



PRESCHOOL

GOD BLESSES (1.11) - CYCLE 3
NOVEMBER 11, 2018

Bible Story: (Ruth)

Bible Passage: Ruth 1–4

CONNECT

9:45AM - 10:45AM



PRAYERS & PRAISES

SUPPLIES:

- Prayers & Praises book
- Index cards
- Pen or marker

DIRECTIONS: Ask them to have a seat in a circle before moving into a time of Prayers & Praises. Open the treasure trunk and take the prayers and praises book out the trunk. Go around the circle and let the kids share their prayer requests and praises. Remind the kids that when we pray to God, he hears us. You can tell Him whatever you want to say. I'll start. "God, thank You for all You have done." Give children time to participate. Encourage them to speak their own words or repeat the words you offered. Close as the Holy Spirit directs you, and then transition into a time of prayer for individual requests and praises. Now let's share how we can pray for each other.

MEMORY VERSE

SUPPLIES:

- Remember Verse Cards
- Bedsheet (flat)
- Tennis balls (5)

DIRECTIONS

Have each of the kids hold on to the edge of a bedsheet. Place the tennis balls in the middle of the sheet. Encourage the children to experiment with bouncing the balls up and down on the sheet. Once you're ready to begin, let them know that their goal is to bounce the balls on the sheet five times without dropping any.

LET'S STICK TOGETHER

SUPPLIES:

- Craft pom-poms (15-20 per child)
- Packing tape (6" piece per child)
- Bin or box
- Watch or timer

RELATE

Find an area on the floor where you can place the pom-poms. The children will need a strip of wide tape to loop around one of their hands or to simply hold. You can use the pom-poms in the optional activity. After you're finished with Prayers & Praises, get ready to play a game. Friends, today we learned about some very special people in The Big God Story. God blessed others in many different ways through these special people. A God blessed Naomi with Ruth. Naomi told Ruth she could go home to her parents, but Ruth said, "Let's stick together!" She didn't leave Naomi when things were hard.

We're going to have some fun now with some other things that stick together! Explain to the children that they are to use their tape to pick up the pom-poms as fast as they can. They'll all be working together as a group. They should not use their hands to grab the pom-poms, but simply try to get them to stick to the tape. Once they have a few pom-poms on their tape, they should remove them and put them in the bin. See how fast the kids can do this, working together as a group. Time them doing this activity a few times using the same amount of pom-poms to see if they can beat their earlier time.

SORTING IT OUT

SUPPLIES:

- Uncooked rice (enough to fill bins/boxes 2/3 full)
- Dried beans (enough to fill bins/boxes 2/3 full)
- Shoe boxes or plastic bins
- Disposable cups (3-4 per bin/box)
- Optional: plastic tablecloth or trash bag

DIRECTIONS:

Fill a box or bin with a mix of uncooked rice and dried beans. Depending on how many kids are in your class, you may want to prepare a couple of bins so that all of the children can do the activity at the same time. Place the bin(s) in an area where children can easily see and reach into them. You might want to place some paper or a trash bag under the bin(s) to help contain any messes. The children will use the cups as scoops as they explore the rice. Show them that the bins contain beans mixed with rice. Explain that they have the next few minutes to use the cups as well as their hands to sort through the rice. Encourage them to try to gather some beans, or simply experiment with drawing in the rice and making shapes. While they're exploring the rice, ask them about their observations. What do you see in these bins? What would we normally do with these items? What can we make out of these? Where do these come from? How do you think farmers get the part we want to eat out of the plants in the fields? Interact with their responses. Today we're going to learn about a woman who served God and blessed her family by working hard to gather food that would have looked kind of like this. As the kids gather the items in the bins, have them turn to one another to talk about how God has blessed them through the gift of food. Prompt them to ask each other questions such as: What is your favorite food? What is your least favorite food? Who gives you the food you eat? Then come together to ask: What is a way you can show thankfulness for the food you eat every day?

CHAT & CHEW

SUPPLIES:

- Snack Supplies
- Children's Bible

RELATE

Invite children to enjoy a snack together. As they are eating, **introduce the story for the day by reading it from the Children's Story Book Bible.** After you have read the story, ask the kids some questions about the story. During this time, make sure to take kids to the bathroom so that they don't have to leave during the large group lesson. This is a time when you can get to know your students individually and make them feel special.

CHLOE'S RULES

SUPPLIES

- Chloe's Rules videos or scripts (see Resources)
- Chloe (puppet or person)

POWER-POINT: CHLOE'S RULES

DIRECTIONS:

(Cue Chloe's Rules) Welcome children as they're entering the large group meeting area. Tech: Cue Chloe's Rules video. The theme song will play as the Worship Leader/ Host enters and makes his way up front, welcoming and greeting children along the way. This should be a high-energy entrance. Tech: Cue preschool program theme song. Choose and play two upbeat worship songs of your choice from a worship album that complements the theme and focus of the lesson.

WORSHIP

SUPPLIES:

- Music Slides

POWER-POINT: MUSIC SLIDES

DIRECTIONS:

(Cue Music Slides) After the kids have gotten settled, invite them to the rug to sing. "It's so good to be able to sing praises to Jesus today. We can be confident that He has done great things, and that He'll continue to do great things. Are you ready to sing that Jesus is better than the best thing? (Pause for reaction.)

