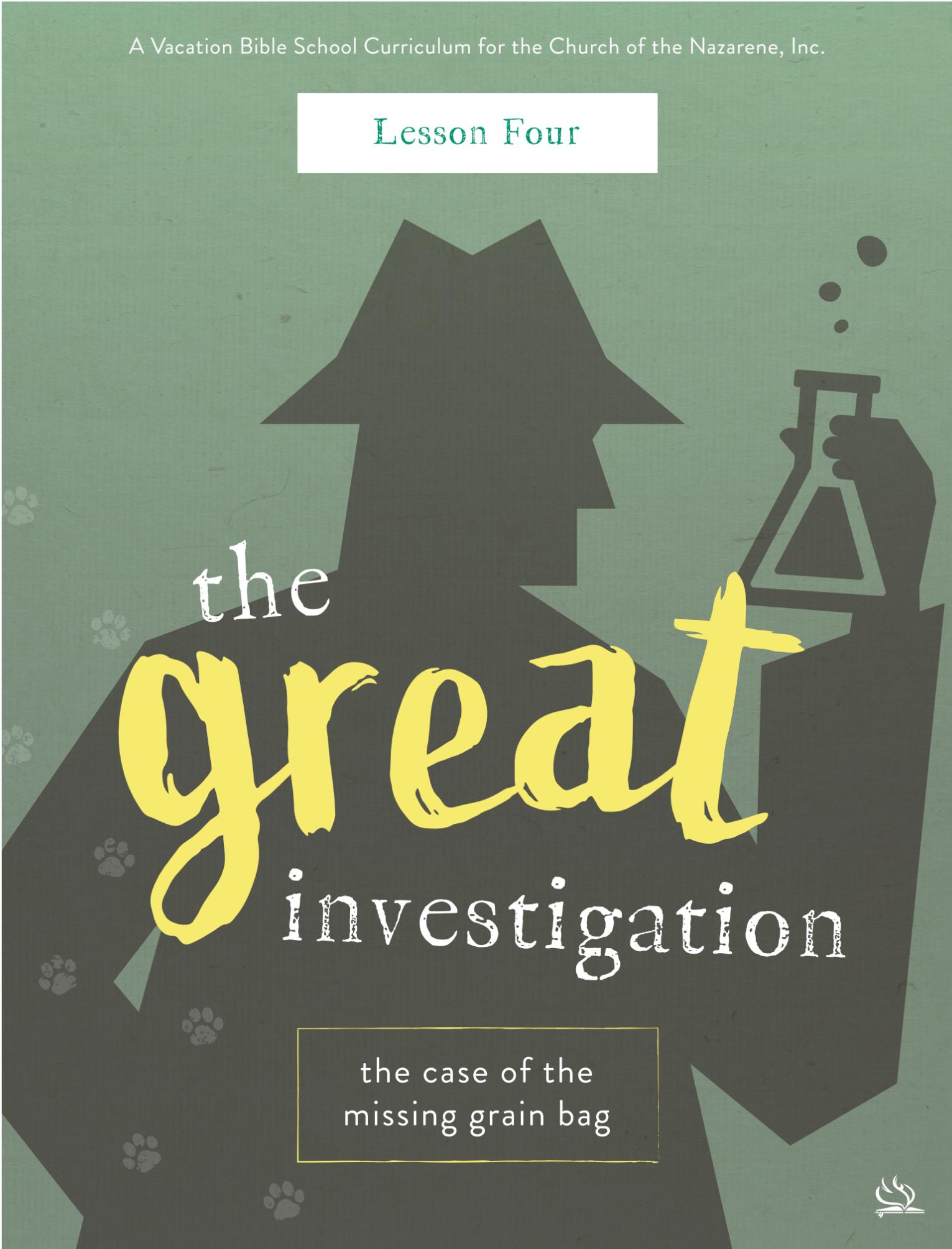


A Vacation Bible School Curriculum for the Church of the Nazarene, Inc.

