

## CITY SG – September 27<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Bible Story:** Ruth • *Ruth 1; Supporting: Ruth 2–4*

**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 (NIRV)

### **PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY**

**What You Need:** Nothing

#### **What You Do:**

- Welcome kids to the group with a high five or fist bump.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Say, "We're going to play a game called 'Would You Rather?' I'll read a question with two choices. If you pick the first choice, you'll stand up. If you pick the second choice, you'll sit down. Ready?"
- Start off with a practice round.
  - *Would you rather eat pizza or hot dogs for the rest of the week?*
- One by one, ask one of the "Would You Rather?" questions below. As you read each option, the kids will stand if they pick the first choice and sit if they pick the second.
- Invite a few kids to share why they chose what they did after each question.

#### **Would You Rather?**

- Would you rather move to a brand-new country OR stay in your hometown forever?
- Would you rather have to start a new school OR be the new kid on a sports team?
- Would you rather go on an adventure without knowing the destination OR stay home where it's safe?
- Would you rather have to eat a meal you've never tried before OR only eat the same food for a whole year?
- Would you rather go on a roller coaster blindfolded OR not ride it at all?
- Would you rather have to do a big school presentation without preparation OR take a surprise test?
- Continue playing if time coming up with more scenarios or letting the kids help!
- Say "Have you ever had to make a choice without knowing what's next? That can feel kind of scary. The good news is God doesn't leave us alone when things are uncertain. **When we go to Large Group we will hear a story about someone who had to step into the unknown, and how God gave them courage to do hard things!**"

### **SMALL GROUP TIME**

#### **1. Ruth's Journey Relay**

*Bible story review*

**What You Need** “Story Sequence Cards” Activity Page (2 sets per group), painter’s tape, and a basket or bin

**What You Do:**

- Before you begin, leave the table and tape two start lines somewhere outside of your group space.
- Place the “Story Sequence” Activity Pages in a basket or bin on the other side of the relay space.
- Divide kids into two teams.
- Instruct each team to line up behind a start line.

**Move Together:**

- One at a time, a kid from each team is to run to the basket, pick one card, and bring it back to their team.
- Once all the cards are collected, the teams are to work together to put the story cards in the correct order.
- The first team to place the cards in order correctly wins!
- Keep the story cards up on the table afterward so kids can revisit them during dismissal or discussion.

**Story Sequence:**

- There was a famine in Bethlehem, so Naomi and her family moved to Moab.
- While they were in Moab, Naomi’s husband and two sons died, leaving her with her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah.
- Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem after hearing that God had provided food there.
- Orpah went back home to her family, but Ruth refused to leave Naomi, saying: *“Where you go, I’ll go. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God.”* (Ruth 1:16, NIV)
- To help provide food, Ruth went to gather grain in a field that happened to belong to a man named Boaz.
- Boaz showed kindness to Ruth! He told his workers to leave extra grain for her and made sure she was safe.
- Boaz had a special relationship to Naomi’s family—he was someone who could protect Naomi’s family. He was a family protector! So he later married Ruth.
- Ruth and Boaz had a son named Obed, who became the grandfather of King David. Jesus was later born into this same family line.
- Say, “Just like Ruth, you might not always know what’s ahead—like a new grade, a new team, or a tough situation at home or school. But just like Ruth, there is something you can know: you can trust God. He is trustworthy, and He goes with you everywhere! And knowing God is with you and goes with you everywhere can give you courage. **God can give you courage when you don’t know what’s next!**”

## **2. Courage Crossroads**

*Application Activity*

**What You Need:** “Unknown Scenarios” Activity Page (one per group) paper

### What You Do:

- 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 STAND if they would react with courage and SIT if they would react with fear.
- 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!”

### 3. Memory Verse Frame

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

### What You Do:

- Read this month’s memory verse to the group, *When I’m afraid, I put my trust in you. Psalm 56:3 (NirV).*
- 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 (NirV)*

### 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 show them the story sequence cards and share what they remember about Ruth’s story.