

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
Lower Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God gives us caring people.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles
FIELD OF GRAIN: Kids make costumes and act out the story of Ruth and Boaz from the grain's point of view.	SUPPLIES: None	SUPPLIES: Rolls of crepe paper (tan, light brown, white), brown paper bags, kid-friendly scissors, markers, clear tape, brown bed sheet or blanket, Bible costumes, Field of Grain skit script
Upper Elementary		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God cares for us through people.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers
THE ORPAH SHOW: Kids dress up and put on a talk show to surprise Naomi with people who helped care for her during her life.	SUPPLIES: Pencils	SUPPLIES: Bed sheet, paper, markers, microphone prop, fabric pieces, chairs, The Orpah Show skit script
All Kids		
WORKSHOP FOCUS: God gives us people who care.	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers
CARING PERSON AWARDS: Kids create and hand out awards to God's caring people from Ruth's story and their own stories.	SUPPLIES: Pencils	SUPPLIES: Pencils, bed sheet, cardboard tubes, glue sticks, clear tape, paper scraps, markers, fabric pieces, costume jewelry, adult shoes, neckties, Caring Person Awards Show skit script, award cards



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content. Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find a downloadable Family Page for this rotation's story filled with ideas for families to use to explore this story and live out their faith at home.

Workshop Focus: God gives us caring people.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit www.sparksundayschool.org to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Ruth Storytelling

Welcome to Creative Drama! I'm glad you're here today. Who is someone in your life who takes care of you? Allow time for kids to respond. **In our story today, we will hear how God takes care of a woman named Ruth.**

Show kids the picture of Ruth and Naomi waving good-bye to Orpah (pp. 112-113 in the Spark Story Bible.) Summarize the first Ruth story. **Ruth was married to Naomi's son, but he died. Ruth went with Naomi, back to Naomi's town to help her.**

Now, I need your help telling the rest of this story. When I read the word "eat" you make the sound, "yum-yum." When I read the word "field" you make the sound, "whoosh, whoosh." Let's get started! Read the story "Ruth and Boaz" (pages 114-117 in the Spark Story Bible.)

Let's talk about the story. Why did Ruth go to the field? (to pick up leftover grain to eat) **Whom did the field belong to?** (Boaz) **How did Boaz treat Ruth?** (kindly) **God enabled Boaz to care for Ruth, just like he gives us caring people in our lives.**

We're going to retell the story of Ruth and Boaz in a different way. Imagine the story that the grains in the field would have told if they could talk!

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Field of Grain

Set Up:

- Designate an open area of the room as a stage. Place the sheet or blanket on the floor to look like a field.
- Place the crepe paper, bags, scissors, markers, and tape where the kids can access them.
- Make the Bible costumes available to the kids.
- Make several copies of the Field of Grain skit script from page 93 of this guide.

Activity Instructions

We're going to pretend that the stalks of grain in the field can talk and are telling the story of Ruth and Boaz!

1. Invite kids to play the parts of Ruth, Boaz, and the Servant. Give each a copy of the skit script. Direct kids to dress in Bible costumes. **Read your script and ask questions if you need help with any words or cues. What kind of costume will you wear?**
2. Ask a Shepherd or fluent reader to read the part of the narrator.
3. Recruit kids to play the part of grain in the field. Some grains speak, some do not. Give kids a copy of the skit script. **Imagine what a grain would sound like. How would it move? What does it look like? If you have a speaking part, be sure to write your number on the front of your costume so we know who you are!**
4. Ask volunteers to be costume designers. Show them the supplies they have to work with. Allow them to use the illustration of Ruth gathering grain (pages 114-115 in the Spark Story Bible.) **The grains will need help creating and dressing in costume. Partner with someone and offer to help with his or her costume. What will you do to make your costume different from the others?**
5. Perform the skit. Gather the kids in front of the stage area. All of the grains begin in the field. **Let's have the narrator stand to one side of the field with Ruth, Boaz, and the Servant on the other side. Grains, if you have a speaking part, be sure Ruth doesn't pick you until you're done! Audience, let's get ready to hear an interesting story!**
6. After the skit: Allow kids to remove their costumes and then gather to debrief the story. **That was fun!** Show kids the picture of Ruth and Boaz talking (pp. 116-117 in the Spark Story Bible.) **Who took care of Ruth? (Boaz) How did he take care of her? (He allowed her to gather grain from his field.) How do people in your life take care of you? Allow time for kids to respond. Just like God Gave Ruth Boaz to care for her, God gives us caring people, too!**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Rolls of crepe paper (tan, light brown, white)