Lesson Four



the
great
investigation

the case of the
missing grain bag



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Week at a Glance	4
Introduction	6
Opening	7
Activity Rotations	
Evidence Vault	12
Investigation Lab	16
Group Lab — Investigating Footprints	16
Detective Case Solving Kit	17
Discovery Shop	18
Grain and Seed Mosaic	18
Confidential Café	20
Boaz's Field	20
Field Adventures	21
Shoe Shuffle	21
Hopscotch — Memory Verse Game	22
Closing	23

WEEK AT A GLANCE

	<div>LESSON ONE</div> <div>The Case of the Towering Stones</div>	<div>LESSON TWO</div> <div>The Case of the Hanging Red Cord</div>	<div>LESSON THREE</div> <div>The Case of the Broken Jar</div>	<div>LESSON FOUR</div> <div>The Case of the Missing Grain Bag</div>
MAIN POINT	God loves us and prepares a way for us before we know we need Him	God offers salvation to everyone through His Son, Jesus	When we give our lives to God, He will guide us and teach us	God is always faithful, so we can trust Him
MEMORY VERSE	Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9	I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. Acts 10:34-35	Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD. Psalm 27:14	For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100:5
BIBLE STORY	Joshua and the Israelites cross Jordan River Joshua 1, 3-4	Rahab believes in God Joshua 2:1-24; 6:1-25	Gideon is led by God Judges 6:36-40; 7:1-25	Ruth finds a new home Ruth 1-4
CLUE OF THE DAY	God seeks us.	God saves us.	God leads us.	We can trust God.
THEOLOGICAL FOCUS	Prevenient Grace	Salvation	Sanctification/ Covenant	Ongoing Discipleship
LESSON ICON	 <div>Tower of Stones</div>	 <div>Red Cord</div>	 <div>Broken Jar</div>	 <div>Bag of Grain</div>

WEEK AT A GLANCE

	<div>LESSON ONE</div> <div>The Case of the Towering Stones</div>	<div>LESSON TWO</div> <div>The Case of the Hanging Red Cord</div>	<div>LESSON THREE</div> <div>The Case of the Broken Jar</div>	<div>LESSON FOUR</div> <div>The Case of the Missing Grain Bag</div>
 EVIDENCE VAULT	Joshua and the Israelites cross the Jordan River	Rahab believes in God	Gideon is led by God	Ruth finds a new home
 INVESTIGATION LAB	Types of Fingerprints, Lifting Fingerprints	Unknown Powder, Evidence Left Behind, Match the Fibers	Unknown Liquids	Investigating Footprints
 DISCOVERY SHOP	Detective Case Solving Kit, Handprint	Salvation Bracelet	Gideon's Trumpet	Grain and Seed Mosaic
 CONFIDENTIAL CAFÉ	Crossing Jordan Crackers	Jericho's Wall Rice Krispy Square	Gideon's Torch Snack	Boaz's Field Brownie
 FIELD ADVENTURES	Hide and Seek Tag, Fingertip Relay	Weaving A Web, Strings Attached	Blindfolded Obstacle Course, Make a Motion	Shoe Shuffle, Hopscotch
 DETECTIVE CASE SOLVING KIT	Small empty container, Clear tape, Small paintbrush, Cocoa powder, Index cards	Magnifying glass, Tweezers	No additions	Black crayon, White paper



INTRODUCTION

- 🐾 **Main Point:** God is always faithful, so we can trust Him.
- 🐾 **Memory Verse:** “For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.” Psalm 100:5
- 🐾 **Bible Story:** Ruth finds a new home; Ruth 1-4
- 🐾 **Clue of the Day:** We can trust God.
- 🐾 **Theological Focus:** Ongoing discipleship

God continues to lead us after we have put our trust in Him. He shows His faithfulness to us in continuing to teach us and to guide us. This teaching comes in different forms: scripture, worship songs, prayer, and teachers or pastors. He will place people in our path who will encourage us and help us as we follow Him.

Ruth made a choice to leave the life she knew behind in exchange for a new life. In addition to accompanying Naomi to her new home, Ruth also made the choice to believe in God. Through Naomi’s teaching, Boaz’s care, and ultimately God’s faithfulness, she made a new home and new life in Bethlehem.

