

Activity 1 - Bridging the Gap.

You will need three plastic cups and a sheet of paper.

Place two cups upside down on a table far enough apart that the sheet of paper just overlaps the furthest edges of the cups when placed lengthways on top of them (see the diagram below).



Explain that the goal is to get the third cup to balance on top midway between the other two using only the sheet of paper as a support and without moving the two cups on the table.

Invite the kids to attempt this challenge.

When they give up, ask if they think it's possible and then show them the solution – fan-fold the paper lengthways with about seven folds and place it back over the two cups to create a bridge.

Place the third cup right way up in the middle of the bridge.

The corrugation of the folds makes the paper rigid enough to support the weight of the cup. (You may need to practise this before the lesson!)

You could start placing marbles or stones into the cup to see how many the ordinary sheet of paper can support.

Depending on the number and size of the folds, the paper can be surprisingly strong.

Talk about how this was possible – it was just an ordinary piece of paper, but by doing something very simple you were able to make it do something amazing. Today's true story from the Bible is about three ordinary people, Ruth, Naomi and Boaz, who were used by God to do something extraordinary.

The Big Fizz! experiment.

You will need a shallow tub, a small (500ml) see-through glass or plastic bottle, a tablespoon of bicarbonate of soda, about four tablespoons of vinegar and a teaspoon of washing-up liquid soap.

Show the children the bicarbonate of soda, vinegar and soap.

Explain that they are ordinary ingredients that you will find in most kitchens.

Place the tub on a table in front of the children with the bottle inside.

Pour the vinegar into the bottle and add the soap.

Use a sheet of paper to create a funnel; insert it into the bottle top; and pour the bicarbonate of soda in.

This should create a chemical reaction which you can encourage by swirling the bottle.

The contents should bubble out of the bottle.

You could also add a few drops of food colouring to the bottle before adding the bicarbonate of soda.

Explain that sometimes when ordinary things come together, they can be used to make something extraordinary – especially when God is at work! In today's true story from the Bible three ordinary people, Ruth, Naomi and Boaz, were used by God to do something amazing.

Games

Option 1: For younger children.

Play a version of 'Grandma's footsteps'. Have a parent lie down on one side of the room with a blanket over them.

The children all start on the other side of the room and need to move across the room towards the parent.

The first child to lift the blanket and uncover the leader's feet wins.

Children can only move when the light is off so if you are able to darken the room that would be helpful.

It might also be necessary to use a lamp for the sleeping leader to turn on and off.

Children who move while the light is on get sent back to the starting point.

Remind the children that in today's true story from the Bible Ruth asked Boaz to marry her by uncovering his feet. Boaz married Ruth so that he could look after her and Naomi and God used their marriage to look after his own people by providing a rescuer for the world.

Option 2:

Before the lesson print three copies of page 27 onto paper.

Cut roughly around the pictures and glue each one to a toilet roll tube or a ring of paper so that they can stand upright on their own.

Divide the group into two teams.

Place a bucket in the middle of the room labelled 'God' and the rest of the pictures at random around the room.

The children all move around the room, perhaps to music.

When you call out either 'wife', 'baby' or 'field' they must race to pick up one of the pictures that matches your description and drop it in the 'God bucket'.

The first child to do so earns one point for their team; keep track of the scores on a board or sheet of paper.

Continue the game in the same way, but this time there will be only eight pictures for the children to collect.

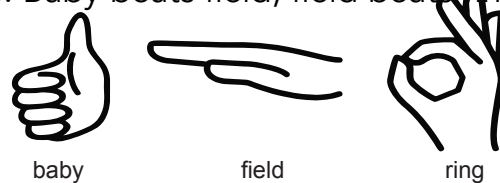
The winning team is the one with the most points after all nine pictures have been collected. You may need to take one or two other pictures out of the bucket and place them around the room on the last round so that the children do not all gather around one.

Talk about how it felt to earn a point for their teams when they managed to get the right picture in the bucket. How did they feel when they picked up the correct picture, but didn't get to the bucket in time? Each of the pictures were just ordinary things before they were placed in the God bucket – they weren't worth any points on their own.

Remind the children that in today's true story from the Bible God used these ordinary things – buying a field, getting married and having a baby – to do something amazing and unexpected for his people. Through these things God provided a rescuer for Israel and for us as well!

Option 3: For older children – Baby, Ring, Field.

Play a variation of the game 'rock, paper, scissors' using actions for baby, ring and field. Each word has a unique hand gesture as shown below. Baby beats field; field beats ring; and ring beats baby.



Create two teams if possible and have them stand opposite each other at either end of the room.

Place a bucket of balls (or scrunched-up paper) in the middle of the room with two smaller buckets on either side.

A representative from each team steps forward and stands with their hands behind their backs.

A parent calls out, "Baby, field, ring!" and the children show their hand signal on the word 'ring'.