Brown paper bags

Kid-friendly scissors

Markers

Clear tape

Brown bed sheet or blanket

Bible costumes

Field of Grain skit script

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Thank you for coming to Creative Drama today. It was great to see you! What was your favorite part of the workshop? It's good to know that just like God sent Boaz to help Ruth, God gives us caring people to help us, too. Be sure to ask your caregiver about the Family Pages. There are some great ideas to help you remember the story of Ruth all week long!

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Let's thank God for all of the caring people in our lives. I'll start the prayer. When we get to the end, I'll say, "Thank you, God!" in a normal voice. Then, you repeat it with me three times. Each time we will say it louder. At the end we'll all shout, "Amen!"

Dear God,

I'm glad you send people into my life to take care of me. For my family, my teachers, my doctor, my neighbors, and my friends,

Thank you, God!

(Thank you, God! Thank you, God! Thank you, God! Amen!)

Workshop Focus: God cares for us through people.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit www.sparksondayschool.org to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Ruth Storytelling

Welcome to Creative Drama. It's good to see you here! How many of you have a really good friend you can count on to help you when you need it? Allow time for kids to respond.

Today's story is about two women who helped each other and a man who helped them both. It's a long story, so you can follow along while I read. Have kids turn to Ruth 1:1-17 and Ruth 2:1-23 in their Spark Bibles, pages 290-292. After you have finished reading, invite kids to mark the passage with a *Something I Like* or *Something I Don't Like* Spark Bible Sticker.

Which daughter-in-law stayed with Naomi to help her? (Ruth) Why did Ruth go to Boaz's field? (to gather grain) How did Boaz treat Ruth? (with kindness and generosity) God cared for Ruth through Boaz and cared for Naomi through Ruth. God cares for all of us through people!

Ruth's other daughter-in-law's name was Orpah. We're going to pretend Orpah has a talk show and that guests are coming on the show to surprise Naomi!

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

The Orpah Show

Set Up:

- Designate a stage area by hanging a bed sheet backdrop. Place the chairs in front of the backdrop. Separate one chair from the others with a table and a plant if available.
- Set the fabric pieces, paper, and markers out where kids can access them.
- Make several copies of The Orpah Show skit script from page 95.

Activity Instructions

1. Ask kids to volunteer to be the actors. Give the microphone to the person playing Orpah. Give everyone a script. **I'm sure many of you have seen part of a talk show before. Orpah, you will be the host. Naomi, you will be the guest of honor. Everyone else will come out to surprise Naomi. How do guests act on a talk show? Read your scripts, then head over to "wardrobe."**
2. Recruit kids to be in charge of wardrobe. **Use these fabric pieces to dress Orpah and her guests. What kind of fashions would the characters wear if they were on television today?**
3. Ask volunteers to work with the rest of the kids and make audience-prompt cards (clap wildly, cheer loudly, groan, act shocked, yell, "We love you Orpah!"). Volunteers can think of their own prompts or choose some from the list. **Write simple directions for the audience on paper. Write big so they can read it when you hold it up. What kinds of reactions do people in the audience of talk shows have? Work together so you can each hold up a different prompt at different times.**
4. Perform the Skit. Gather the audience in front of the stage. Ask the kids holding the audience-prompt cards to practice with the audience while the actors are taking their places. **Orpah will stand behind the audience and walk through you up to the stage when the show begins. Actors stand to one side of the stage. Audience-prompt holders, stand to the other side. Audience, be sure to stop whatever you are doing when the cardholder puts the prompt card down so we can hear the show. Ready?**

Ladies and gentlemen, please help me welcome Orpah!