OPENING



SUPPLIES

Lesson Four PowerPoint (opening slides and Clue of the Day motions)

Worship music lyrics or slides

Skit props and supplies

WELCOME

Director: Welcome back to *The Great Investigation*! Are you ready to learn about our last case? Let's see if you remember what we've discovered so far.

In the Case of the Towering Stones, we learned that because God loves us and wants a relationship with us, God seeks us. (*Encourage the children to do the motions with you.*)

In the Case of the Hanging Red Cord, we learned that God wants a relationship with everyone and when we put our trust in Him, God saves us.

In the Case of the Broken Jar, we learned when we say yes to God, He will guide us and teach us how to love Him and love others. Our clue was God leads us.

Today we'll discover a new case and a new clue to track down God's plan.

WORSHIP MUSIC

If possible, provide the lyrics through PowerPoint or posted where everyone can see them.

SKIT



SUPPLIES

File folder

Printout of "The Case of Missing Grain Bag"
(Lesson 4, Resource 1)

Printout of "We can trust God"
(Lesson 4, Resource 2)

Large dog bowl

Large dog bone



Paw prints (Lesson 4, Resource 3)

Bag of dog food

Paper and pencil

Antique camera (does not have to work)

Bloodhound bark sound effect

PREPARATION

1. Glue or tape Resource 1 printout on the file folder or write “The Case of the Missing Grain Bag” on the front of the file folder.
2. Print out Resource 2 or write “We can trust God” on a piece of paper. Fold the paper in half and place in the dog food bag.
3. Make multiple copies (number will depend on the size of the area) of Resource 3 and cut out the paws. Tape them to the floor of the office. Try to make a pattern of a dog walking in circles, including around the desk and different parts of the office so that there is a path to follow.
4. Place the dog food bag at the end of the paw print path.
5. Place the paper and pencil and camera on the desk.

CHARACTERS

Chief Investigator Emery King, Detective Snoop Tracy, Sherlock (unseen bloodhound)

Emery is wearing a hat and a trench coat over his dress pants and shirt. Snoop is wearing a similar coat and a bright shirt (Hawaiian type) and pants (or shorts).

DIALOGUE

(Emery and Snoop enter the room talking to one another. Emery hangs his coat and hat on the coat rack. Snoop throws his coat over a chair.)

Emery: *(Stops, surprised.)* What has happened? Where did all these paw prints come from?

Snoop: *(Gets down on all fours and looks intently at a print.)* Looks like a large dog, boss. I’m going to follow its trail.

Emery: Does it have a trail? It looks like random prints everywhere!

Snoop: I think there is a trail. *(Starts following the trail on all fours, acting much like a dog.)* I’m almost at the end. Do you see where I’m going boss?

Emery: Not so much.

Snoop: Here! Right here. It led me to. . . the dog food bag?

Emery: A dog would be looking for something to eat. One smell and he would be after the food. That makes good sense.

Snoop: That’s disappointing. I was hoping it would lead somewhere more exciting. Do you think it was a stray dog? Maybe the janitor left the door open and he wandered in? The dog could have picked up a scent and kept going until he found the food.

Emery: That is a logical conclusion.

Snoop: OR maybe it was the felon who wanted to make us think it was a dog. They made paws out of sponges and dipped them in mud. Then pushed the mud-soaked paw sponges down all over the floor to make us think it was a dog. *(Pauses for a moment as he thinks.)* Hey, is anything missing from the files? If so, it was the felon!

Emery: I haven't had time to look. Let me see. Our case today is the Case of the Missing Grain Bag. *(Emery opens a file folder marked "The Case of the Missing Grain Bag.")* Nothing in here. It has been tampered with!

Snoop: It is the felon! Missing grain bag? Sounds a little bit like a missing dog bag! Hm. The paws led us right to the dog food bag. I wonder. . . *(Opens the bag of dog food and looks inside.)* Ah ha! I found it. *(Pulls out a piece of paper.)* Right on top of the dog food was this paper. *(Unfolds it)* It says, "We can trust God."

