

EVER AFTER (PRESCHOOL)

WEEK 3

BIG IDEA

God gives us boldness.

Bible

Ruth Asks Boaz for Help: Ruth 3

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Enchanted Tunes

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)*
 - "God Is Always Working" (Kidspring)
 - "Thank You Lord For Making Me" (CAM ArtMade)
 - "Love Won't Let Me Down" (Table Kids)
 - "Thank You" (Orange Kids Music)

ACTIVITY | Escape the Dungeon

- Hello everyone! Today we are going to hear a story about how Ruth had to be super brave!
- Let's play a game together where we get to be heroes!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids gathered on one side of the room. Station three leaders between the kids and the opposite wall, and have each of them wearing a sign that has a picture of a [dungeon](#), [troll](#), or [dragon](#). When you say go, have kids rush up to the first leader (dungeon), and play Rock, Paper, Scissors as a group. Anyone who beats the leader gets to move on to the next station (troll). Have kids keep trying until they win and move on. Play until everyone gets past the last leader (dragon) to reach the opposite wall.*
 - **TODDLER HACK:** *Instead of having toddlers play rock, paper, scissors to get past the leaders, give them a simple task they have to do (e.g., spin around, squat down, hop around, etc.).*
- Great job escaping the dungeon, dodging the troll, and defeating the dragon. You were so bold — which is another word for brave!

ACTIVITY | Tape Rescue

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Kids will learn to be brave and come to the rescue with [this activity!](#) Choose plastic figures that might make kids feel squeamish, like plastic bugs, that can be taped down to a surface for the kids to "free." Tape them to a desk, wall, or even use baking sheets so kids can work in pairs.
- Oh no! It looks like these bugs are trapped! They look kind of scary to touch.
- **Do you think you can still be brave and rescue them?**

TEACHING TIME

BIBLE STORY | Ruth Asks Boaz for Help

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up the cozy Bible storytime area like last week along with your selected storyteller headpiece. Invite a kid volunteer to play Ruth and help you tell today's story from Ruth 3.
- Yay, it's Bible story time! We are continuing the story of Ruth. Let's see how much we remember so far.
 - **What happened that made Naomi and Ruth move back to Naomi's hometown?** They lost all their family members.
 - **What did Ruth do to provide food for herself and Naomi?** She worked in the fields and collected the grain that was left over.
 - **What was the name of the owner of the field?** Boaz.
- Excellent. So Ruth met Boaz, and Boaz was very kind to her. He made sure she could collect as much grain as she wanted. He also kept her safe by telling the other workers to keep an eye out for her.
- When Naomi found out that Ruth met Boaz, she was so happy! Do you know why?
 - Boaz was from her own family. He was a close enough relative that he could buy the lands that belonged to her family and continue the family line.
 - The only thing he would have to do is marry Ruth.
- So one night, Naomi told Ruth to go to the fields where Boaz was sleeping. [*Lie down on floor with pillow and blanket.*]
 - She told Ruth to lift the blanket off of Boaz' feet, then lie down nearby. [*Prompt volunteer to do so.*]
 - Ruth did these things and waited.
- In the middle of night, Boaz woke up . . . probably because someone moved his blanket! He went to adjust his blanket and guess who he saw there? Ruth!
- Boaz wondered what Ruth was doing there, and she explained everything Naomi told her. She told him that if he would become her husband, he could help her and Naomi in a big way.
- Boaz thought Ruth was very brave for asking him to help her. He said he would do everything he could to make it happen!

BIG IDEA | God gives us boldness.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the same volunteer or puppet as last time deliver the Big Idea to

you (written on a paper rolled into a scroll). Have the kids join you in singing the same fairytale riff you used last week to call this fairytale friend in!

- *[Volunteer appears early from behind with Big Idea paper.]*
- Ahhh! Fairytale friend! You startled me! You're a bit early, don't you think? We haven't called you yet. Do you think you can come back later?
- *[Volunteer taps feet impatiently and motions for leader to take the Big Idea paper.]*
- Oh alright then. Thank you . . . you're too good at your job!
- Today's Big Idea is: **God gives us boldness!**
- Let's use some motions to say our Big Idea today!
 - **God** (*point up*)
 - **gives us** (*point to self*)
 - **boldness!** (*demonstrate the [sign language for bold/brave](#)*)

VIDEO | Ever After, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).*

ACTIVITY | What's in the Box?

