

ALLEY SG – September 27th- 28th, 2025

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

Conversation Starter: When is it hard to be brave when you don't know what's next?

Bottom Line: God can give you courage when you don't know what's next.

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

1. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Markers, pens, and plain paper

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to form pairs. (*or they can do this on their own – whatever you feel is best*)
- Give each group a piece of plain paper.
- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Instruct kids to draw two lines across the paper to divide it into four sections.
- Explain what to do:
 - “You and your friend will tell the story of Ruth through pictures! Think about the moments you remember. What stood out to you? What surprised you? What made you say: ‘Ruth’s trust in God really helped her be brave!’”
- Direct the groups to work together to create four scenes from the story of Ruth in the boxes.
 - *NOTE: This is not about artistic skill. Encourage symbols and stick figures!*
- Once everyone is finished, gather the kids together and have several groups share their drawings.
- Ask:
 - What do you think it felt like to be Ruth when she had to leave everything and trust God with her future?
 - How do you think God showed up for Ruth?
 - Since God is the same God who showed up for Ruth, what does that mean that you can believe about Him when you are facing something unknown?

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: “Courage Starters” Activity Pages (one set of 3 strips per kid), and pens

What You Do:

- Gather the kids in a circle and give each kid a pen”.
- Give each kid the 3 strips from the “Courage Starters” Activity Page.
- Explain what to do:
 - “Take a moment to reflect on what you discovered today in Ruth’s story. Ruth didn’t have all the answers, but there was one thing that she did know—she could trust God. Let’s create one-liner sentences of encouragement or advice that you could share with someone who’s going through something hard, or use it to encourage yourself!”
- Instruct the kids to finish the statements on each strip with their encouragement or advice.
- Invite several kids to share what they wrote.

- Challenge the kids to give a strip to a friend, family member, or someone they know who could use some encouragement!
- Ask:
 - “What do you hope someone feels when they read your courage strip?”

3. Discussion Questions

- What is the bravest thing you've ever done?
- What would you say to a friend who's nervous about something new they have to do? How could you remind them that God is with them?
- Why do you think quitting or giving up when life feels confusing is sometimes easier?
- What are some truths you can remember about God that can help you be brave?
- How can the Holy Spirit help you to be brave this week?

4. Verses to Take With You

What You Need: frame (one per student), scratch off tool, Memory verse cards

What You Do:

- If time:
 - Give every kid a Bible.
 - Lead them to find Psalm 56:3
- Read this month's memory verse to the group, *When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you.* Psalm 56:3 (NIV).
- Pass out one frame, scratch off tool and memory verse card to each child.
- Encourage them to decorate their frame by scratching designs with the tool.
- Have kids slide their memory verse card into the frame when finished.
- Tell them to place this frame at home where they can see it every day to remind them that when they feel nervous, scared, or unsure—like before a big move, trying something new, or standing up for a friend—know that God is with them! They can always ask the Holy Spirit to give them courage. Stop and take a moment to remember: *When I'm afraid, I put my trust in You.* Psalm 56:3 (NIV).
- *Optional if time: Introduce kids to the following Scripture references and spark conversation around them.*
 - *Ruth 1:16*—Share with the kids that Ruth chose to trust God, even when her future was unknown.
 - *Proverbs 3:5-6*—Ask: “How does this verse remind us of Ruth's choice to trust God?”
 - *Isaiah 41:10*—Encourage kids with this promise from God! Ask: “How does this promise from God make you feel?”
 - *Hebrews 11:1*—Even when we don't know what's next, even when we can't see it, we can have faith in Jesus and trust the plan God has for us.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)
- “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.”

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share how God can help them be brave this week.