Emery: That's the clue that was in the file folder before it was tampered with. I read it last night before I left the office.

Snoop: Who is hiding these clues? And then leading us right to them? First, we found the clue "God seeks us" under the table with a bite out of it. No fingerprints on it. Just the bite that turned out to be a dog bite. Then we found the clue "God saves us" under the dog dish. The hair on it turned out to be dog hair. Yesterday we found the clue "God leads us" submerged in the dog water bowl. The green water in the dish turned out to be plain water and the lab couldn't figure out what made it green. And now this. Paw prints leading to the clue "We can trust God."

Emery: That is a fine summary of our week, Snoop. Four different cases with clues hidden for us to find. A dog's bite. A dog's hair. A dog's water. And now dog paws.

Snoop: Can we take a picture of the dog paws here and try to match them with dogs in the area?

Emery: Yes, we can. We can also trace them for size.

(Snoop grabs the camera and starts taking pictures while Emery gets on the ground with a piece of paper and pencil to trace them.)

Snoop: Boss?

Emery: Yes?

Snoop: That clue about trusting God. What do you think that means? Is it like trusting someone who stands behind you and you fall backwards into their arms? Or is it like believing someone when they say they will do something? Or is it like walking over a bridge and not worrying that it will fall? Or is it. . .

Emery: Snoop!

Snoop: Yes, boss.

Emery: Enough. I'm sure as we solve the Case of the Missing Grain Bag, we will find out exactly what that means. But I do have an idea that this time. . . you are right. It might be all those things.

Snoop: *(Smiles)* Ok, let's go find all the neighborhood dogs and paw print them. Then, we'll see if we can figure out who has been hiding our clues.

Emery: I'll make a list of the neighborhood dogs to make sure we get them all. *(Takes the paper and pencil and writes as Snoop talks.)*

Snoop: Ok. We've got Princess, Max, Bailey, Luna, Kimber, Fido, Fluffy, and Spot. Did I miss any?

Emery: It feels like we've missed a dog. An important dog.

Snoop: I know. But who could it be?

(They stand still for a minute lost in thought.)

Emery: I just don't know. But something or someone very important is missing here. Well, let's get started on the case. Maybe it will come to us. . .

(Snoop and Emery leave. As they leave, Sherlock barks and barks [cue bloodhound barking].)

CLUE OF THE DAY

Director: Today our Clue of the Day is "We can trust God." Please say that with me. (Pause and repeat it.) Make sure you listen closely today, and when someone asks what the Clue of the Day is, you are going to say... (Pause for kids to shout the clue.) We can trust God!

Detectives Snoop and Emery are hot on the trail to find out what the last clue means. They've learned that God seeks them. God saves them. God leads them. And today, they will learn that we can trust God.

The Bible says in Psalm 100:5, "For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Faithfulness means we can count on God. We can trust Him because He is faithful and His love for us will last forever.

Let's learn some motions to help us remember today's clue (Use slides from Lesson 4 PowerPoint). Remember, because God can be counted on, we can trust Him.

We
(Point both thumbs at self)

can trust
(Cross arms over chest)

God.
(Point to sky)

OFFERING

(Tell the children how you will receive the offering and discuss the offering project. See the information provided for the Kids Reaching Kids offering project.)

Okay all you detectives, let's get searching for more clues as we track down God's plan. *(Dismiss the children by groups to their scheduled activity rotation. Make sure each group knows where they will be going.)*



ACTIVITY ROTATION

EVIDENCE VAULT

Bible Story: Ruth 1-4
Ruth finds a new home



SUPPLIES

The following items can be reused from Lesson 3:

Footsteps
Evidence signs
Yellow police tape or rope
A Bible
Small notebooks and pencil for each child



SUPPLIES

For Lesson 4 only:

2 pieces of pita bread (or flat bread)
2 linen or cotton cloths
Stalks of grain
Pottery cup
Water
Barley (or any type of grain)
Wedding item such as a dress, veil, or ring
PowerPoint slides (for Clue of the Day motions)

PREPARATION

- Read all the instructions before the children arrive.
- Designate an area for the evidence scene. This area should be large enough for the children to gather around the edges to examine the scene. A different area than the one for Lesson 3 might be used. Each day's evidence scene can remain for children to remember the stories.
- Prepare the notebooks for the children who are new today. Each child will have a notebook and a pencil to draw the evidence scene or write down clues. The design (Lesson 1, Resource 4) can be cut out and glued on the notebooks (optional).
- Set up the evidence scene in the designated area. Surround the area with police tape or rope.

