



YOUR GOD, MY GOD

God's Incredible Plan • U6#4 1st-3rd Grade • Dec 21, 2025

Concept

God uses people to accomplish His plan.

Goal

Students will learn that God can use our choices for great things in the lives of others, even though we may have no idea at the time.

Passage

Ruth 1-4

Key Verse: "... your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." Ruth 1:16b

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
Learning Activity #1: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Costumes for Noah & Abraham from storage room*<i>Map of Naomi's family travels</i> Learning Activity #2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">10" ball Lesson: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Grandpa's Box, Starr Meade	Activity Stations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">"OT Bookshelf" worksheet, 1/studentScissorsColored paper circlesYarnStrawsHole punch<i>OT/NT cards, 2 sets/room</i>

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

God's Incredible Plan • U6#4 1st-3rd Grade

"Ruth is a cameo story of love, devotion, and redemption set in the black context of the days of the judges. It is the story of a Moabite woman who forsakes her pagan heritage in order to cling to the people of Israel and to the God of Israel. Because of her faithfulness in a time of national faithlessness, God rewards her by giving her a new husband (Boaz), a son (Obed), and a privileged position in the lineage of David and Christ (she is the great-grandmother of David)."[1]

"It may seem surprising that one who reflects God's love so clearly is a Moabitess. Yet her complete loyalty to the Israelite family into which she has been received by marriage and her total devotion to her desolate mother-in-law, mark her as a true daughter of Israel and a worthy ancestress of David. She strikingly exemplifies the truth that participation in the coming kingdom of God is decided, not by blood and birth, but by the conformity of one's life to the will of God through the 'obedience that comes from faith' (Romans 1:5). Her place in the ancestry of David signifies that all nations will be represented in the kingdom of David's greater Son."[2]

"The most striking feature of this simple and beautiful story is the sense of God's intimate concern in humble affairs. He is the One who orders all the circumstances of daily life, even for the most unimportant people. And so the new-found faith of a Moabite girl, and her sacrificial love for her mother-in-law are woven into the great tapestry of God's plan of salvation. For descended from Ruth is King David, and from the line of David comes the Messiah himself."[3]

The book of Ruth serves to show that even amidst strife and unfaithfulness, there were those whose personal faith clearly remained strong. Thus, once again, God sovereignly continues His plan of salvation for the world. As you prepare this lesson, consider your daily decisions and the impact they have on your future effectiveness for Christ. As our culture deepens in rebellion against God, we will likely find ourselves very much alone in our belief. Our decisions now will determine the future strength of our personal faith.

[1] Children's Ministry Resource Bible, p. 232

[2] NIV Study Bible, p. 363

[3] David and Pat Alexander, Eerdman's Handbook to the Bible, 1973, Lion Publishing, Icknield Way, England, p. 226.

Instructions: Gather Abraham and Noah costumes from drama storage in storage room.

Activity Stations:

- **OT Bookshelf**

- **Instructions:** Give each student a copy of the "OT Bookshelf."
Have Bibles available. Answer the questions on the page.

- **Craft – Multiplication Mobile**

- **Goal:** To get a vision for how God may use them if they choose to tell 1 person about Christ.

- **Instructions:** As a class make a mobile using the yarn and straws. Fold the yarn in half, half again and half again. Cut the folds to make 8 equal pieces. On the page of circles, draw a picture of your class in the first circle. In the next 2 circles draw pictures of those your class might tell about Jesus. In the remaining circles draw pictures of those your friends might tell about Jesus. These may or may not be people you know. You can put "?" marks in those circles if you wish. Cut out the circles and punch a hole in the top and bottom of each. To make the mobile begin with the circle of yourself, take 2 pieces of yarn and tie a piece of yarn to each hole in your circle. The top yarn is to hang the mobile. Tie the bottom yarn to the middle of a straw. Tie 2 more pieces of yarn to each end of the straw and tie the pictures of your two friends to those 2 pieces of yarn. Tie 2 pieces of yarn to the bottom hole of the circles with your friends. Cut your other straw in half and tie the yarn to the middle of the 2 straw halves. Tie 2 pieces of yarn to each end of the 2 straw halves and tie 4 circles to those pieces of yarn. Hold your mobile up by the hanging string at the top and look at the people your class can influence for Christ. Look at the people on this mobile! Over the years you can imagine how many more people will know about Jesus because you chose to tell someone about Him. That's pretty awesome!

- **Where does it go?**

- **Instructions:** Deal the 66 cards to the players. Using the Old and New Testament sheet, have the students work together to put the cards in order. Fill in the names of the NT blank books. Challenge them to learn the names of the Old and New Testament books and be able to name them all by memory. To make it easier, they can learn by category.

- **Missions Prayer**

- **Instructions:** Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving campaign.

This year we have talked about people who chose to believe in God and how He used them greatly.

Introduction Continued

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Most of the people who have been used by God for great things don't realize the importance of their choices at the time. Their choices to believe in God have made a big difference in the lives of others, including us. Sometimes we don't think that our choices are very important, but they are. Two people we learned about earlier this year have stopped by via the time machine. Here comes the first one.

Drama

Instructions: Two teachers present the Noah & Abraham monologues wearing OT garb.

[Dim lights, Enter Noah.]

