UNSUNG HEROES (Imaginarium)

WEEK 1 (Nov 2 2025)

BIG IDEA

God gives us companions.

BIBLE

Ruth and Naomi: Ruth 1; Mark 12:28-34

ABOUT THIS WEEK

So many of our favorite superheroes have sidekicks and companions to help them out when they need it most. This week, we'll learn about how Ruth chose to follow Naomi back to her hometown after they experienced unexpected losses. Ruth knew Naomi needed someone to help and support her, and their relationship helps us see why God gives us companions.

Felix Bucks Store (15 MIN)

Felix bucks store will be open every week (15 min before the experience begins 9:15am, 10:55am, 12:55pm).

Kids can shop as they arrive. Simply write their names and the date on a paper so you know who has already shopped that day. Same rules apply they can by 2 small items or 1 large item each week.

Still start countdown right at the start of the experience (9:30am, 11:10am, 1:10pm). Store is closed with 1 min left on countdown so you can begin the experience right as the countdown ends.

CHECK-IN/PLAYTIME (5 MIN)

Check- In Opens 15 min before the Experience begins and closes 15 min after it begins

Kids will play until the main experience begins and then you will start lesson (check in will still be open for 15 more minutes station one of your helpers at the door for the remainder of check in)

Start countdown as soon as the main experience starts (9:30am, 11:10am, 1:10pm)

Whoever is doing check-in should stay there and welcome all kids. An Adult (18years or older) must drop kids off and check for name-tag with phone number on it.

Large Group Time

Welcome (5 MIN)

Introduce yourself and the other teachers

Welcome any first time kids (Have them come up front, introduce them, give them their 5 Felix Bucks and explain what Felix bucks are)

Pass out Felix Bucks (those attending more than one experience can receive Felix Bucks for all experiences they attend)

- Bible (1 Felix Buck)
- Notebook (1 Felix Buck)
- Paper from previous week (5 Felix Bucks)

Hello, future superheroes! Ready for training?

There are superheroes that we all know about, and there are *Unsung Heroes* that aren't talked about as much and might not even have any superpowers, like Ruth and Naomi from the Bible, who we'll be training alongside this month.

Through their story, we'll see that the truly unsung hero is God, who works quietly in the background to give us everything we need.

Today, we'll talk about something every hero-in-training needs: a companion who sticks by your side!

Rules (5 MIN)

Go over Rules quickly but thoroughly:

- 1. No Talking without Permission
- 2. Be Kind!
 - Use Kind words (no curse words)
 - Keep your hands and feet to yourself (no fighting/shoving)
- 3. No Running
 - o No leaving the classroom without a leader
- 4. No personal Toys or Electronics
- 5. HAVE FUN!

You can give Felix bucks to those who know the rules (ex. what is rule #1? whoever can tell you gets a Felix Buck then quickly move to next rule)

Generosity Time (5 MIN)

Briefly explain what a tithe and offering is. That a tithe is giving back to God what is His and then

he blesses the rest. An offering is anything more than our tithe. Everytime we sacrifice and give it opens the door for God to bless us even more.

MEMORY VERSE | Zephaniah 3:17a (NIV) (5 MIN)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: memory verse coloring page, sign language motions, or choose from this list of our favorite memorization techniques!
- "The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves."

Worship (8 MIN)

- Play one worship songs from Pro Presenter
 - 1st Experience: <u>Lemonade</u> (motions) by Forest Frank (Kid Kardia)
 - 2nd Experience: Praise God (Motions) by Planetboom (FWC Kids)
 - Lead Teacher go on stage and have 2 volunteers on either side of you (remind the volunteers what they are doing on the stage. Leading their friends in worship not playing)
 - Don't be afraid to teach the kids about worship for a minute if you feel it is needed or explain the meaning of some of the words in the songs
 - Make sure you pray out of worship. (pray for upcoming week, families, the kids, whatever Holy Spirit is leads you to pray)
 - o Don't forget to do Salvation Prayer.
 - make sure helper grabs green salvation bag from the back of Imaginrium, where the shirts are for those who said "yes".
 - Place bag by the door and give to kid(s) who said "yes" to Jesus as they leave. Also, let parent know the decision they made.

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | Hero Training: Companions (10 MIN)

PRE SUNDAY PREP: Have several blindfolds in the room; make two sets of three lines according to the directions below with masking tape or painters tape

• INSTRUCTIONS: For this activity, split kids into teams and pair up (have one team member go again for odd-numbered teams). Mark three lines on the ground with painter's tape: starting, halfway, and ending. For each pair, one partner begins as the "hero," and the other is the "sidekick," whose eyes will be covered with a headband like this and is guided by the hero by voice only. At the halfway point, they swap roles. Once they reach the other side, they'll have to wrap the headband around their adjacent legs and return to the starting line by walking together backward. They then pass the headband to the next pair in their team (or give each pair their headband at the beginning). The first team to complete the course wins!

- Okay, future heroes! The first lesson of being a hero—you can't do it alone! Heroes work together to get things done. Sometimes, a hero has a sidekick, and some heroes have an entire team supporting them.
- Today's Bible story is about a dynamic duo who formed a bond through tragic circumstances but would each be the companion and comfort the other needed.