EVIDENCE SET UP

Pita Bread (Evidence #1)

- Place one piece of pita bread on the cloth. Evidence #1 sign should be placed beside it.

Footsteps (Evidence #2)

- Place two sets of footprints so they appear to be walking alongside one another. Make a path with both footprints. Put evidence #2 sign next to one set of footprints.

Stalks of grain (Evidence #3)

- Scatter the stalks of grain on the ground. Place evidence sign #3 beside a stalk of grain.

Meal (Evidence #4)

- Place a pottery cup of water on the ground. On a cloth, place the second piece of pita bread and a handful of barley. Evidence sign #4 goes beside the meal.

Barley (Evidence #5)

- Make a pile of barley on the ground. Put evidence sign #5 beside it.

Wedding item (Evidence #6)

- Place the wedding item on the ground with evidence sign #6 beside it.

STORY

You may use the following script to tell the story.

Say, **Welcome back to the Evidence Vault.** Today we are going to solve the Case of the Missing Grain Bag.

Get out your notebooks and pencils from your detective kit *(or hand them out if they do not have the kits. If any child is new, make sure they have a notebook and pencil from Day 1.)*

I'm going to give you a few moments to look at the evidence. Make sure you don't touch anything. Stay behind the tape/rope. As you look at the evidence, you might be curious about what happened. Feel free to draw or write what you think might have happened in your notebook.

(Let the children move around the room looking at the evidence. Give them enough time to see each item.)

Let's all take a seat while I go through the evidence and we discover what happened. As we look at the evidence, we'll also look for clues in the Bible. The book of Ruth may give us some clues. *(Show the children where the book of Ruth is in the Bible.)*

The first clue is evidence #1. It is bread.

There were two women named Naomi and Ruth. They were related to one another because Naomi was Ruth's mother-in-law. Sadly, both of their husbands had died. They lived in Moab, but Naomi was from Israel.

There had been a famine back in Israel, in the town of Bethlehem where Naomi was from. That means they didn't have enough food. Naomi and her family had left and moved to Moab to find food. While they were in Moab, her husband and sons had died. Now she heard that the famine was over and Bethlehem had food again. Naomi decided to go home.

Ruth left her home and traveled with Naomi. But Naomi told her to go home to her own people. Maybe Ruth would find another husband (remember her husband had died) and a new home if she did that. Naomi cared for Ruth and wanted the best for her.

Evidence #2 tells us what happened next. There are two sets of footprints together, like they were walking together.

After Naomi urged Ruth to return home, Ruth said to her: "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me."

Ruth was going to not only travel with Naomi but stay with her. Also, she was making the choice to follow God. She was trusting Him with her future.

Evidence #3 is stalks of grain scattered here on the ground. Why do you think they are here?

When Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem, the barley harvest was starting. Barley was a grain that could be used to make bread.

They didn't have money to buy bread or to buy barley. What would they do?

God had a plan. He had told the people long ago that when they gathered their grain, to leave some around the edges of the field for those who needed it. This was a way for those who were struggling to buy or grow food to be able to eat. They just had to go out and gather it.

That is what Ruth did. She left Naomi at home and went out to the field to gather grain for them to be able to eat. This gathering was called gleaning.

Let's look at evidence #4. This looks like a meal. A cup of water and some food. Why do you think it is here? *(Give the children an opportunity to answer.)*

When Ruth picked a field to glean in, she had no idea that the field that she picked was owned by a relative of Naomi. His name was Boaz. When he saw Ruth gleaning in his field, he asked about her. When he found out who she was, he made sure that she was protected. Also, he told her when she was thirsty to get water from the jars the men had filled.