- **INSTRUCTION:** *Place four tissue boxes with one item per box in front of you. Put these items in each box: cooked spaghetti or ramen noodles, a toy spider, slime, and feathers. Pick a box and pretend that you are scared of feeling what's inside. Ask for help from some kids later.*
 - **TODDLER HACK:** *Place all the items on a tray and let toddlers try touching each item. How does each item feel? Be careful that none of the items get ingested.*
- I'm not sure what's inside each box. What if it's a spider? Or a frog? Or something squishy and yucky?
- Because I don't know what's inside the box, I am afraid to put my hand in. Just like that, Ruth and Naomi didn't know what was going to happen in the future. They were probably worried and didn't know what to do.
- **But what did they do that changed all that?** That's right - they asked for help. God helped Ruth to be brave. God gave her boldness to ask Boaz for help.
- **Who would like to help me reach into these other boxes?**
- Before you reach in the box say, "**God gives us boldness!**"
- Wow, that was a lot easier because I asked for help. Thanks for helping me be bold!

PRAYER

- Dear Jesus, thank you for helping Ruth to be brave so that she could be bold and ask Boaz for help. Would you give us boldness when we feel afraid or we need to try something new? Thank you for the promise that you are always with us and will never leave us. Amen.

SNACK | Alice's Toadstools

- **INSTRUCTION:** Prepare these [toadstool snacks](#) by using cream cheese to attach cherry tomatoes or raspberries on top of string cheese "stumps." You could choose to show [this clip](#) from *Alice in Wonderland* while kids munch if you'd like!
- There's a fun story about a girl named Alice who gets lost in a place called Wonderland, which is full of very strange things.
 - Alice had to be bold as she traveled around Wonderland because lots of weird things happened.
 - For example, she finds a mushroom where if she eats one side she gets really tall, and if she eats the other side, she gets really small.
 - It's a good thing what she ate wasn't a toadstool because lots of toadstools are poisonous! (Don't worry — our snacks are not!)
- **God gives us boldness.** That means, like Alice, we can try new things. But we also need to be careful and ask for help when we aren't sure . . . like Ruth did!

ACTIVITY | Coat of Arms

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a printable, some drawing tools, along with [rubber stamps](#) and [inkpads](#) (or [stickers](#)). Cut and glue onto [cake boards](#) for kids to have their own shields.
 - **TODDLER HACK:** Create foam cutouts of shields for toddlers to stick on foam stickers. Or provide toddlers with [foam shields and swords](#) to play with.
- One of the boldest characters we hear about in fairytales is a knight!
- A lot of knights would decorate their shields or carry banners that had a coat of arms on them. A coat of arms was made out of pictures or words that let everyone know who they were and where they came from.
- We may not be knights, but we can be just as strong and brave because **God gives us boldness!**

ACTIVITY | Bouncing Boldness

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids sit in a circle around you. Hold a ball and toss it to a kid and ask them one of the questions below. Have them toss the ball back to you after they answer. Repeat until everyone had a chance to respond. (For more active play, try playing dodgeball with a beach ball. Whoever gets tagged by the ball gets to answer the question while everyone else freezes.)
- **What can you do to be bold when . . .**
 - **You feel afraid of the dark?**
 - **You have to try something new?**
 - **It's the first day of school?**
 - **You see someone who looks lonely?**
- God gave Ruth boldness to survive in a new land and to ask for help from the right people. We can be brave – just like Ruth was – because **God gives us boldness.**

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 121:8

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather kids in a circle, hold hands, and spread out as wide as you can go. Have kids repeat after you as you do the motions in parentheses together.*
- **The Lord will watch over** *(hold hands while standing in circle)*
- **Your coming** *(raise your arms up and walk into the circle)*
- **And going** *(lower your arms and spread out again)*
- **Both now and forevermore!** *(walk together in a circle)*
- **Psalm 121:8** *(stomp your feet in rhythm)*

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTION:** *Print and distribute this week's coloring page along with crayons or markers. Discuss today's Bible story and Big Idea as kids color.*

ACTIVITY | Bold as a Beanstalk

- **Who knows the story of Jack and the Beanstalk?**
 - Jack's family was very poor. One day he sold his cow for magic beans. The beans grew into an enormous beanstalk!
 - Jack climbed the beanstalk and found himself in the home of a terrible giant. Jack had to be bold enough to sneak past the giant and get back home!
- Can we be as bold as Jack? Let's find out!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare a [fake beanstalk](#) by using green pool noodles. Make leaves out of green construction paper and tape them in any order around the pool noodles. Have a leader be the "giant" pretending to sleep, holding the "beanstalk" straight. Kids need to sneak up and grab a leaf off of the beanstalk and run back to their starting line. The giant should warn the kids they are about to wake up by saying, "Fee-fi-fo-fum!" If the giant tags the kids before they get back to the starting line, they need to give up a leaf. Play until kids collect all the leaves!*

ACTIVITY | Big, Bigger, Biggest Castle!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Using painter's tape, create three vertical lines (small, medium, and tall) on the wall, beginning at the floor, in a place where there is plenty of room for kids to build with blocks. Invite the kids to build a castle tower as "tall" as each strip of tape.*