi moved with her husband and sons to Moab. In Moab, one of Naomi's sons married a woman named Ruth. Later, when Naomi's husband and sons died, Ruth and Naomi were very sad. Naomi wanted to return to her home with God's people in Bethlehem.** If a map is available, track the route from Moab/modern day Jordan, moving north and around the Dead Sea, and then to Bethlehem. **Naomi told Ruth to go back to her people in Moab. Check out what Ruth said about this.**



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals Bible Story Scripture reference: Ruth 1:16; 2:8-12; 4:14-17.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Let's start with Ruth 1:16 and see what Ruth said to Naomi. Read Ruth 1:16.

When they got to Bethlehem, Naomi and Ruth needed food. Ruth worked in the fields gathering leftover grain for food. That is how Ruth met Boaz. Boaz, the owner of the field, saw her hard at work. Let's read what he said to Ruth. Read Ruth 2:8-12.

Boaz was called the kinsman-redeemer for Naomi and Ruth because he protected them by buying Naomi's land and marrying Ruth. Then God blessed Ruth and Boaz with a son. Check out what Naomi's friends said about the way God had blessed her. Read Ruth 4:14-17.



God brings good from hard times

THE WAY

Ruth came from the land of Moab where they worshiped false gods. Naomi was her mother-in-law. She believed in the one true God. She was God's gift to Ruth. Through their friendship, Ruth became a believer. Ruth told Naomi, "Your people will be my people, your God my God."

Do you know someone who does not believe in God or does not come to church to worship God? If so, stand up. Some children will stand. Have them remain standing. Each of you standing is God's gift to the one who doesn't know God. By just being a good friend, you can help that person know God's love. Have the children be seated.

Naomi and Ruth went through hard times. They were alone in Moab and had to make the long journey back to Bethlehem. But, God blessed Naomi by giving her Ruth as a loyal daughter-in-law. Ruth had a hard time finding food and money for herself and Naomi. God blessed Ruth and brought good from her hard times. One good gift Ruth received was that she became one of God's people. When Naomi and Ruth were alone in Bethlehem, how did God bless them with food? (Ruth worked in the fields and Boaz helped her so she and Naomi could have food.) How did God bless them with a family? (Ruth married Boaz and they had a son.)

What did Naomi's friends do when Naomi's grandson was born? (They praised God.) The women praised God for blessing Naomi with three wonderful gifts: Boaz as a protector, Ruth as a loyal daughter-in-law, and Obed as a grandson!

Have you or your family ever gone through hard times? (Children respond.) How did God bless you and bring good from those hard times? (Children respond.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Why did Naomi's friends praise God? (God had blessed Naomi.) Naomi's friends knew her blessings were from God. God also greatly blessed Ruth with good gifts. More than 1000 years later, the disciple James wrote about the good gifts we each receive.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: James 1:17. Let's find this scripture. Read James 1:17.

If time allows, praise God for His good and perfect gifts by playing the PASS THE PRAISE located in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

The Bible says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a shaft of wheat. Take it home and tell everyone how Ruth collected wheat from Boaz's fields. He saved her from a very hard life. Tell them about Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in their completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 36 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Ruth collecting wheat in Boaz's field.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Lift Up My Eyes," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: GLEANING WHEAT

Purpose: Children eat a snack made from wheat and discuss Ruth's work in Boaz's wheat fields.

Supplies: Wheat crackers and cheese or wheat bread and butter

Boaz let Ruth glean wheat from his field. That means she was allowed to pick up the wheat left behind by the harvesters so she and Naomi could have food to eat. Boaz wanted to make sure Ruth was safe with his family. He bought Naomi's land so he could marry Ruth, rescuing her from a very hard life. As we eat our wheat snack, I would like to hear about some rescues you have seen.

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is a rescue you have seen?"**

GAME: PASS THE PRAISE

Purpose: To introduce the story of Ruth and her travels with Naomi.

Supplies: Shaft of wheat (Today's Treasure Treat.)

Naomi's friends praised God for the way He blessed Naomi. Let's pass the shaft of wheat as we pass the praise. When it is your turn to hold the wheat, praise God for the way God has blessed one of your friends or someone you know.

Directions:

1. Seat children in a circle.
2. Pass the wheat shaft to the first child.
3. Child describes a way God has blessed his or her friend.
4. Children continue to pass the shaft until each child has a turn.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: BLESSINGS ENVELOPE

Purpose: Decorate a blessings envelope to remind children how God brings good from hard times.

Supplies: White standard size envelope, crayons, additional black crayons, slips of paper, pencils, coins.

Prepare: Display the word "**Blessings**" on a poster or dry erase board.

Today, we have been learning how God brings good from hard times. Let's make an envelope that shows the word, "Blessings," coming out of the darkest black color. The darkness stands for hard times, and the word blessing stands for the good that can come from hard times.