The child who wins removes one ball from the middle bucket and places it in their team's bucket then waits in the middle for the next challenger.

The child who loses returns to their team and another child comes forward to play. (if you only have 2 kids they can just keep going against each other)

For each round the leader also announces whether it is an 'ordinary' or a 'God' round.

During a God round winners can remove five balls from the bucket (instead of only one).

In this way it will be possible for the losing team to quickly jump into the lead.

The game ends when all the balls in the middle bucket have been removed; the winning team is the one with the most balls in their bucket at the end.

Talk about how each team felt when they suddenly gained five balls instead of one. How did they feel when the other team gained five?

Remind the children that each of the three gestures were just ordinary things – they were only worth one point, but when they were part of a God round they could make a losing team win or a winning team do even better!

In today's true story from the Bible God used three ordinary things – buying a field, getting married and having



Activity

For 3-7s – choose either Activity A (page 28) or Activity B (pages 29 and 30).

Activity A – Print one copy of page 28 onto card for every two children. Each child will also require a length of ribbon or string about 50cm long

Before the lesson cut out all the rectangles and group them together in sets for each child. Cut the ribbons to length.

The children colour in the pictures. Help them to make a loop in the ribbon and then staple the picture of Boaz, Ruth, Naomi and Obed just below the loop. A short distance below them, staple the picture of Jesse and below that, David. Then staple the picture of Baby Jesus at the end of the ribbon.

Remind the children that Ruth and Boaz had a son called Obed. When he grew up he had a son called Jesse who became the father of King David. David had a son too and many more sons later Jesus was born. Jesus was part of Ruth's family and God's plan to save the world.

Activity B – Print pages 29 and 30 onto paper for each child. If you are able to do this on two different coloured sheets of paper this will improve the effect. If not, you could simply encourage the children to lightly colour the strips from page 30.

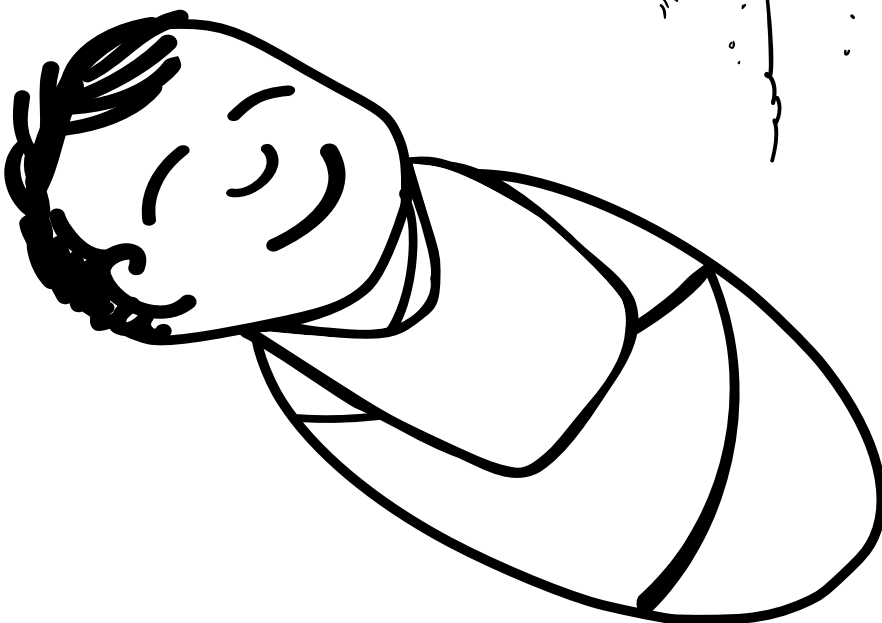
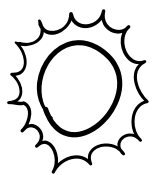
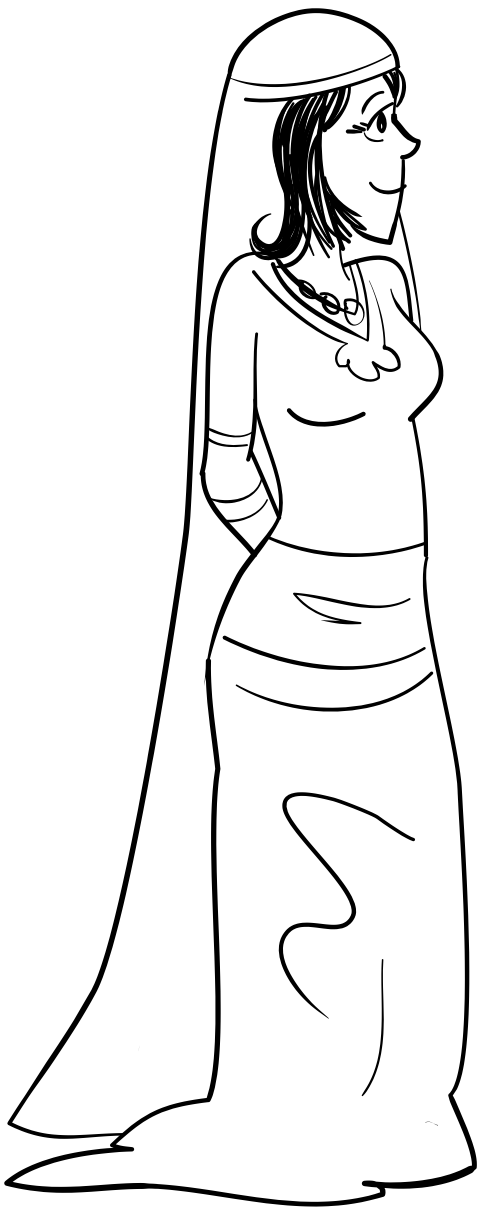
Before the lesson Use a craft blade to cut only the bold lines on page 29 and cut the strips on page 30.