Boaz had heard about how Ruth had taken care of Naomi and how she had left everything to come with Naomi. He told her "May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

When it was mealtime, Boaz told her to come and eat. He shared the bread and the wine vinegar to dip it in. He also gave her roasted grain to eat. She had all she needed to eat and some left over. Boaz told those working in the fields to leave extra grain behind for her.

Let's look at evidence #5. This grain in the pile is barley. When Ruth left the field in the evening, she brought all the barley she had gathered and it was about an ephah. That was about 30 pounds or 13 kilograms. That's a lot of barley! *(Talk about something they would be familiar with that weighs that amount such as the weight of a younger sibling.)*

When Ruth told Naomi that she had worked in Boaz's field, Naomi blessed him. She told Ruth that he was a close relative of theirs. Ruth told her all about the day and how Boaz had made sure she was protected and provided with all she needed.

Let's look at the last piece of evidence, which is a wedding item. Do you know what it is? This represents something that happened. What do you think it was?

Boaz married Ruth. They wouldn't have had a wedding dress (veil or ring) like this, but the clue helps us know what happened. Naomi had wanted Ruth to stay in her own country so that maybe she could marry and have children. Ruth made the choice to go with Naomi and to take care of her. She also made the choice to follow God.

Our Bible verse today is Psalm 100:5, "For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." God was faithful to Ruth. He loved her and provided her not only with food but also a future. She found a new home with Boaz and then had a child.

How do you think Ruth might have felt leaving her own country to go with Naomi? How do you think she might have felt going into the fields alone to gather food?

God was with her. He cared for her. She could trust Him.

Do you remember our Clue of the Day?

We
(Point both thumbs at self)

can trust
(Cross arms over chest)

God.
(Point to sky)

God was faithful not only to Ruth; He is faithful to us today. Remember that God loves us and seeks us. He wants a relationship with each one of us. When we decide to follow Him, He saves us. But He doesn't leave us; He leads us and helps us to know how to love Him and to love others. He is always faithful to love us and lead us. We can count on Him and trust Him.

PRAYER

God, thank You for Your faithfulness today as You were faithful to Ruth. Thank You for loving us and seeking a relationship with us. Help us to trust You more and to faithfully go where You lead us. We know we can count on You. Amen.



ACTIVITY ROTATION

INVESTIGATION LAB

There is one group activity.

GROUP LAB – INVESTIGATING FOOTPRINTS



SUPPLIES

White piece of paper
Crayon or pencil
Tennis shoe
PowerPoint slides of prints or copies of the slides

PREPARATION

- None

DISCUSSION

Say, Welcome to the Investigation Lab. Shoe prints, sometimes referred to as footprints, are often found by detectives when they are investigating a case. The detectives or the lab will study the shoe print using a variety of methods.

Detectives might follow shoe prints to see where someone is going. They also can determine if someone is traveling alone or with someone else. Today, in the Evidence Vault, you saw (or will see) two sets of footprints that lets you know that two people were traveling together.

Footprints may be left when weight is put on a surface such sand, dirt, or snow. Prints might also be made by walking through paint or dirt and tracking it onto a hard surface such as a floor.

If prints are made on a hard surface, the best way to study the print is to simply take a picture of it. We are going to look at some pictures of prints and see if you can guess what made each of these prints. *(Show pictures on PowerPoint slides or print off the pictures. Give the children time to guess what each picture is before revealing the answer.)*

If the prints were made on sand or dirt, the investigator might take a picture of it. The other option would be to make a casting of the print. To make a casting, a substance similar to plaster of Paris is poured into the print, let dry, and then lifted out. *(Show PowerPoint slide or printed picture.)*

When a print is made in the snow, a wax type substance is sprayed into the shoe print. Once the wax is dry, then a casting is made. After a casting is made, it can be matched to an actual shoe. A rubbing can

be made of a shoe. I'm going to demonstrate how to make a rubbing of a shoe. Does anyone want to volunteer to let me use your shoe? *(Choose a child to come forward and give you one of their shoes.)*

(Demonstrate as you talk.) I'll put the white paper on the bottom of the shoe. This crayon will be used to rub over the bottom of the shoe. *(When finished, show the children.)* Now we have a rubbing of the bottom of *(name of child)* shoe.

