

EVER AFTER

WEEK 3

BIG IDEA

God gives us boldness.

Bible

Ruth and Naomi Leave Moab: Ruth 3; Psalm 42

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT?

MUSIC | Worship

- **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!](#)*
 - "Something Good" (Gateway Kids Worship)
 - "Never Gonna Stop" (Bright Ones)
 - "My Best Friend" (Hillsong Kids)
 - "I Am Yours" (Life Church Kids Worship)

ACTIVITY | Troll, Dungeon, Dragon

- It's another week of *Ever After*, where we discover how the stories about God are even better than famous fairy tales!
- In today's story, we are going to find out that Ruth had to be extra bold so let's start off with a game involving some of the most dreadful challenges in fairy tales - trolls, dungeons, and dragons!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This game is similar to "Rock, Paper, Scissors." Pair up the kids and have them stand back to back. On the count of three, kids will choose one of the three options to face their opponent. Explain that Troll beats Dragon, Dragon beats Dungeon, and Dungeon beats Troll. The winners of each round move on to play other winners until there is only one champion. Whenever players are out, have them form a circle around the remaining players to create a makeshift arena where they can cheer!*
 - **Troll** - Stick your tongue out.

- **Dragon** - Put your arms out like you are flying.
- **Dungeon** - Put your arms up in the shape of a cave.
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Have kids go around playing rock, paper, scissors the usual way, but have Troll, Dungeon, and Dragon be "levels" they need to achieve. Have everyone start out as "dungeon." After they win a match, they "level up" and now walk around acting out the movement for "troll." If they lose, they level back down. The next match they win gets them to "dragon" and that level is locked in, even if they lose. Keep playing until everyone achieves dragon status.
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For kids with mobility concerns, have kids play rock, paper, scissors using the traditional hand movements, but rename them so that rock = troll, paper = dungeon, and scissors = dragon.

ACTIVITY | One-Sentence Story

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out two index cards to each kid. On one card, have them write one thing they are afraid of. On the other card, have them write one thing they do when they are afraid. Collect the cards and put them in two separate bins. Then pull out a card from each bin at random and tell an epic one-sentence story using the cards (e.g., "Once upon a time, the fearless princess defeated the dreadful tarantula using the ancient art of hiding under the covers"). Invite volunteers to come up one at a time and do the same.
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Rephrase the question to "What's something you were afraid of when you were younger?" It removes some of the vulnerability and discomfort and gets preteens laughing about how silly they were as "little kids." You can also look at some of the most common phobias and play a scaled-down version of Fear Factor challenges. Check out [this link](#) for a few fun ideas!
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Play this [video](#) that shows different fears kids have. You can pause occasionally and ask kids to raise their hands if they are afraid of the same things.
- We are all afraid of different things and we all react to them in different ways.
- There is no one right way to be brave and bold but God promises to be with us through those kinds of situations!

POLL | Bold Examples

- Being bold is not just about conquering fears. It can mean being confident in a decision you make or taking a calculated risk even though you know things could go badly.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask kids which of the following are examples of being bold. If they agree, have them **BOLDLY** (har har) stand up with their arms crossed in front of them. If they don't think it's boldness, have them remain seated. After each one, ask kids why they responded the way they did.
 - Riding a scary roller coaster.
 - Catching a lizard in a paper cup.
 - Jumping into the swimming pool without getting used to the water.
 - Giving a speech in front of hundreds of people.
 - Standing up to someone who is being unkind.
 - Dressing in clothes that are not in style.
 - Admitting you made a mistake and apologizing for it.
 - Starting up a conversation with someone new.
 - Answering a question even though you're not sure if your answer is right.
- See? Boldness takes many forms! Let's see what it looks like in today's story.

SO WHAT?