QUESTION | Who is your superhero sidekick? (5 MIN)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the following questions. You can have every kid shout their answer but then ask a few kids to share their answers with everyone. Comment briefly on their answers —and have fun with this!
- Imagine you are a superhero whose main job is to protect your city! You need a partner—a companion—to fight the villains with you!
- If you could have anyone (real or fictional) be your superhero sidekick, who would you choose? Why?
- It's not just superheroes who need helpful companions. We need them in our everyday lives. It can be a friend who plays with you and helps you, a parent, a teacher, or another trusted grown-up who helps you be your best self.
- Think about the companions you already have in your life as we learn from today's Bible story!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

VIDEO | Unsung Heroes, Episode 1 (8 MIN)

- INSTRUCTIONS: Play this week's episode of Grow TV.
- Or dowload the months videos here.

BIG IDEA | God gives us companions. (5 MIN)

PRE SUNDAY PREP: Print the callouts below and have them either on a whiteboard or around the room; Have four pairs of red decoder glasses

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print out the <u>callouts</u> provided and place them on a wall or board out of order. Provide <u>red decoder glasses</u> (or make your own using cellophane) invite a few volunteers up to the front to read the words aloud and put them in order. Collect the glasses to use next week!
- Great job using your super-vision to find the Big Idea. Let's say it together: God gives us companions.

VIDEO | A Clip From "Sonic The Hedgehog 2" (5 MIN)

PRE SUNDAY PREP: Have the below clip loaded on propresenter and ready to play

- INSTRUCTIONS: Show this clip with Sonic and Tails from the movie "Sonic the Hedgehog 2."
- When Sonic first arrived on Earth, he was the only one of his kind. I mean, how many superspeedy superhero hedgehogs have you met lately? Sonic did make some human friends along the way, but he probably felt alone and out of place at times. When Tails showed up, they became fast friends and learned to depend on each other. They joined forces to take down the evil Dr. Robotnik.
- In today's Bible story, Naomi might have felt like she didn't belong in Moab, especially after all
 her family members died. But Ruth chose to stay by her side and follow her back to
 Bethlehem, even though that would make Ruth the outsider. God gave each woman the
 support they needed during their difficult journey.
- God does this for us, too. God gives us companions.

ACTIVITY | Stick Together (10 MIN)

PRE SUNDAY PREP: Have 2 or 3 extra large t-shirts and a few of the below activities ready for the kids to do

- INSTRUCTIONS: For this activity, get a T-shirt in as large a size as possible. Recruit a pair of kids to wear the shirt together. Both heads should fit through the neck (feel free to cut a wider hole if needed), and one arm from each kid should work through a sleeve. Have them walk around the room and do simple tasks together, like stacking chairs, picking up something from the ground, or pouring water from one cup to another. If you can get more t-shirts and space allows, feel free to turn this into a relay race so more kids can participate.
- Imagine you are a superhero made up of two superheroes stuck together! At first, it might be awkward because you can't move as freely as you could. But imagine the possibilities! This superhero could have 360-degree vision because two heads are better than one! And most importantly, this superhero would never feel alone.
- Ruth and Naomi weren't literally stuck together, but when Ruth told Naomi, "Where you go, I
 will go," she meant it. She intended to stick by Naomi no matter what lay ahead.
- Can you think of anyone in your life who would stick by you no matter what? God gave you those people! Can't think of anyone at the moment? Let's ask God to give us more faithful friends. God gives us companions.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | Hero Hangtime (10 MIN)

• INSTRUCTIONS: Have kids pair up with others in the group or with a leader and share their

responses to the prompts below with their partner. Afterward, have them share with the rest of the group, and be sure to share your thoughts. Remind kids to be respectful toward each other as they share, especially as they talk about their families, which can include non-traditional family structures like single-parent homes and foster families.

- Superheroes have all kinds of family backgrounds. Take Spider-Man, for example. He grew up with his aunt and uncle.
- Ruth and Naomi were a different kind of family, with just the two of them who weren't even really related! But God loved and cared for them just as God loves and cares for all families.
- Tell your companions about your family.
 - What is something unique about your family?
 - What is something you love doing with your family?
- Ruth gave up everything to stay with Naomi. She left her own family and home. There was nothing for her to gain by staying with Naomi.
- Why do you think Ruth stuck by Naomi?
- Ruth and Naomi experienced so much sadness and lost so much, but one thing they never
 lost was each other. God gave them each other as companions and looks out for us, too. God
 gives us companions.
- Thank your hero buddies for hanging out with you!

Small Group Time

DISCUSSION (if needed)

• SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS

- What had happened to Naomi and Ruth that made them feel hopeless? Ruth and Naomi both lost their husbands. They lost their family and people who could take care of them.
- Why did Naomi decide to return to Bethlehem? It was her hometown, and she had a better chance of surviving back home.
- **How was God heroic in this story?** God gave Naomi a faithful companion in Ruth, who chose to leave her home to follow Naomi back to Bethlehem.
- Read Mark 12:31. How might "loving your neighbor as yourself" make you a good companion?
- APPLICATION QUESTIONS
 - Who are the companions God has given you already?
 - o How can you be a faithful companion to others?
 - Ruth and Naomi were uncertain about their future. What are you unsure about? How can you trust God?