Directions:

1. Cover front of envelope by coloring it with bright colors. Press hard as you color.
2. Using black crayon, color over the colored front of envelope until it is covered in black.
3. Use a coin to scrape out the word "**Blessings**" on the black envelope. The colors below should show through.
4. Print a blessing you have received during hard times on a slip of paper.
5. Place the slip of paper in the envelope.

Keep this envelope at home. Whenever you are going through a hard time, look for the blessings God brings from hard times. Print the blessings you see on a slip of paper and add them to your envelope.

DISCUSSION: RUTH'S RELATIVES

Purpose: To see how God blessed Ruth by placing her in the lineage of David and Jesus.

Supplies: Bible, open to Ruth 4:17

Today's story took place in Moab and in Bethlehem. God blessed Ruth and Boaz with a son. Read Ruth 4:17. What was their son's name? (Obed.) Obed was born in Bethlehem. Who was Obed's grandson? (David.) That means Ruth was King David's great-grandmother.

David was from Bethlehem. That's why Bethlehem is called the City of David. Who else was born in Bethlehem? (Jesus.) Did you know Jesus came from David's family? (Explain that David is an ancestor of Jesus.)

Ruth was a foreigner. God richly blessed her by making her one of His people. She was given the position of honor as King David's great-grandmother and as an ancestor of Jesus.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." "He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."
"The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." Psalm 121:1, 2, 4, 8

GAME: WATCH TAG

Purpose: Children learn and practice the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse by playing a game of tag.

Supplies: Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster

Just as God watches over you to help you, the Watchman in this game helps you learn each part of the Bible Memory Verse.

Directions:

1. Point out that each sentence of the Bible Memory Verse is a verse. Say all four verses together.
2. Choose one child to be "the Watchman." The Watchman chases and tags other children.
3. Tagged children must freeze and say one of the four sentences of the Bible Memory Verse to play again. By the end of the game, encourage children to say the sentences from the Bible Memory Verse without looking at the poster.
4. Children take turns as the Watchman.

GAME: HOT POTATO SCRAMBLE

Purpose: In this variation of the Hot Potato game, children quickly pass their paper potatoes around the circle. When the music stops, the children put the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse in order.

Supplies: Sturdy brown paper, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Lift Up My Eyes," CD player, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: From sturdy brown paper, cut 8 potato shapes. Divide the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse into eight phrases. Write a different phrase on each potato. Display the Bible Memory Verse poster. For groups smaller than 8, cut 4 potatoes and put a verse on each potato.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a large circle.
2. Repeat the Bible Memory Verse several times together.
3. Scramble the order of the paper potatoes ("hot potatoes").
4. Give a hot potato to 8 of the children in the circle.
5. Teacher begins chanting or playing the Bible Memory Verse song.
6. As if the potatoes are too hot to hold, each child quickly passes hot potatoes to the child on their left and receives hot potatoes from the right. Continue passing potatoes until the song is stopped.
7. When the teacher stops the song, instruct the children who have a hot potato to race to the center of the circle and place their hot potatoes in the correct order.
8. If time allows, repeat steps 3-8.

Teacher Tip: For non-readers, replace key words such as eyes, hills, watches, sleep, and earth with drawings or pictures. Another option would be to use four potatoes and write the number 1, 2, 3, or 4 on each potato. When the music stops, the children with the potatoes recite the four verses in order.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Judges through Esther. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Gideon (Circa 1250 B.C.) Why did Gideon put the fleece out overnight? (To test and see if God was with him.) **What three unusual weapons did Gideon's 300 men use?** (Trumpets, empty jars and torches.) **What did the Midianites do when they heard 300 trumpets and loud crashes, and saw 300 lights surrounding their camp?** (They ran away.)

Samson (Circa 1150 B.C.) What happened to Samson each time before he showed amazing strength? (The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power.) **At that time, who was the enemy of the Israelites?** (The Philistines.) **Who was the Philistine woman that learned the secret of Samson's strength?** (Delilah.)

Ruth (There is no specific date recorded, but Ruth lived during the time when judges ruled over Israel.) **What was the promise Ruth made to Naomi?** ("Where you go I will go...Your people will be my people and your God my God.") **How did God bless Ruth?** (He made her one of His people, gave her a kinsman-redeemer who became her husband named Boaz, and gave her a son named Obed.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Judges through Esther:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 card for Kings & Kingdoms Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Judges – Esther: Deborah (Circa 1350 B.C.) > Gideon (Circa 1250 B.C.) > Samson (Circa 1150 B.C.) > Ruth > Samuel (Circa 1100 B.C.) > Saul (Circa 1050 B.C.) > David (Circa 1020 B.C.) > Solomon (Circa 970 B.C.) > Josiah (Circa 640 B.C.) > Ezra (Circa 500 B.C.) > Esther (Circa 470 B.C.) > Nehemiah (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)

Teacher Tip: To view Bible Timeline and lessons from Genesis through Joshua, see Year One, God of Wonders Lessons 22-47.