The children colour in the pictures and then weave the strips into the heart, starting with number '1' which should start under the heart at the top left of page 30. The second strip also starts under the page, but from the outer edge of the heart.

Once they are all in place you should be able to read the entire story in sequence. Use glue or stickytape to secure the strips in place behind the main page. This only needs to be done on one side.

Can the children tell the story using the pictures and words in the heart? Get them to share the story with each other in pairs.

For 7-11s – print either Activity Sheet C (page 31) or Activity Sheet D (page 32) onto paper for each child. Choose whichever is appropriate for your children and use it to reinforce the lesson or as a discussion starter.



Boaz and Ruth had a baby called Obed.



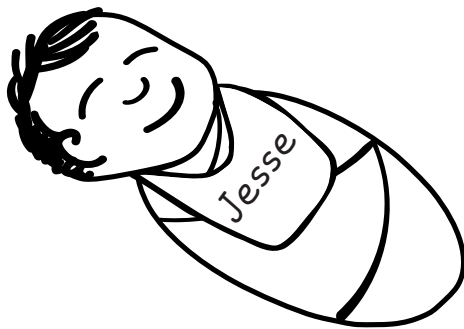
Obed was the father of...

Boaz and Ruth had a baby called Obed.

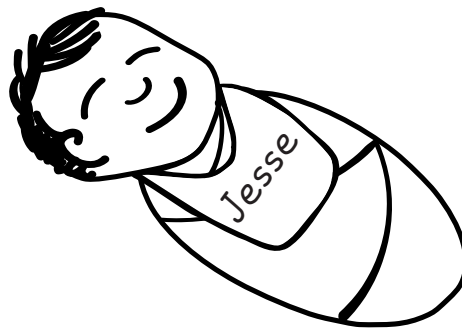


Obed was the father of...

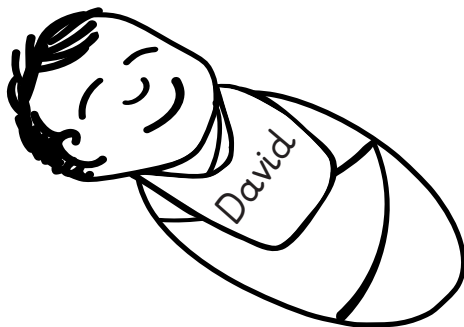
Ruth – Week 2
Activity A



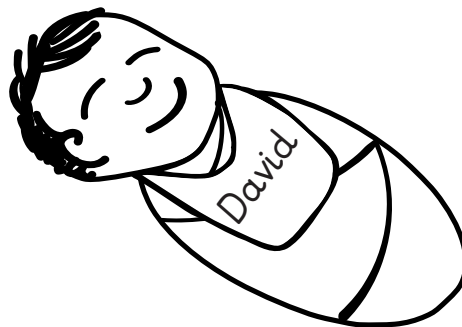
Jesse was the father of...



Jesse was the father of...



From David's line...



From David's line...



...Jesus was born.



...Jesus was born.



Ruth
went to
meet Boaz.

King
David.



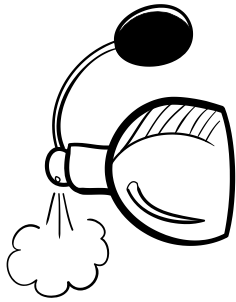
marry and
help her.



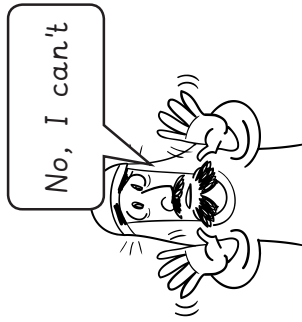
Ruth asked
Boaz to
marry her,

So Boaz
married
Ruth..

Naomi
told Ruth
that Boaz
could....



but Boaz
said,



Ruth had
a boy, Obed,
the
grandfather
of

"Praise be to
the Lord!"
Ruth 4:14