



WEEK
ONE
NOVEMBER 2023

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

10 MINUTES

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.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE CHILDREN'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page; cardstock; Bible; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "All I Wanna Do," included in your monthly files; and "God Is Good," available on OrangeKidsMusic.com; Optional Dance Moves Video for "All I Wanna Do," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com, and "God Is Good," available from OrangeKidsMusic.com

Worship Leader enters.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Friends, I'm SO excited to see you today! My name is [your name]. Are you ready to sing and dance and worship God with me? (Pause.) Yay! We're going to have a great month as we throw a parade of thanks! We have so much to be thankful for because God gives us everything we need!"

"When I ask, '**Who can you thank for everything?**', I want you to say, '**I can thank God for everything.**' **Who can you thank for everything?**"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "I can thank God for everything."

WORSHIP LEADER: "Yes, **I can thank God for everything.** Stand up and sing this out with me.

Lead children in singing "All I Wanna Do," this month's worship song.

"What a fun song! The Bible teaches us to '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.)"

"Let's learn our memory verse together. Are you ready? Watch me say it and do the motions, then you can do it with me!"

"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.)"

Lead children to say the memory verse with the motions.

"Great job, friends! We can always give thanks to God because God gives us everything we need! God is so, SO good to us. Sing this with me.

Lead children in singing "God Is Good."



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"Thanks for worshipping with me today! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around, sit down, and shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*) so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"
Host enters as Worship Leader exits.

INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

Host excitedly enters as Worship Leader exits.

HOST: "Hi, friends! Welcome to [your environment's name or story time]! My name is [your name], and I was thinking about all the things we can be thankful for. Then I thought, what if we have a parade? A parade of THANKS! This is so exciting! But a parade is a lot of work. There are so many things to do!

"Oh, I know! I can ask my mom to make some snacks for the parade. She makes really good snacks! And I can ask my sister to help with decorations. She'll make everything look amazing! Oh, and my cousins can help with blowing up balloons. We'll need LOTS of balloons. Good thing I have lots of cousins!

"And I know my Uncle T can help build the floats! He can build anything. Wow! This parade is going to be SO fun! It's a super big job, but I have family who can help me. See you later, friends."

Storyteller enters as Host exits.

STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz" Activity Pages, cardstock, three oatmeal canisters, artificial wheat stalks (such as bit.ly/3qM8LDZ), tape, bin, small table, and Bible; *Optional Story Images and cardstock*

Storyteller enters, carrying bin of props and Bible as Host exits.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I can't wait to tell you a true story from the Bible.

Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.

"Today's true story from the Bible begins with a woman named Naomi.

Place the "Naomi" canister on one side of the small table.

"What was her name?"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Naomi!"

STORYTELLER: "Great listening, friends. Naomi was sad.

Make the ASL sign for 'sad:' Place both hands in front of your face with palms facing in. Make a sad face, and pull both hands down the length of your face.

"Can you do the sign for 'sad' with me? (*Make the ASL sign for sad.*) Yes, Naomi was so sad (*make the ASL sign for 'sad'*) because her husband and sons had died and she was alone. So, Naomi decided to go back to the town where she grew up.



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"But there was Ruth.

Place the "Ruth" canister beside the "Naomi" canister.

"Ruth was married to Naomi's son. Ruth said, 'I'm your family, Naomi! Wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you live, I will live.'

"Wow! That's awesome. That made Naomi feel HAPPY!"

Make the ASL sign for 'happy:' Place both hands in front of you with palms facing in. Pull hands up and forward, circle down and back to the original position, and repeat.

"Can you do the sign for 'happy' with me? (Make the ASL sign for happy.) Yes!"

(Option: Display Story Image W1 01)

"Naomi was SO happy (make the ASL sign for happy) that she and Ruth were family and that she had someone to walk with her.

"When they got to the town where Naomi used to live, Ruth and Naomi took care of each other. They needed food because they were hungry.

Make the ASL sign for 'hungry.' Form a 'C' with your dominant hand, touch fingertips to your chest, and pull hand down to stomach.

"Can you do the sign for 'hungry' with me? (Make the ASL sign for hungry.) Yes, Ruth and Naomi's tummies were rumbling because they were hungry. (Make the ASL sign for hungry.) So Ruth went to look for food to eat. Not far from where they lived, there was a man named Boaz.

(Option: Display Story Image W1 02)

Place the "Boaz" canister on the opposite side of "Naomi" and "Ruth."

"Boaz had people working in his fields gathering all the grain.

Turn the canisters around and place the wheat stalks in them.

"The fields were like BIG gardens. As the workers picked the grain . . .

Pull the wheat out of the canisters and drop some on the table in front of the canisters.

". . . they would leave some for people who needed food.

Put the wheat you gathered back in the bin, leaving the wheat that is in front of the canisters.



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"Can you pretend to be one of Boaz's workers in the field? Let's stand up and pick the grain. But remember, drop some for people who need it.

Lead children to pantomime this for a few seconds.

"Great job! You can have a seat. When Ruth (*turn around "Ruth" canister*) saw the grain and began to gather it, how do you think that made her feel? (*Make the ASL sign for 'happy.'*) Yes! Ruth was so happy to have the grain that she began to gather it to take it home for her and Naomi to eat.

(Option: Display Story Image W1 03)

"While she was out in the field, Boaz (*turn around "Boaz" canister*) saw her collecting food. When Boaz found out that Naomi (*turn around "Naomi" canister*) was a part of his family, Boaz decided to take care of Ruth and Naomi (*pull all three canisters together in the center of the table*) and make sure they had plenty of food to eat!

"Wow! God sent more family to help. When Ruth went home to Naomi with good food to eat, Naomi was so thankful!

(Option: Display Story Image W1 04)

"Can you do the sign for 'thanks' with me?

Make the ASL sign for 'thanks.' Touch fingertips to lips and move forward and down.

"Yes, thank You (*make the ASL sign for 'thanks'*), God.

"God gives us people to call family, and all families can take care of each other. Thank You, God, for giving us family! Say it with me. Thank You (*make the ASL sign for 'thanks'*), God.

"Tell me, **who can you thank for everything?"**

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "I can thank God for everything!"

STORYTELLER: "Yes, **I can thank God for everything**. That's the truth, friends. **[Transition]** Our story time is over (*pick up and close Bible*), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"



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PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "God, thank You for the story of Naomi and Ruth and Boaz who helped each other! Thank You for the people we call family who help take care of us. We are so thankful for our families. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen.

"I'll see you next time. Bye!"

Host enters as Storyteller exits, carrying Bible.

OUTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "Wow! (Gesture to canisters.) Ruth helped Naomi, then Boaz helped them both. They were thankful to God for their family, and we can be thankful for our families, too. **I can thank God for everything!**

"I think I (point to self) got the story. Did you (point to children) get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?" (Cup one hand behind ear.)

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: (Give two thumbs-up.) "Good! I'm so thankful to God for my family! **[Transition]** And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

Host dismisses small groups and exits.