Today, investigators use technology to do this type of work in the lab.

Individual footprints can look like we are walking alone. However, God is always with us. He is faithful to never leave us alone. We can trust Him.

(If time permits, go over the Clue of the Day and the memory verse.)

Let's go over our Clue of the Day. Do you remember the motions?

We
(Point both thumbs at self)

can trust
(Cross arms over chest)

God.
(Point to sky)

What about our memory verse? Let's say that together: "For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:5

Remember that God seeks us. He wants a relationship with us. He doesn't show favoritism to anyone but wants everyone to love Him and to follow Him. When we make the decision to say yes to Jesus, God saves us. Then, God leads us by helping us to know how to love Him and to love others. Finally, we can know that God will do what He says. He will always be there for us. We can trust Him.

DETECTIVE CASE SOLVING KIT

If the children will be creating a detective kit this week, have them place the items in their kit.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SUPPLIES
	Black crayon
	White paper



ACTIVITY ROTATION

DISCOVERY SHOP

GRAIN AND SEED MOSAIC



SUPPLIES

	Various kinds of grains and seeds
	Containers (aluminum or plastic) to hold the grain and seed
	Copies of mosaic pictures (Lesson 4, Resource 4)
	Glue

PREPARATION

- Pour each kind of grain or seed into a container.
- Make an example of the craft.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose a picture.
2. Glue the grains and seeds on the paper to make a mosaic.
3. Children can experiment with different areas on their picture by either using the same type grain/seed in an area or using a variety.
4. Allow the glue to dry.

DISCUSSION

Say, Today, we made a craft that helped remind us of God's faithfulness. We can trust God because He is faithful.

(If time permits, review the Clue of the Day and the memory verse.)

Do you remember the Clue of the Day? Let's say it together with the motions:

We
(Point both thumbs at self)

can trust
(Cross arms over chest)

God.
(Point to sky)

Let's see if we can remember the memory verse. We'll put a few motions with it to help us.

"For the Lord

(Point to the sky)

is good

*(Place open hand with
fingers together on chin
and bring down in front of you)*

and his love

(Make a heart with two hands)

endures forever;

*(Swing arms out wide
on either side of you)*

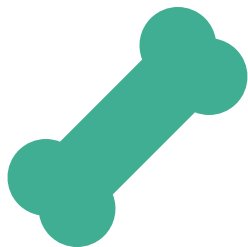
his faithfulness continues

*(Make a cross with
your two pointer fingers)*

through all generations."

*(Put hands up and wiggle fingers
as you bring the hands down)*

Psalms 100:5



ACTIVITY ROTATION

CONFIDENTIAL CAFÉ

BOAZ'S FIELD

The children will construct Boaz's field as their snack today. If you do not have these resources, enjoy a snack together that is related to the story and discuss the questions below. Learn today's memory verse.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUPPLIES For each child: [◊]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SUPPLIES
A brownie or a square piece of cake ^{◊*}	Paper plate [◊]
Chocolate frosting [◊]	Plastic knife [◊]
8 pretzel sticks or breadsticks [◊]	Lesson Four PowerPoint slides (memory verse motions)
Red licorice string or string cheese [◊]	

*Alternative: Graham cracker, cookie bar, or granola bar could be used in place of brownies.

PREPARATION

- Read all the instructions before the children arrive. If possible, make an example.
- Cut the brownies or cake into rectangles or squares.
- If store bought, open the chocolate frosting and stir so it will be easy to spread.
- To save time, ingredients could be prepackaged on a plate.

