



COURAGE | WEEK 4 | SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 | ELEMENTARY

## RUTH

**Key Application:** Courage - When God helps you to be brave enough to do hard things.

**Bible Story:** Ruth • *Ruth 1 (supporting: Ruth 2-4)*

**Key Question:** When is it hard to be brave when you don't know what's next?

**Basic Truth:** I am made by God for a purpose so I can tell people about God.

**Memory Verse:** When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you. Psalm 56:3 (NirV)

### LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*God has given each of us a key role to play in His story—but that doesn't mean the journey will be easy. As we continue to follow the journey of God's people, we discover that Moses wasn't ready for his leading role; that Joshua and Caleb had to go against the flow; that Rahab put everything on the line for the sake of a God worshiped by her enemies; and that Ruth set aside the safety of home to forge into the unknown. God's people were on the move, but every new step was an act of courage.*

*While the kids in your ministry aren't facing down an Egyptian ruler or setting off for new lands, they still need courage to do difficult things every single day. From speaking up in class to starting a conversation with a new kid to facing a doctor visit, kids need the help of God's Holy Spirit. You can remind them that feeling scared doesn't mean they can't be brave. In fact, courage means trusting God to help you be brave.*

*When kids choose to rely on God's help to do something hard, even when they're afraid, others can see God at work—and on the move.*

#### **Pre-Service Check List**

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

#### **Morning Flow**

Doors  
Open  
9:15/11:00

Large Group  
Starts  
9:35/11:20

Small Group  
Starts  
10:05/11:50

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

**LGL:** “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

**(SLIDE: BAPTISM)** *(Said on the fourth weekend of the month only)* “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? *(Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap).* Awesome!”

**(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)** “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

### LARGE GROUP GAME (5 Min)

#### DESTINATION DECISION DASH

(“Destination Dash” activity pages – 1 set per LG, tape)

We are continuing our journey through the Bible this year. Last month was all about faith, and this month is all about courage.

**(SLIDE: KEY APPLICATION)** **Courage - When God helps you to be brave enough to do hard things.**

Following God’s way is ALWAYS right, but it’s not always easy. Ever since the beginning and sin broke the world, people naturally want to turn away from God. Doing the right thing and going God’s way when other people around may not be takes courage!

Courage DOESN’T mean that you’ll never be afraid. Godly courage means that you trust that God is always with you and works all things together for the good of those who love Him. The more you trust Him and have courage, the quicker you will be to face hard things again, because you know that God was with you in the past.

Let’s check out our memory verse for the month.

**(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE)** **When I’m afraid, I put my trust in you. Psalm 56:3 (NIRV)**

*Take a minute to explain that ‘Psalm’ is a book in the Old Testament, and that the first*

*number means ‘chapter’ and the second one means ‘verse’. ‘NirV’ is what translation the Bible is in. The Bible wasn’t originally written in English! There are different translations.*

You’ll have more time to practice this month’s verse, but for now let’s play a game!

## **(SLIDES: DESTINATION DECISION DASH with MUSIC)**

### **HOW TO PLAY**

- **SAY:** It’s not always easy to make a quick decision when you don’t have all the info, is it? But sometimes, you just have to trust your instincts and take that step into the unknown. Our Bible Story today is about a woman who had to make a HUGE decision about her destination, with a future that was totally uncertain. We are going to practice quick decision making today!
- Tape up the destination papers on the walls in the corners of the floor. Point out what each one says.
- Have everyone stand in the middle of the room. Tell them that you are going to read a travel scenario and the kids will have 3 seconds to decide which destination they think best fits that scenario (there are no wrong answers!). After each scenario, have them return to the middle of the room.
- Scenarios:
  1. You suddenly have a free weekend, and you want to relax and enjoy the sunshine! Where do you go?
  2. You want an epic adventure with amazing views!
  3. You only packed hiking boots!
  4. You want to see a million stars!
  5. You want to see some tall structures!
  6. You want to put your feet in something squishy!
  7. You want to try something new to eat!
  8. You want to travel somewhere far away.
  9. You want to come back with a crazy story for your friends!
  10. You only have \$20 dollars in your wallet.

“That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let’s worship God!”

## **WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)**

**(VIDEO: WAVEWALKER, MY FEET ARE ON THE ROCK)**

## **BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)**

**(No Supplies)**

“Imagine this: *(Holds up backpack.)* You have to pack this bag right now for a long, important journey. But here’s the catch: you don’t know where you’re going, you don’t know how long you’ll be gone, and you have no idea what kind of challenges you’ll face when you get there. You can only pick ONE or TWO essential things to put in this bag. What would you absolutely HAVE to pack? *(Pause for a few responses)*”

“It’s tough, isn’t it? When the future is a big question mark, it’s hard to know what you’ll need, what to prepare for. It makes making decisions really difficult. That’s exactly the question for today. When is it hard to be brave when you don’t know what’s next?