Hi! My name is Noah. I lived a long time ago when few people believed God. I knew God was good and I loved Him very much. One day God told me that it was time for Him to judge the wickedness in the world. He told me He was going to destroy the earth and all the people with a flood. He told me to build a huge boat for the people who believed Him and two of all the animals. People laughed at me when I began to build my boat. To tell you the truth, I did feel a little ridiculous. After all, it is kind of hard to believe that it could rain hard enough to cover the earth! But, I'm glad I decided to believe and obey God. He did destroy every animal and every person. But He kept me, my family and all the animals safe in the boat. I didn't know my choice to believe God would be so important for all people for all time.

[Dim lights. Exit Noah. Enter Abraham.]

Hello. My name is Abraham. I am called the father of the Israelites. One day God said an odd thing to me. He said, "Go." He didn't say, "Go to Idaho," or "Go to Mexico." He just said, "Go." Well, my family and I packed up all our stuff and we took off. It turned out that God showed us exactly where to go, but I didn't know how He would. I just decided that I would obey God. I'm glad I did, because a lot of great things happened.

He told me that all the nations of the world would be blessed through me. But I was 75 years old and had no children. I didn't know how He was going to bless the world through me. But, 25 years later I had a son named Isaac and he had a son named Jacob, who had my 12 great grandsons. Oh, I don't have time to tell you everything. But, many, many years after I was gone (I mean thousands of years), Jesus came from MY family. Isn't that AWESOME?! God sure did use me in a big way. And it was all because I believed Him and obeyed when He said, "go," and I believed Him when He said He would give me a son. Sometimes our decisions seem very unimportant, but later we find that those decisions really mattered not only to us, but many others as well—sometimes even to the whole world.

[Exit Abraham.]

Transition

Learning Activity# 2 Lg. Group

Now we are going to play a game that shows us how a decision makes a difference in the outcome.

Game - Rollerball [1]

Goal: To get the kids up and moving and to illustrate that decisions/choices affect outcomes.

Instructions: All players lie down on the floor in two lines, side by side with teammates and toe to toe with the other team. Ask players in one line to raise their legs perpendicular to the floor while the players in the other line scoot toward them, raising their legs also until the two lines are close. On the signal, the pair at one end of the line passes the ball to the next pair using only their feet. The object is to pass the ball from one end of the line to the other and back again, using only the feet. Play several rounds so the players can get the hang of working with each other to keep the ball from hitting the floor or falling off the line. Note: Obviously, girls with skirts will have to be retrievers for the ball when it rolls off the feet of the players.

Debrief: You each had to choose to work together with your partner to pass the ball. Each of your decisions, choices and actions determined whether or not the ball was passed. Your choice to work together or by yourself made a difference in the passing of the ball.

Noah, Abraham and Gideon decided to believe God. Today we'll learn that Ruth also made the choice to believe God and that choice made a difference not only in her life but also in our lives today.

[1] Wayne Rice, Mike Yaconelli, Play It Again, © 1993 by Youth Specialties, Inc., Zondervan Publishing House, pp. 91-92.

Transition

Lesson Lg. Group

Everyone grab a Bible and we'll learn what happened to Ruth.

Instructions: Read "A Foreigner Enlists," Grandpa's Box, pp. 100-104. Now that we've read about Naomi and Ruth, turn to the book of Ruth in your bibles. Our key verse today is Ruth 1:16. Who would like to read it? What does this verse mean? (Accept answers and affirm any that suggest the idea that this verse illustrates Ruth's decision to choose to commit to God.)

Ruth's choice to believe God had a long-term affect. Most of you know the story of David and Goliath. Did you know that David later became king of Israel? Because Ruth chose to follow the true God of the Israelites, she was the great-grandmother of David. Hundreds of years later, Jesus was born in the line of David. So Ruth was an ancestor of Jesus. God used Ruth in an amazing way.

Lesson Continued

Ruth's choice also had an impact on Naomi. How? (Because Ruth married Boaz, Naomi was well provided for.) God used her because she believed He alone would provide all her needs. Because she believed God would take care of her she wanted to follow Him though He took her far away from her home.

He is the same God today. He wants to use people with hearts who are willing to say what Ruth said so many years ago, "... your people will be by my people, and your God will be my God" (Ruth 1:16).

The Bible says that God wants all of us to be His people. Who can tell me why we are separated from God? So if we're separated from Him, how can we be His people? God provided a way to come back to Him. Just as Ruth chose to make God her God, we also must choose to make God our God. Everyone has a choice. We can allow Jesus' death on the cross to pay for our sins or we can ignore God and hope that we'll be okay in the end. The Bible says in John 1:12 that all who accept Him and believe in Him become His children. If we make the choice to accept Jesus we become his children. If we choose to ignore Him, the Bible tells us that we will be forever separated from God. Once we make the decision to follow God, we have the opportunity to accomplish great things for Him. We might not ever know in this life how much God uses us as we choose follow Him.

Transition

Let's break into small groups.

Learning Activity#3 Sm. Groups

- When you ask Jesus to come into your life, you choose to believe He will provide your salvation and make you His child. Would anyone like to share how you decided to become a Christian?
- Do you see the connection between believing that God alone will provide everything we need and being used by God in the lives of others? What if Ruth decided she needed to meet her own needs? Do you think she would have gone with Naomi? Would she have been an ancestor of Jesus?
- Have you ever been used by God to help someone? How did you know God used you? Did you have to make a decision to do something that was hard for you?

Let's pray and thank God that He has chosen and empowered ordinary people like Noah, Abraham, Gideon and Ruth to continue His incredible plan. Let's ask Him to show us that only He can provide us with everything we need so He can use us in His incredible plan.