5. After the skit: **Great Job! Were you surprised by the number of people God used to care for others in this story?** Allow time for kids to answer this and the following questions. **Quietly, think about how many people help to care for you in your life?** Kids think quietly rather than out loud.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Bed sheet
Paper
Markers
Microphone prop
Small table (optional)
Artificial plant (optional)
Chairs, 5
Fabric pieces
The Orpah Show skit script

6. Direct kids to turn to Ruth 2:10-13 in their Spark Bibles on page 291. **Let's have two volunteers each read two verses out loud while the rest of us follow along. Notice how God uses each person to care for someone else.** Invite kids to mark the passage with a *Makes Me Feel*, *Makes Me Want To*, or *Makes Me Wonder* Spark Bible Sticker and write the answer with a pencil in the margin. **Just like God cared for Naomi and Ruth, God cares for us through people!**

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Thank you for coming to Creative Drama today. I enjoyed having you here! We've learned how God cares for us through people. What is one way you've been cared for in this workshop today? Allow time for kids to answer. **Ask your caregiver about the Family Page. There are some great ways to remember the story of Ruth all week long!**

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Think of people who show God's care for you in your life. Today, during our closing prayer, I will pause and you can say their names if you wish. Let's pray.

Dear God,

You are so great! You have a plan for everything! You put people in Ruth and Naomi's lives to help them. Thank you for putting people in my life to help me, especially the person I name now. Help me to be a person who helps others, too.
Pause. **Thank you, God! Amen.**

Workshop Focus: God gives us people who care.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

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- Be sure to visit www.sparksundayschool.org to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Ruth Storytelling

Welcome to Creative Drama. I'm glad you're here today. Raise your hand if you have someone in your home whose job it is to take care of you. Allow time for kids to respond. **What are some of the things they do for you?** Allow time for kids to respond.

Today's story is about some people who had to care for each other. First we'll hear part of the story from the Spark Bible. Then we'll hear more of the story from the Spark Story Bible. Ask volunteers to read these verses from the Bible. Ruth 1:1, 1:3-4, 1:8, 1:14-19 on pp. 290-291. Invite kids to mark the passages with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choosing. Read Ruth and Boaz (pp. 114-117 in the Spark Story Bible), showing the illustrations to the kids.

Who went to Naomi's home to live with her? (Ruth) What problem did Ruth and Naomi have? (They were hungry.) Who let Ruth take the leftover grain? (Boaz) God gave people to Ruth and Naomi to help care for them, just like God gives us people who care!

Today, we're going to pretend that there is an awards show for God's caring people and we are going to give out the awards!

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
Pencils

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Caring Person Awards

Set Up:

- Designate a stage area by hanging a bed sheet backdrop and placing a music stand or podium in front of it.
- Place the cardboard tubes, glue sticks, tape, paper, and markers on an open surface where they can be accessed by the kids.
- Place the fabric, jewelry, shoes, and neckties in an area of the room where kids can access them.
- Make copies of the Caring Person Awards Show skit script from page 97 of this guide, and award cards from page 97 of this guide.