THE BIG GOD STORY

Joshua 2; 5:13–6:27

Storytelling Technique: Images, Puppets

SUPPLIES:

- Puppets: Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz (see Resources)
- Scissors
- Family Tree (see Resources)
- Healthy Field and Barren Field images (see Resources)
- Craft sticks (3)
- Tape

PREPARE AHEAD:

Print out the Puppets and Family Tree and cut each one out. Tape each to a craft stick. Tape the Healthy Field and Barren Field images to the wall near where you will storytell

DIRECTIONS:

. Friends, will you pray with me? Let's ask God to speak to us and teach us. Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask God to quiet their hearts and minds. What do you see in this picture? **Point to the image of the Healthy Field.** Children will answer. That's right—a field of grain! What do people do with grain? Children will answer. Yes, they eat it! In today's part of The Big God Story, we're going to hear about people gathering grain for food. Are you ready? Let's go! Open your Bible as you begin to storytell.

Years after God broke down the wall of Jericho, a famine swept over the land. What is a famine? **Children will answer.** A famine is when there's not enough food to eat. Point to the image of the Barren Field. Because of this famine, many people left for a place where they would have food. One of these people was a woman named Naomi. **Hold Naomi puppet in front of the Barren Field.**

Naomi moved with her husband and two sons. Later, her husband and two sons died. It was a very sad time for Naomi and for her son's wives. The first daughter-in-law left and returned to her parents' home. Naomi blessed her as she said good-bye. Naomi tried to convince her second daughter-in-law, Ruth (**hold up Ruth puppet**), to return to her parent's home, saying (**"speak" with Naomi puppet**): "Your sister-in-law is going back ... Go back with her."

But Ruth replied (**speak with Ruth puppet**), "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:15-16. Why didn't Ruth want to go home? Pause for children to answer. How do you think this made Naomi feel? **Hold up Naomi puppet.** Children will answer. How would you feel if someone did this for you? Children will answer; interact with their responses. Friends, God was blessing Naomi through Ruth.

Once the famine ended, Naomi and Ruth headed back to Naomi's home. Ruth and Naomi needed food, so Ruth went to a field (**move Ruth puppet in front of Healthy Field background**) to gather the extra grain the farmers had left behind. The Lord God was working through Ruth to bless Naomi. The field where Ruth was gathering grain belonged to a man named Boaz. Hold up Boaz puppet.

When he heard how hard Ruth was working to care for her mother-in-law by gathering grain to eat, Boaz said (**"speak" with Boaz puppet**): "Listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me." Ruth 2:8-9. To glean is another way to say gather or collect. Boaz wanted Ruth to gather grain from his land because he wanted Ruth and Naomi to have good food to eat. God was now blessing both Ruth and Naomi through Boaz. **Hold up Ruth and Naomi puppets.**

Time passed and Boaz and Ruth got married! **Hold up Ruth and Boaz puppets.** When the time came, they had a son named Obed. Hold up Family Tree as you tell this part. Point out the names as you speak them. Obed grew up and had a son named Jesse who grew up and had a son named David who grew up to be the king of Israel! King David's children had children, and their children had children, until a boy named Joseph and a girl named Mary were born. Joseph and Mary eventually got married and became the earthly parents of Jesus! Isn't that amazing? Jesus came from Ruth and Boaz's family!

God has been blessing and is still blessing the entire world through Ruth and Boaz! Jesus is from Ruth and Boaz's family, and we've all been blessed through Jesus. Through Jesus, God made a way for us to be with Him forever and ever. And that's the biggest blessing of all!

WONDER QUESTIONS:

Today in The Big God Story we heard how God used Ruth and Boaz to bless their family as they served others. We also saw how God used them to bless the world through their family. Jesus, the promised Savior, came from Ruth and Boaz's family!

I wonder ... How did Ruth serve Naomi?

I wonder ... How did Boaz bless Ruth and Naomi?

I wonder ... Who does God use to bless me?

I wonder ... How does God want me to bless others?

SERVE

11:45AM - 12:15AM



STOP AND SMELL THE BLESSINGS

SUPPLIES:

- Construction paper (light colors; 1 per child)
- Glue (several bottles per table)
- Craft pom-poms
- Markers

PREPARE AHEAD:

Fold the construction paper in half, as a card, one per child.

RELATE

After you're finished playing the game, gather the kids together for a time of further response. Today in The Big God Story, we saw how God blesses us through others. He also works in and through us to bless others. Now, we have a chance to say thank you to the actual people who are obeying God to bless us. Maybe it's one of your parents, a grandparent, a sibling, or a friend. Let's serve God by creating cards for these people to tell them how thankful we are for them!

Explain that the children will have some time to decorate the front of their cards with markers and/or by gluing the pom-poms to the card. Encourage the kids to think about creating an image that the person they want to thank would really like. Would mom like some flowers? Would grandma like a nice big sun? You'll want to make your way around to each child as they're working and see if you can help them by writing a simple message on the inside of the card such as: "Mom, you are a blessing to me!" (It can be to Mom and Dad, too!)