BIBLE STORY | Ruth Asks Boaz for Help

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Recruit the same volunteer as last time to play the Storybook Maker. Have the Storybook Maker read or summarize the Bible story from Ruth 3 while another volunteer pretends to type occasionally into a typewriter or laptop (or go old-school with parchment and quill!).*
- Good to see you again, my friends! Today, we are joined by a scribe who is going to record the things I say so I can put them into the storybook!
- We are halfway through the story of our heroine, Ruth, who had just found favor with a man named Boaz who owned the field where Ruth collected grain. I can't wait to tell you this next part. Let's dive into chapter three!
- Even before Naomi and Ruth got to Bethlehem, Naomi had always been concerned for Ruth.
 - So far Ruth was proving to be hard-working and resourceful, taking care of Naomi in a foreign land.
 - Naomi couldn't do much for Ruth in return, but she thought of a way that Ruth could be taken care of by someone else.
- Once she learned that Ruth had met Boaz, Naomi's eyes lit up.
 - Boaz was not just any relative of her late husband's. He was someone called a guardian-redeemer (*or kinsman-redeemer*) of the family.
 - According to the law, Boaz could step in and take the place of Naomi's husband and son's family line. He could purchase all of the property as his own . . . but he could only do this if he married Ruth.
- Ooh, the plot thickens! So one day, Naomi set a plan in motion.
 - People like Boaz often slept with their grain – most likely to protect it from thieves – and that night would be no different.
 - Naomi instructed Ruth to dress up nicely and find Boaz where he was sleeping. She was to go lie down near his feet and wait for him to wake up.
 - Peculiar, right? Ruth had no idea what would happen to her or what people would think of her actions. But she said she would do everything Naomi told her to do. And she did.
- Boaz woke up in the middle of the night and was startled to see Ruth was there!
 - Ruth told Boaz that as a guardian-redeemer for the family, he had the opportunity to acquire all of Naomi's husband's lands if he would marry her.
 - Boaz was moved by how brave Ruth was being by coming to him. He said he would absolutely help her with this to the best of his ability.
- Ruth returned home in the morning and told Naomi the good news. The women had done all they could do in the matter. It was all up to Boaz now!

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).*
- *[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!**

VIDEO | Ever After, Episode 3

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

ACTIVITY | Story Timeline

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print out a story timeline template for each kid. Review the story of Ruth and add the different parts of the story to the timeline.*
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Print out photos or clipart images to place in the timeline for kids with writing difficulties.*
- Let's create a story timeline to help us remember the story of Ruth up to this point.
- Draw or write all that has happened to Ruth so far.
- Highlight any part of the story where Ruth showed boldness.

OBJECT LESSON | Fear Box

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *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're struggling to put your hand inside to feel what it is a few times before you invite a volunteer to do it for you. Make sure you heighten the suspense a little to make it seem like something spooky is inside. Have them guess what it is they're feeling then show the group. Repeat for remaining boxes.*
- Wow, you all are bold! I was a little scared but it turns out it wasn't anything to be afraid of.
- There's always a certain amount of fear that comes with not knowing what lies ahead, or what's inside a box. And being afraid is not always a bad thing . . . sometimes you need to first have fear before you can be brave about it!
- Ruth must have been afraid of a ton of things as she followed Naomi's instructions about approaching Boaz. But she decided to be bold instead and she was able to turn things around.
- The best part is, **God gives us boldness**, too, when we follow the plans God has for us.

BIBLE | Psalm 42

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Psalm 42. Write or project Psalm 42:5(11) so that kids can read it together when you get to those verses.*
- **What feelings do you sense from the psalmist in this passage?**
- The writer of this psalm seems to be feeling everything from hopelessness to fear. Maybe

we don't express it using these words, but these are natural emotions to have.

- Even Jesus had them! You know how in verse 9, the psalmist says, "Why have you forgotten me?" Jesus said something really similar when he was on the cross about to die. He felt betrayed, alone, and probably even afraid. But even through all of that, Jesus trusted God, and that is the only reason he was able to continue on.
- Whatever we're facing will not be anywhere near as hard as what Jesus went through, but we can be bold just the same because **God gives us boldness**. It takes boldness to put our hope in God!