Activity Instructions

1. Recruit kids to be the award presenters. Give each kid an award card to fill out. Kids decide whom to give an award to, either a story character or a real person in their lives. Be sure someone chooses Ruth and someone chooses Boaz.
Think about someone who is very caring. How does he or she show care? Fill out your award card to read during the show.
2. Ask volunteers to portray the award recipients. There should be one recipient for each award card written. Pair the recipients with the presenters to discuss who the recipient is and why he or she has been chosen. **What is special about the person receiving the award? How should he or she dress and act?**
3. Invite kids to create award statues. **Use the materials to create an award. Does the award represent something about its recipient? What color or shape or size do you want it to be?**
4. Encourage kids to use the costume materials to dress up. **What do people wear to awards shows? What do you think the recipients of the awards look like in real life?**
5. Ask a leader or fluent reader to be the announcer. Give the announcer a copy of the script.
6. Gather kids in front of the stage area. Have presenters stand to one side and recipients stand on the other. Presenters should have their awards and award cards in their hands. The announcer stands to one side as well. **During our show tonight, the announcer will read the name of the presenter. The presenter will come to the podium, read the award card, and announce the winner. Winners will come up and receive their awards. Winners will have 5 seconds to say "Thank you," and then winners and presenters should exit the stage.**

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Pencils
Bed sheet
Music stand or podium
(optional)
Cardboard tubes
Glue sticks
Clear tape
Paper scraps
Markers
Fabric pieces
Costume jewelry
Adult shoes
Neckties
Caring Person Awards Show
skit script
Award cards

Tonight is a very special night. We are here in the lovely Award Theater. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

7. After the skit: Gather kids to debrief the experience. **Who was your favorite award winner?** Allow time for kids to respond. Direct the older kids to read Ruth 2:11-16 on page 291-292. Invite them to mark the passage with a *Makes Me Feel, Makes Me Want To, or Makes Me Wonder* Spark Bible Sticker and write the answer in the margin with a pencil. Discuss their responses if time allows.

Show the younger kids the illustration of Ruth gathering grain (pp. 114-115 in the Spark Story Bible.) **What caring thing did Ruth do for Naomi?** (*gathered grain to feed her*) **What caring thing did Boaz do for Ruth?** (*allowed her to take as much grain as she wanted*) **God gives us people in our lives who care!**

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Thank you for coming to Creative Drama today. I enjoyed spending time with you! Today we learned how God gives us people who care in our lives, just like he gave Ruth to Naomi and Boaz to Ruth. Be sure to ask your caregiver about the Family Pages. There are some great ways to remember the story of Ruth all week long!

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Find a partner to hold hands with as we pray today. Make sure everyone is included. **Remember, God gives us many people in our lives who care for us. Let's thank God for them now. At the end of the prayer, give your partner a high five!**

Dear God,

You cared for Naomi through Ruth and cared for Ruth through Boaz. Thank you for caring! Thank you for giving me the caregivers in my life. Thank you for teachers, family, community helpers, friends, and neighbors. God, you are great! Amen.

Field of Grain—Skit Script

Another child could read the “Stage Directions” (in italics) as the character acts it out. Thus, allowing for one more participant in the skit.

Narrator: Ruth and Naomi were very, very poor. They didn’t have any money to buy food to eat. Ruth said to Naomi,

Ruth: I’m going to go to the field nearby to pick up some of the leftover grain so we can make some bread to eat. Hopefully, I’ll meet someone who can help us.

Narrator: In the field, Ruth walked behind the people who were harvesting the grain and she picked up the leftovers for herself and Naomi.

Grain 1: Uh-oh! Here comes Ruth!

Grain 2: I wonder whom she will pick!

Ruth taps two pieces of grain on the shoulder and they leave the stage.

Narrator: In the evenings, she would grind the grain into flour and use it to make bread so they could eat. Ruth was a very hard worker. Ruth didn’t know it, but she had picked grain in a field that belonged to a rich man named Boaz. Boaz was also one of Naomi’s relatives. When Boaz saw Ruth, he asked,

Boaz: Who is that young woman picking up the leftovers?

Grain 3: Doesn’t he know Ruth?

Grain 4: She comes here every day!

Ruth taps two more pieces of grain on the shoulder and they leave the stage.

Narrator: The servant, who was in charge of all the workers in the field, said,

Servant: Oh, her? She isn’t from here. She came with Naomi and asked if she could have some of the leftovers. She is a hard worker!

Grain 5: She sure is a hard worker!