“Think about that. Those times when everything feels uncertain. The person we’ll read about in the Bible today, a woman named Ruth, faced a future that was about as uncertain as it gets. She basically had to pack her ‘bag’ with only loyalty and faith, and step into a completely unknown future. Let’s check it out...

**(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 4 MIN)**

“There will be times in your life—maybe you’re facing one right now—where you just don’t know what’s next. Maybe it’s moving to a new school, or your family is going through a big change, or you’re trying something new that feels way out of your comfort zone. The future can feel like a giant, blank map.

“But we don’t face these things all by ourselves. When we follow Jesus, God Himself moves inside of us through His Holy Spirit. He is closer than close! So, He goes with us every step of our lives. He is the strongest, and biggest, and most powerful, and He is always working for good. When we trust and believe that He goes with us, He can give us the courage to face what’s in front of us when we don’t know what’s next. He goes with us in everything and that can help us be brave!

Another way to say it is how our Basic Truth for this week says it...

**(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH) I am loved by God no matter what, so I can trust God to guide me.**

When we think about Ruth, we can remember that even if we don’t know what’s next, we’re never going alone. God goes with us every step of the way. When we believe that He is the strongest, the biggest, and the kindest, and He is with us, He will give us courage to do whatever it is that’s in front of us!

As we head to Small Groups, we want you to consider this question:

**(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION) When have you needed courage to help someone?**

*Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don’t try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.*

“Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1...

“I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let’s pray.

God, thank You for Ruth, and her amazing example of loyalty and courage in the face of a really uncertain future. Teach us how to really believe that You are with us every step of the way. Teach us to trust that even though we may be walking into something unknown, we are going with You.

Your presence with us makes us brave. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

## **DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS**





## SMALL GROUP

**Key Application:** Courage - When God helps you to be brave enough to do hard things.

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### TALK ABOUT IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*There are no right or wrong answers but try to challenge the kids to think deeper.*

**Key Question:** When is it hard to be brave when you don't know what's next?

*(Answers will vary; when it's something you've never done before or something that you tried before but it didn't go well, when you feel like you don't have what*

*it takes, etc.)*

### LOOK IT UP (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*Grab Bibles, look up, and read the following passage.*

**Look Up:** Ruth 1:16-17

**Say:** The book of Ruth (Old Testament) tells the story of a loyal woman who chooses to stay with her mother-in-law, Naomi, and is blessed by God for her faithfulness. Ruth marries Boaz and becomes the great-grandmother of King David, showing how God can use anyone—no matter their background—for His big plans

### PRACTICE IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*("Unknown Scenarios" Activity Page - 1 per group, 2 blank papers with markers)*

#### What You Do:

- Before you begin, use the marker to write "Courage" on one piece of paper and "Fear" on another.
- Tape the signs on opposite sides of the room.
  - Set the signs on the floor if taping them on the wall isn't an option.

#### Imagine Together:

- Gather the kids in the center of your group space.
- One at a time, read a scenario from the "Unknown Scenarios" Activity Page.
- Ask kids: "If this happened to you, how would you usually react—with courage or with fear?"
- Instruct the kids to move to the sign that matches their answer.
- After each scenario, pause and ask:
  - "What would make it easier to choose courage in that situation?"
  - "How could you ask God for help since He wants to give you courage?"

- Continue until every scenario has been read.
- End by reminding the kids: “God gives us courage through the Holy Spirit. We never face anything alone!”

### What You Say:

“You know, trying something new can feel a little scary, right? Has anyone ever felt nervous about trying something new? (*Invite responses.*) How about a time you felt afraid but chose courage anyway? (*Invite responses.*)

“But we don’t have to try and be courageous all by ourselves! When we follow Jesus, God Himself moves inside of us through His Holy Spirit. He is closer than close! So, He goes with us every step of our lives. He is the strongest, and biggest, and most powerful, and He is always working for good. When we trust and believe that He goes with us, He can give us the courage to face what’s in front of us when we don’t know what’s next. God is the strongest and He goes with us everywhere! And that can help us be brave!

“So, the next time you’re at a courage crossroads, remember this: **[Bottom Line] God can give you courage when you don’t know what’s next.** You never face anything alone!”

## GET STRONGER (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

(Memory Verse Poster, Ball Pit Ball)

### What You Do:

- Review the memory verse together.
- Have the kids sit in a circle. Pass the ball around the circle as you all say the verses out loud.
- Challenge kids to say the verse on their own.

## PRAYER

### What You Say:

“God, thank You that we can talk to You anytime, anywhere, about anything. You are always listening because You care so deeply for us! Sometimes, we don’t know what’s going to happen next. When we feel nervous, confused, or even afraid, help us trust that You are with us, You are the strongest, and we can be brave because we go everywhere with You! We love You so much. We pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.