

VALENTINE'S DAY



THINK ABOUT IT:

How can you show love?

Introduction

Read the following situations and have kids give a thumbs up if the person is showing love and a thumbs down if they aren't.

- Jimmy's mom packed a whole bag of Skittles in his lunch today. He decided to share them with everyone at his lunch table, even though it meant he would only get to eat a few pieces instead of all of them.
- Natalie was using the hula hoop at recess and could see that other kids wanted a turn. She was having so much fun with it that she kept on hula hooping, right up until the time recess was over.
- Eric's teacher asked the class to form pairs for an activity. He saw the new kid in class look around for someone to join. Eric quickly paired up with one of his friends before the new kid looked in his direction.

Message

1. Say, "Today we are going to hear a love story. The story comes from a book in the bible called Ruth, which tells of the love between three people: Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz. When you hear the words 'showed love,' I want you to cross your arms over your chest with your hands touching your shoulders, like this." Demonstrate the pose. Say, "This is sign language for love."
2. Tell the story, pausing when you say "showed love" to give the children a moment to do the love sign language. Show the visuals at the appropriate time.



SCRIPTURE

Ruth

1 Corinthians 13:4a



MATERIALS

- Bible for each small group leader
- Visuals - Naomi, Ruth and Orpha; Ruth and Boaz *
- Card craft materials for each child:
 - 5 1/2" x 7" black poster board
 - 4 1/2" x 6" red construction paper
 - John 3:16 Valentine's verse *
 - Stickers
- Glue

* Available in the Member Toolbox



PREPARATION

- Write the *Think About It* question on the board
- Bookmark the Bible verse

**IDEA!**

Have the children start on the craft and discuss the verse as they are working.

**EXTRA TIME**

- Discuss the choices Ruth made—was she thinking about herself or others?
- Ask the children to think of words that describe love.

The Story of Ruth

Long before Jesus was born lived a woman named Ruth. Ruth and her mother in law were living in a foreign land when both their husbands died. Naomi decided to move back to her hometown where she had relatives who could help care for her, and she told Ruth to go back to her own family. Ruth showed love to Naomi and instead chose to stay with Naomi and care for her on her journey.

When they arrived in Naomi's hometown of Bethlehem, Ruth was able to find a kind farmer who allowed her to follow his harvesters and collect the leftover grain. Ruth showed love to Naomi by working to make sure they had food to eat. Later they found out that the kind farmer was a relative of Naomi's named Boaz, who showed love to Ruth and Naomi by telling his harvesters to leave extra grain for Ruth to gather.

Boaz grew to know Ruth and showed love to her by asking her to marry him. Boaz showed love to Ruth and Naomi by taking care of them and providing them a home and food. Boaz and Ruth had a son, Obed, who is King David's grandfather and part of Jesus' family! God used the faithful love that Ruth showed to Naomi, and Boaz showed to Ruth, to fulfill His promise to send a savior, Jesus, who would show love to the world.

3. Ask, "How did Ruth show love to Naomi?" (*cared for her, did not leave her alone*)
4. Ask, "How did Boaz show love to Ruth and Naomi?" (*gave them food, cared for them, married Ruth*)
5. Say, "Be thinking of a way you can show love to someone and be ready to share in small group."

**Dig Deeper in Small Groups**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4a.
2. Ask, "What words are used to describe love in this verse?" (*patient, kind*)
3. Ask, "What are some other words for patience and kindness?" (*waiting, love, goodness, gentleness, being nice, etc.*)
4. Ask, "How can you show love to someone today?"
5. Hand out the valentine craft and instruct the children on how to complete it:
 - Glue the red paper to the black paper.
 - Glue the verse on top of the red paper.
 - Decorate with stickers
6. Discuss ways the children can show love to the person they are giving the valentine to.