NOW WHAT?

REFLECTION | Mulan's Boldness

- Have you ever noticed that a lot of classic fairy tales are about a princess that needs to be rescued by a knight in shining armor? Those are fun and all, but the story of Ruth reminds us that in some fairy tales, the "princess" already has everything she needs to overcome her situation.
- At first glance, the story of Ruth might appear to be simply about a woman trying to find a new husband, but as we learned today, she does a fair amount of work to survive on her own!
- The story of Mulan is another one that doesn't play out the way typical fairy tales do.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this clip](#) (or a part of it) from *Mulan*.
- **What are the different ways Mulan was bold in this video?**
- **Do you see any similarities between Mulan and Ruth?**
- Both of these women were expected to fulfill their duties only as someone's wife. But they both were so much more than that.
 - Mulan decided to enlist in the army to spare her father from having to fight, during a time she could have been sentenced to death for doing so.
 - Ruth went out and found ways to provide for her only remaining family member in a land where she was seen as a foreigner. Even the way she went to Boaz for help was unusually brave.
- Both of these heroines show us that in order to be bold, we sometimes need to disregard what other people think in favor of doing what is good and what is right. And **God gives us boldness** to do that!

RESPONSE | Plan to be Bold

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a printable, both the planner page and the stickers. Have kids cut and paste the stickers on the day of the week they want to commit to being bold in a specific way.
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Consider printing the sticker page on adhesive paper and cutting them out in advance for kids to easily peel and stick it on their planner page.
- Because **God gives us boldness**, there are things we can do every day to help us be bold!
- List some ways you can be bold. It can be . . .
 - Trying something new
 - Doing what is right
 - Facing a fear
 - Standing up for a person or a cause

- Being honest about something
- Once you are finished writing out as many ideas as you can think of on your stickers, cut them out and glue them on a day of the week you want to try it out!

MEMORY VERSE | Beanstalk Bible Verse

- **Who knows the story of Jack and the Beanstalk?**
 - In short, Jack's family needed help and he trades the family cow for a handful of magic beans, which grow into an enormous beanstalk!
 - Jack climbs the beanstalk and finds himself in the home of a menacing giant. Jack must be bold enough to sneak past the giant and get back home!
- Our beanstalk, however, has the memory verse growing out of it, but not in the right order, so we need your help! Quick! Before the giant wakes up!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare a [fake beanstalk](#) by using green pool noodles. Write the words of the memory verses on green construction paper and tape them in any order around the pool noodles. Have kids collect the leaves and put the verse in order. You can set a timer to see how quickly kids can do this (when the timer rings, say "Fee-fi-fo-fum!") or create two sets and make it a race for added fun!*

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for giving us boldness to do what is good and right. We know that being bold can be intimidating, but we know you are with us. Help us to use the boldness you give us to better serve you and others. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **What did Naomi tell Ruth to do?**
- **How would Boaz be able to help Ruth?**
- **In what ways was Ruth bold in this story?**
- **Read Psalm 42:5. How is this verse about boldness?**
- **Do you consider yourself a bold person? Why or why not?**
- **When is an appropriate time to be bold? When might it not be?**
- **How is asking for help an example of boldness?**

ACTIVITY | Coat of Arms

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a copy of the printable to design their own coat of arms. Have them draw each of the following things in the spaces provided:
 - An animal that represents them (or a favorite animal)
 - An activity they like to do
 - An object that is special to them
 - A symbol or icon that reminds them of being bold
- A lot of fairytales mention knights. Many of them would decorate a coat of arms on their shields or on banners as a way to identify themselves. A coat of arms would have symbols of strength and bravery and even information about their ancestry.
- Let's design our own coat of arms that show who we are when **God gives us boldness!**

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 121:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Psalm121-8.
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."**