



Ruth Marries Boaz

Ruth 2–4



Bible Point: Hope in God's good plans.



Key Verse: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Use the following activities to further the application of this week's lesson in the lives of your family members.

Discussion Starters

Preschoolers

- What kinds of things do you look forward to?
- How does knowing that God loves you very much make you feel?

Elementary Students

- When you hear the word *hope*, what do you think of? Why?
- God promises to be with you and help you, no matter how difficult things may seem. How do you feel when you think about how much he loves you and cares about you? Why?

Youth

- How do you respond when you face a situation that seems hopeless?
- How willing are you to trust God—and keep getting to know him better through prayer and Bible reading—when you can't see any hope at all during a particularly tough situation? Explain.

Talk Topics

- Discuss why many people today talk as if things are hopeless, as if nothing they do can improve their situations.
- Consider how a Christian and a non-Christian who face the same difficult situation might view the topic of hope differently.
- Talk about where hope comes from. Is it something we manufacture inside ourselves? Is it something other people give us? How can we get it?
- Evaluate the relationship between how we may *feel* and the *truth* about God that remains true no matter how we feel. For example, just because we feel hopeless, does that mean there is no hope? What about all the encouraging promises God gives us?

Through the Week

Use the following passages to explore additional biblical insights about the hope we have in God.

Monday—Lamentations 3:21-24

Tuesday—Lamentations 3:25-26

Wednesday—2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Thursday—2 Corinthians 12:9

Friday—Ephesians 3:14-19

Saturday—Hebrews 12:1-3

Daily Challenge[®]

- Spend some extra time this week contemplating and understanding your hope. Ask God to give you deeper insight into the "Through the Week" passages above, as well as other passages that describe the hope we have in Jesus.
- Talk with other friends and family members about how your hope in Jesus should affect and change the way you live, and commit to working on whatever areas you identify.
- Is there someone who needs to know God's hope? Share your own hope in God, and let that person know that God has plans for him or her, too. Pray for God's plan for your friend as well.
- Give each family member a magazine or catalog aimed at his or her age group. Have them each tear out a picture of something they might "hope for." Let all family members show their pictures and tell about them. Then ask: How is this kind of hope different from the hope we have in Jesus? Encourage family members to share the hope they have because of Jesus.