Grain 6: Here she comes again!

Ruth taps the last two pieces of grain on the shoulder and they leave the stage.

Narrator: When Boaz met Ruth, he told her she could stay in his field and work with the other women.

Boaz: If you get tired or thirsty, please stop to rest and have a drink of water.

Ruth: Why are you being so nice to me?

Boaz: You have been kind to Naomi. I think God must be very proud of you, and I would like to help you.

Narrator: Boaz told his workers to be very kind to Ruth and to let her take all the grain that she wanted for herself and Naomi.

All of the Grain: All of the grain she wants? Ah-ah-ah!!

Ruth taps all of the rest of the grain and they all leave the stage.

The Orpah Show—Skit Script

Orpah: Thank you, thank you, thank you, everyone. This show is the first in our series of *Amazing People Who Have Shown God's Care in My Life*. Today's special guest certainly knows how it feels to be cared for. Let's put our hands together and welcome—all the way from Bethlehem—my mother-in-law Naomi!

Naomi: Hello! It's so great to be here and it's so great to see you again, Orpah!

Orpah: Yes it is, isn't it! Let's get right down to business, shall we? Naomi, think back to the early part of your life when you were first starting to have a family. Who cared for you most?

Naomi: Oh my! It couldn't be . . .

Orpah: It is! It's your husband and two sons! Come on out and give Naomi a hug!

Naomi's husband and sons enter.

Sons: Hi, Mom!

Husband: I remember it like it was yesterday. We got married, started a family, and then packed up and moved to that one town. But things sort of went downhill from there . . .

Orpah: I remember all three of you died in that town, and I'm sorry you have to be leaving again, but . . .

Husband and sons leave as Ruth enters.

Naomi: Wait! I thought you came back . . . I . . .

Orpah: Not to worry. You remember your other daughter-in-law . . . Ruth!

Naomi: Ruth? I could never forget Ruth! We went through so much together!

Ruth: That's right, Naomi. First we traveled all the way back to your hometown. God used you to help the people there accept me. Then we were so hungry and . . .

Orpah: And God sent another person to help care for both of you. Bring out . . . Boaz!

Ruth and Naomi: Boaz! Is it really you?

Boaz: Hi, gals!

Orpah: Boaz, you have quite a story to tell. When did you first meet Ruth?

Boaz: It was a hot and sunny day. I was out inspecting my grain fields when I saw a vision of loveliness gathering the leftovers. I asked my servant who she was, and he said her name was Ruth.

Orpah: You helped show God's care for Ruth, didn't you?

Boaz: Yep. I found out she was hungry so I let her take all the grain she wanted to feed herself and Naomi. I even ordered my servants to leave extra grain behind. Soon we were married, and had a son, Obed.

Naomi: My grandson! He's here?

Orpah: Well that's all the time we have, thanks for watching, see you next time on the Orpah Show!

Everyone stands and exits the stage with Naomi still acting confused.

Caring Person Awards Show— Skit Script

Announcer: Welcome to the first annual Caring Person Awards Show! Tonight we will be honoring the people whom God has given to care for others on this earth. Who will win? Let's find out! Presenting our first award tonight is none other than [kid's name]!

Continue after the award has been presented.

Announcer: Wow! I did not see that coming! Let's put our hands together to welcome our next presenter [kid's name]!

Continue after the award has been presented.

Announcer: That award was well deserved! Our next presenter has come a long way to be here tonight. Please welcome [kid's name]!

Continue after the award has been presented.

Announcer: I can't believe it! That was quite a surprise! I wonder if our next presenter has something equally exciting in store. Please welcome [kid's name]!

Repeat the script from the first presenter or until the last award has been given

Announcer: What an amazing night! I'm sorry, but we're out of time! Watch your early news tomorrow for a critique of the red carpet fashions! Good night!

Award Card

This award goes to someone who shows God's care by:

This person should receive an award because:

I have known this person since:

Without this person:

And the winner of this Care Award is: