



WEEK  
**ONE**  
NOVEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      GROUPS      HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts



## 3. GATHER GRAIN\*

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Allergy Alert Poster," cardstock, two shallow plastic containers, dry rice, and slotted serving spoons; Optional tablecloth or sheet

*\*Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" (in the Prelude folder) and post it at the door to your room.*

### BIBLE STORY

I can thank God  
for family.

**RUTH, NAOMI, AND BOAZ**  
**RUTH 1-2**

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list rice, and post at the door. Fill one container with rice and place at one end of the table with slotted serving spoons. Place the empty container at the other end of the table.

Option: Cover the table with a tablecloth or sheet to make clean up quicker.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage the children to scoop the rice with their spoon and move it to the other container. Talk about how the rice is falling through the spoons and encourage children to help each other.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Introduce today's Bible story by talking about how Ruth gathered grain to help her family.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Always give thanks to God."

**EPHESIANS 5:20, NIRV**

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, join me at the table. Look at what I have for us to explore today. One container is full of rice and the other is empty."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Help me move the grains of rice from this full container to the empty one. Scoop up rice with your spoon, carry it to the empty container, and pour it in. Ready? Go! (Pause.) Wow, [child's name] you are working so hard, but some of your grain is falling to the ground! Can anyone help them? (Pause.) Great job, [child's name]! You are doing a great job helping your friends. (Pause.) Wow, we had fun gathering the grain! You did such a great job helping each other."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "In today's Bible story, a woman named Ruth picks up grain to help feed her family."

### KEY QUESTION

Who can you thank  
for everything?

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by pretending to scoop the grain and pour it into a pretend bucket.

### BOTTOM LINE

I can thank God  
for everything.

### BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



PRELUDE      SOCIAL      WORSHIP      STORY      **GROUPS**      HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO CREATE**  
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



**5. GATHER**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Allergy Alert Poster," "Gather" Activity Page, cardstock, Cheerios®, snack-size resealable bags, foam trays, washi tape, crayons, baby wipes, and a permanent marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list Cheerios, and post at the door. Copy "Gather" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper. Pour a handful of cereal on each foam tray.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Ask children to color their picture. Give each child a baby wipe to clean their hands. Place a tray with cereal at each child's place with an opened bag and ask them to collect the grain from their tray into their bag. Seal each bag and help children tape it to their paper.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bible story.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "We heard a great story about family today. Thank You, God, for giving us people to call family."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "On your paper is a picture of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz. Color your paper. (Pause.) Wipe your hands clean. (Pause.) Ruth helped Naomi by keeping her company while she traveled. Then she found food for them to eat. Ruth gathered grain from Boaz's field. (Give each child a tray with cereal and a bag.) You can pretend to be Ruth and gather the grain in your bag. (Pause.) Great job of gathering all the grain! Let's seal your bag and attach it to your picture. (Help seal and tape the bag to the picture.) Now you have a picture of today's Bible story with grain that you can share with your family and eat later."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "We learned that Naomi's husband and sons had died, and she was sad and alone. So she decided to go back to the town where she grew up. Ruth was married to Naomi's son and said, 'I'm your family, Naomi! Wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you live, I will live.' God gave Naomi family to help her. Thank You, God! When they got to the town where Naomi used to live, they were hungry and needed food. So Ruth went to go look for food. Not far from where they lived, a man named Boaz had people working in his fields gathering all the grain. As the workers picked the grain, they would leave some for people who needed food. Ruth gathered the grain and took it home for her and Naomi to eat.

"When Boaz found out that Naomi was a part of his family, he decided to take care of them and make sure they had plenty of food to eat! God sent MORE family to help! Thank You, God, for giving us people to call family. All families can take care of each other. Thank You, God, for family. Thank You, God, for everything.

**Who can you thank for everything? I can thank God for everything."**

**BIBLE STORY**

I can thank God for family.

**RUTH, NAOMI, AND BOAZ**  
**RUTH 1-2**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"Always give thanks to God."

**EPHESIANS 5:20, NIRV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who can you thank for everything?

**BOTTOM LINE**

I can thank God for everything.

**BASIC TRUTH**

God loves me.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO REFLECT**  
an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



## 6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per small group. Place one card in your Bible at Ephesians 5:20. *Note:* Keep this card in your Bible all month.

### BIBLE STORY

I can thank God for family.

**RUTH, NAOMI, AND BOAZ**  
**RUTH 1-2**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Tell the children to line up with their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. Lead the children to walk this way to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the memory verse and motions, then encourage the children to help you make a list of people in their families.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

### MEMORY VERSE

"Always give thanks to God."

**EPHESIANS 5:20, NIRV**

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "It's Small Group time! When I say your name, line up and put your hands on the shoulders of the person in front of you. (*Help as needed.*) It looks like we're all here! Let's walk to our Small Group spot! (*Lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Here we are! Let's sit down so we can talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (*Open the Bible to the "Memory Verse Card" and lay it open in front of the children.*) "In our Bible story today, we learned about Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz's family. First, there was Naomi. Then God added Ruth to the family. Then God added Boaz to the family. They helped each other, and Naomi was so thankful.

### KEY QUESTION

Who can you thank for everything?

"We can thank God for family, too, because we can thank God for everything! **Who can you thank for everything? I can thank God for everything!** And I have the perfect Bible verse for us to learn that will remind us that we can thank God for everything! It says, 'Always (*draw large circles with index finger*) give thanks (*move flat hand forward from lips*) to God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*),' Ephesians 5:20. (*Open hands like a book.*)

### BOTTOM LINE

I can thank God for everything.

"Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do. 'Always (*draw large circles with index finger*) give thanks (*move flat hand forward from lips*) to God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*),' Ephesians 5:20. (*Open hands like a book.*)

### BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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## (6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"You sound so good! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Pause.*) Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz were family. We have people we call family too. When I say your name, tell me one person in your family, and I'll write their name in our prayer journal. (*Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Thank you for making this list with me. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*)

"Dear God, thank You for giving (*say each child's name*) people like (*read the list the children made*) to call family. Please help us love and take care of our families the way Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz did. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."