

All Kids
LEADER GUIDE




SPARK
HOUSE
wearesparkhouse.org

Naomi and Ruth
Sampler

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Scope & Sequence

Spark All Kids Year Orange

Fall

- Week 1** Creation
Genesis 1:1-2:4a
- Week 2** Noah's Ark
Genesis 6-9
- Week 3** Abram's Call
Genesis 12:1-9
- Week 4** Abraham and Sarah's Visitors
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; 18:1-15; 21:1-7
- Week 5** Isaac's Blessing
Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-40
- Week 6** Free from Slavery
Exodus 5:1-6:13
- Week 7** The Red Sea
Exodus 14:1-30
- Week 8** The Ten Commandments
Exodus 20:1-17
- Week 9** The Battle of Jericho
Joshua 6:1-20
- Week 10** Naomi and Ruth
Ruth 1:1-22
- Week 11** David and Goliath
1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-50
- Week 12** Elijah and the Widow
1 Kings 17:8-16
- Week 13** Jonah and the Big Fish
Jonah 1-4

Winter

- Week 1** A Child Called Immanuel
Isaiah 7:10-17
- Week 2** Angels Visit
Matthew 1:18-25
- Week 3** Jesus is Born
Luke 2:1-20
- Week 4** Wise Men
Matthew 2:1-12
- Week 5** Jesus' Baptism
Matthew 3:13-17
- Week 6** The Disciples
Matthew 4:12-23; 9:9-13; 10:1-4
- Week 7** The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:5-15
- Week 8** Woman at the Well
John 4:5-42
- Week 9** A Storm
Matthew 8:23-27
- Week 10** The Centurion's Servant
Matthew 8:5-13
- Week 11** Jesus Blesses the Children
Mark 10:13-16
- Week 12** Jesus Heals Two Blind Men
Matthew 20:29-34
- Week 13** The Sower
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Spring

- Week 1** Jesus Feeds 5,000
John 6:1-14
- Week 2** The Transfiguration
Matthew 17:1-13
- Week 3** The Greatest Commandment
Matthew 22:34-46
- Week 4** Holy Week
Matthew 21:1-11; 26:17-30
- Week 5** The Empty Tomb
Matthew 28:1-10
- Week 6** The Great Commission
Matthew 28:16-20
- Week 7** Doubting Thomas
John 20:19-31
- Week 8** The Ascension
Acts 1:6-14
- Week 9** The Holy Spirit
Acts 2:1-21, 36-42
- Week 10** Philip and the Ethiopian
Acts 8:26-40
- Week 11** Saul to Paul
Acts 9:1-20
- Week 12** An Angel Frees Peter
Acts 12:1-19
- Week 13** Paul's Letters
Romans 1:1-17

Summer

- Week 1** God's Promises to Abraham
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
- Week 2** Jacob Wrestles
Genesis 32:22-31
- Week 3** A Message from God
Deuteronomy 6:1-9
- Week 4** Praise God
Psalm 8
- Week 5** The Beatitudes
Matthew 5:1-12
- Week 6** Salt and Light
Matthew 5:13-20
- Week 7** Jesus Teaches about Anger
Matthew 5:21-37
- Week 8** Love Your Enemies
Matthew 5:38-48
- Week 9** Ten Bridesmaids
Matthew 25:1-13
- Week 10** Parable of the Talents
Matthew 25:14-30
- Week 11** Matthias the Apostle
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
- Week 12** Peter and Tabitha
Acts 9:36-43
- Week 13** Peter's Dream
Acts 11:1-18



Scope & Sequence

Spark All Kids Year Green

Fall

- Week 1** Adam and Eve
Genesis 2:4-25
- Week 2** The First Sin
Genesis 3:1-24
- Week 3** Joseph and His Brothers
Genesis 37:1-28
- Week 4** Joseph Helps His Family
Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21
- Week 5** Baby Moses
Exodus 2:1-10
- Week 6** The Burning Bush
Exodus 3:1-15
- Week 7** Manna, Quail, and Water
Exodus 16:1-18; 17:1-7
- Week 8** Deborah
Judges 4:1-5:31
- Week 9** The Battle of Jericho
Joshua 6:1-20
- Week 10** David Is Chosen
1 Samuel 16:1-13
- Week 11** Solomon Builds the Temple
1 Kings 6
- Week 12** Queen Esther
Esther 2:5-18; 3:1-6; 8:1-17
- Week 13** Daniel and the Lions
Daniel 6:1-28

Winter

- Week 1** A Ruler from Bethlehem
Micah 5:2-5
- Week 2** Angels Visit
Luke 1:26-38
- Week 3** Mary Visits Elizabeth
Luke 1:39-58
- Week 4** Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-20
- Week 5** Simeon and Anna
Luke 2:22-40
- Week 6** The Boy at the Temple
Luke 2:41-52
- Week 7** John the Baptist
Luke 3:1-18
- Week 8** Jesus Goes to Nazareth
Luke 4:14-30
- Week 9** The Disciples
Luke 5:1-11; 8:1-3
- Week 10** Four Friends
Luke 5:17-26
- Week 11** Ten Men Healed
Luke 17:11-19
- Week 12** The Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25-37
- Week 13** The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin
Luke 15:1-10

Spring

- Week 1** The Prodigal Son
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
- Week 2** Mary and Martha
Luke 10:38-42
- Week 3** Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1-10
- Week 4** The Last Supper
John 13:1-20
- Week 5** Holy Week
Luke 19:28-40; 22:14-23:56
- Week 6** The Empty Tomb
Luke 24:1-12
- Week 7** The Road to Emmaus
Luke 24:13-35
- Week 8** The Holy Spirit
Acts 2:1-4, 36-42
- Week 9** Early Believers
Acts 2:43-47; 4:32-37
- Week 10** Peter Heals
Acts 3:1-16
- Week 11** Lydia
Acts 16:9-15
- Week 12** Paul and Silas
Acts 16:16-40
- Week 13** Paul and the Philippians
Philippians 1:1-14

Summer

- Week 1** Isaiah's Call
Isaiah 6:1-8
- Week 2** God's Peaceful World
Isaiah 11:1-10
- Week 3** Jeremiah
Jeremiah 1:4-10
- Week 4** A Good Ruler
Jeremiah 33:14-17
- Week 5** Teaching and Healing
Mark 1:21-28
- Week 6** Bartimaeus Sees
Mark 10:46-52
- Week 7** The Widow's Offering
Mark 12:38-44
- Week 8** Zechariah
Luke 1:68-79
- Week 9** Two Masters
Luke 16:1-13
- Week 10** The Parable of the Rich Man
Luke 16:19-31
- Week 11** Wedding at Cana
John 2:1-11
- Week 12** The Good Shepherd
John 10:11-18
- Week 13** Lazarus
John 11:1-45



Naomi and Ruth

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Ruth 1:1-22

Lesson Focus
Following in faith makes foreigners family.

Bible Memory Verse
Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Ruth 1:16b

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Activity Kids will play a game and think about what it means to follow blindly.	Activity Pages, Coloring Pages	Blindfold (optional)
Circle Time Kids will be introduced to Ruth and Naomi's story.	Spark Song CD Sampler	Music source
Opening Prayer Kids will pray about following good things.	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Naomi and Ruth Kids will hear the story of Ruth and Naomi's circumstances and of how Ruth committed to staying with her mother-in-law. They will also learn a Bible Memory Verse.	Spark NRSV Bible Sampler, Spark Story Bible Sampler	None
Where Did You Go, Naomi? Kids will help Ruth follow Naomi by first finding her!	Leaflet Sampler	Pencils

Lesson At-A-Glance

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Naomi and Ruth Thaumatrope Kids will create a thaumatrope showing how quickly life can change.</p>	Leaflet Sampler	Scissors, colored pencils, clear tape, pencils or small wooden dowels (1 per kid)
<p>The Book of Ruth Says . . . Kids will play a variation of “Simon Says” based on true or false statements from Ruth and Naomi’s story.</p>	None	None

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Closing Conversation Kids will recap the lesson, recall the Bible Memory Verse, and look at the “Faith on the Go” leaflet options.</p>	Leaflet Sampler	None
<p>Closing Prayer Kids will pray to follow in the path of these faithful women.</p>	Family Page Sampler	None

Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Activity

If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of an age-appropriate downloadable Activity Page and Coloring Page, and set them out for kids to try.

As kids arrive, clear a safe space and start a game of "Here I Am." One kid will be "It" and can shut eyes or be blindfolded. They will ask, "Where are you?" and the rest of the group will respond, "Here I am!" Specify that no running is allowed for safety. "It" will try to tag other classmates by repeating the question and listening for their voices. Act as a bumper to make sure "It" doesn't bump into anything. Once "It" is tagged, another person takes her or his place.

Spark Resources

Activity Pages
Coloring Pages

Supplies

Blindfold (optional)

Circle Time

Invite kids to sit in a circle. **For those of you who got to be "It" during the "Here I Am" game, what did it feel like to follow voices blindly?** Accept all answers. **Is anything in life like this?** Listen to kids' ideas. **Yes, often in life we have to do what we are told to do without knowing why. Or sometimes we move to a new place or have a new experience without knowing what will happen. That can feel like following blindly. It can be scary, exciting, or anything in between!**

Today we're going to hear a touching story about two people who loved each other very much. Though they weren't from the same place, didn't practice the same religion, and weren't even blood relatives, one decided to follow the other. Together they faced the future, through good times and bad.

MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Song 1: "Books of the Bible: Old Testament" (tracks 2 and 4 on Spark Song CD Sampler)

Song 2: "You've Got a Friend in Me" from the Toy Story movie soundtrack

Spark Resources

Spark Song CD Sampler

Supplies

Music source

Opening Prayer

For our opening prayer, I'm going to ask you to snap your fingers as quietly as you can every time I pause. If you haven't mastered snapping yet, just rub your thumb against a finger. Pause after each line of text and snap along with the kids.

**Dear God,
We like to follow
The smell of good food,
Our favorite friends,
The ice-cream truck,
Interesting bugs,
And funny bumper stickers.
Help us know how to follow you,
How to follow in faith.
Amen.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Naomi and Ruth

Invite kids with NRSV Bibles to each find and sit with a buddy with a Spark Story Bible.

I'd like you to get comfy while I read you the first chapter of the book of Ruth from the Old Testament in the Bible. If shutting your eyes helps you see the story, you are welcome to do that. If anyone wants to follow along in the Spark NRSV Bible Sampler, we start on page 5. Read Ruth 1:1-22 aloud to the kids.

What did you hear that happened in that story? Invite kids to repeat what they remember.

Now please turn to your buddy and read together the Spark Story Bible version of the Naomi and Ruth story. Buddies read the story quietly together. If this doesn't work logistically, ask some older buddies to take turns reading this story aloud for the group. **Can you find Squiggles? What emotion do you see on his face?**

Discuss the following questions:

If you were Ruth, what do you think you would have done—stayed with Naomi or gone home? Listen to responses. **Raise your hand if you've been to another country.** Count hands. **How did it feel (or how might it feel) to be a foreigner, someone who wasn't from there?** Discuss how it might have felt to Naomi moving to Moab, and to Ruth, moving to Judah, especially since the Moabites had been enemies of the Israelites (the citizens of Judah). **Why do you think Ruth stayed with Naomi? How do you think this story will turn out?**

Spark Resources

Spark NRSV Bible Sampler

Spark Story Bible Sampler

Supplies

None

Bible Memory Verse

"Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God." Ruth 1:16b

The Bible Memory Verse is found on page 5 of the Spark NRSV Bible. Read it together, then see if you can say it taking turns, like a litany:

Older Buddy:
**Where you go,
where you lodge,
your people
and your God**

Younger Buddy:
**I will go;
I will lodge;
shall be my people,
my God.**

Younger buddies can help older buddies put a sticker by the verse in the Spark NRSV Bible.

Where Did You Go, Naomi?

Have you ever gone to the store with an adult, stopped to look at something, and before you knew it, found that your adult had disappeared? It's hard to follow someone when you can't find them. The same thing must have happened to Ruth; she can't find Naomi in the crowd of people! Look at Naomi's image in the picture frame and see if you can locate her on the leaflet.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Invite kids to read and discuss the Bible Bit together.

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Naomi and Ruth Thaumatrope

Tell me what you think will happen in your future. Encourage kids to be honest, and listen without judgment. **Most of us imagine and hope for good things, but the truth is, most people have challenging things that happen in their lives too. We can't always change the circumstances of our lives, but we can decide how we will handle them when they happen.**

We're going to make an interesting thing with an interesting name: a thaumatrope [thaw-muh-trope]. It's a very old type of toy that can trick your eyes in a fun way!

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Scissors, colored pencils,
clear tape, pencils or small
wooden dowels (1 per kid)

Directions for creating a thaumatrope:

1. Keep buddies paired up so older buddies can assist younger buddies as needed.
2. Using colored pencils, fill in the outlines of Naomi, Elimelech, Mahlon, Ruth, Chilion, and Orpah.
3. Cut along the dashed lines.
4. Fold the picture in half along the line provided.
5. Tape a pencil or wooden dowel to the inside of the folded image in the center.
6. Fold the image over the pencil or wooden dowel. Tape all loose edges together.
7. Rotate the pencil swiftly between closed hands so the two images appear to become one image.

After kids have played with the thaumatrope, invite them to share what they're seeing. **Life can change quickly, just like what happens when you spin the thaumatrope. How has your life changed in the last year? Even when our lives change, God promises to always be with us.**

Ask for volunteers to read the Did You Know aloud. Invite kids to place a sticker or special marking next to the item they find most interesting.

The Book of Ruth Says . . .

You've all played Simon Says, right? If someone is not familiar with Simon Says, invite an older kid to explain and lead a quick round of the game.

Spark Resources
None

Today, we're going to play a new game called "The Book of Ruth Says . . ." I'm going to say a line, and if you think it is indeed from the Book of Ruth, then you should act it out however you think that might look. But if you think it wasn't in the book of Ruth, then you should freeze!

Supplies
None

For example, I might say, "Ruth and Naomi got on their horses and left." If you remember that line being in the Bible story, you should pretend to get on a horse and ride away! If you don't think that was in the story, stand silently without moving. Get it wrong and take a seat. Let's see who can be the last one standing!

Invite kids to stand up and spread out.

Say the following lines for each turn. Each is followed by "yes" or "no" below to indicate whether it came from the book of Ruth.

Naomi's family left Bethlehem because of a flood. (no)

Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died on a spaceship. (no)

Naomi's sons were named Mahlon and Chilion; they died too. (yes)

Naomi told her daughters-in-law to return to their homes. (yes)

When Orpah went home, Ruth got mad. (no)

When the three women said goodbye, everyone cried. (yes)

Ruth was tricked into staying with Naomi. (no)

It's easy to move to a country full of people who hate your people. (no)

Ruth promised to stay with Naomi forever. (yes)

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

Naomi and Ruth were in a really difficult situation. They were widows, which means their husbands had died. The Bible includes many stories about the importance of caring for widows. Naomi wanted the best for her daughters-in-law and told them to return home. Show me with your face how you think Naomi felt when Ruth decided to stay. Kids might show faces that are happy, concerned, confused, surprised, and so on. **Ruth and Naomi were strong. These two faithful women would figure out the future together.**

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Can anyone remember the Bible Memory Verse? Let's say it all together with the older buddies leading and the younger buddies responding:

Older Buddy:

**Where you go,
where you lodge,
your people
and your God**

Younger Buddy:

**I will go;
I will lodge;
shall be my people,
my God.**

Take a peek at the "Faith on the Go" options in your leaflet. Which ones would you like to do with your family?

Closing Prayer

Distribute Family Pages to kids and point out the Family Conversations to talk about at home.

Spark Resources
Family Pages

For our closing prayer, I will say something and I'd like you to respond, "I will follow."

Supplies
None

Let us pray.

God, sometimes it seems like it would be easier to stay home than go to church.

But when you call . . . I will follow.

We learned today about two brave women who shared faith in you. When you call us in faith . . . I will follow.

It won't always be easy, but it will always be worth it; and so . . . I will follow.

It won't always be easy, but it will always be worth it; and so . . . I will follow.

As you say goodbye to kids, make sure they take home the leaflet and Family Page.

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

Naomi and Ruth

from Ruth 1:1-22.

Care for each other — even in tough times!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Naomi
- Ruth
- Orpah
- Follow Family

When a woman got married in Bible times, she left her parents and became a part of her husband's family. Ruth loved Naomi because Naomi became like a mother to her.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 4-7

Spark Bible pages 5-6

Family Prayer

Dear God, help us to always follow you and share your love with our family. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

- 1 What are in-laws? How does the story of Naomi and Ruth highlight this important relationship?
- 2 How can you show God's love to your family?
- 3 What is the longest trip you've ever taken? How did you get there? Talk about how our journeys today are similar to and different from journeys people took in Bible times.
- 4 Talk about the relationship between some women in your life and their mothers-in-law. Do you see them sharing a close bond like the bond between Naomi and Ruth?

Eye Spark

When you gather for a meal with your family, watch how they love and care for each other, and think of the love Ruth had for Naomi.

Ear Spark

When you hear someone tell you "follow me," think about how you can honor God by obeying God's command to follow and honor.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Create a poster with different ways that family members can show God's love to each other. The tasks may be simple, such as "Give someone a hug if they are feeling sad." They could take more time, such as "Help clean up around the house." Hang the poster up somewhere in your house where you will see it often. Pick a new task to try each day.

For younger kids

Show God's love to people who might not have family or a home to call their own. Gather up gently-used clothing items from around your house and donate them to a homeless shelter.

For older kids

Go online and research marriage customs in other countries. Are there countries today where a woman is separated from her own family after she gets married in the same way that Ruth and Orpah were in Bible times?



Naomi and Ruth



Ruth stayed with Naomi.

Follow the Letters

Naomi and Ruth are going on a trip. Can you figure out where they are going? Follow the directions on the map and pick up letters along your way. When you write them in the spaces below, you'll see the women's destination!

Map

2 RIGHT
3 DOWN
3 RIGHT
1 DOWN
2 LEFT
2 DOWN
5 RIGHT
4 DOWN
1 RIGHT

START T B X R M
H O C B K I
M J O A S H I
I S E D A T E R
Z R L M H L Z Q
Y U I B L G I P R
F E O N W V H F
S T C O R W
G E I D P
N J S K U
Q A O E M

Follow the Letters Solution

Naomi and Ruth are going on a trip. Can you figure out where they are going? Follow the directions on the map and pick up letters along your way. When you write them in the spaces below, you'll see the women's destination!

Map

- 2 RIGHT
- 3 DOWN
- 3 RIGHT
- 1 DOWN
- 2 LEFT
- 2 DOWN
- 5 RIGHT
- 4 DOWN
- 1 RIGHT

B E T H L E H E M