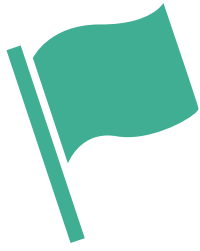
INSTRUCTIONS

If the children have heard the story, review it as you are "building" your snack. For example, discuss how the brownies represent the field and the frosting represents dirt. Ask how a field was a part of our story. If not, tell them that they will hear a story later about an important field and the grain growing in it.

DISCUSSION

You may use the following script.

Say, Today, as we are uncovering clues to solve the Case of the Missing Grain Bag, we are going to make a snack that reminds us of something that happens in the Bible story. On the plate, place the brownie. This is a field. Take your knife and spread frosting on the brownie or cake. This is the dirt in the field. Now, take three pretzel sticks or breadsticks and $\frac{1}{2}$ of your red licorice string or $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cheese string. Tie the string around the sticks to make a grain bundle. Do the same thing with three more sticks. Place these standing up in the middle of the field. Take the remaining pretzels or breadsticks and break them into small pieces. Put these around the edge of the brownie or cake. These represent the grain that was left around the edge of the field. The grain was left so people who needed food could come and pick it up.



ACTIVITY ROTATION

FIELD ADVENTURES

SHOE SHUFFLE



SUPPLIES

Parachute for kids or king-sized bed sheet

PREPARATION


- None

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Players all sit in a circle (or rectangle if using a bed sheet) holding the edge of the parachute.
2. Number the children around the circle.
3. Pick a number and have the child with that number remove a shoe and throw it under the parachute toward the middle.
4. Count to three. On three, lift the parachute as high as possible so the child who is missing a shoe can run underneath, grab his or her shoe, and get back to his or her place before the parachute comes down.
5. Continue until all students have had an opportunity to play.

HOPSCOTCH – MEMORY VERSE GAME

“For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”
Psalm 100:5

	SUPPLIES
	Chalk
	Sidewalk or other cement or blacktop surface

Note: If this game is played inside, use masking tape to make a hopscotch grid on the floor or carpet. Write the words on a piece of paper and tape them on the floor within the squares.

PREPARATION

- Draw a hopscotch grid on a solid surface.
- Write the phrases from the verse on the squares in order, starting with the first square.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Take turns hopping through the hopscotch pattern with only one foot allowed in each square.
2. Say the verse together as the child hops through.
3. After all the children have hopped through, erase some of the words.
4. Continue to go through the hopscotch grid occasionally erasing a word.
5. After all the words are erased, practice saying the verse together.

CLOSING



SUPPLIES

File folder for The Case of the Missing Grain Bag (from opening skit)

PowerPoint slides (Clue of the Day and memory verse motions)

Bloodhound bark sound effect

Picture of bloodhound or actual dog or costume

PREPARATION

- None

DIALOGUE

Emery: Welcome back to our detective agency. We've been solving the Case of the Missing Grain Bag. *(Holds up the folder from the opening skit.)* The big question is. . . who took the grain? And why did they take it?

Snoop: I'm pretty sure we all know. We've gotten really good at solving cases.

Emery: You know we all have improved our detective skills this week. In fact, these detectives-in-training have done a fantastic job of helping us solve cases. And the clues from those cases have helped us learn God's plan for our lives.

Snoop: Let's see if they solved this case.

Emery: I suppose they are "sleuthy," if that is even an official word.

Snoop: Yep. Like they have good hunches. They are curious and track down the leads. They inspect the evidence. . .

Emery: I've got it. Before we get to the missing grain bag, let's see if they remember the Clue of the Day. Who knows the Clue of the Day?

(Choose a child to come forward and lead the group in saying the Clue of the Day using the motions.)

We
(Point both thumbs at self)

can trust
(Cross arms over chest)

God.
(Point to sky)

Snoop: Good job, sleuthy investigators!

Emery: Excellent work! Now who might know our memory verse today?

(Choose a child to come forward and say the verse. Encourage the children to do the motions while the verse is being quoted. If the child forgets the words, invite everyone to say it together. Thank the child for volunteering.)

“For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”
Psalm 100:5

Emery: Again, excellent work! Finally, let’s see if they were able to solve the Case of the Missing Grain Bag.

Snoop: I’m sure they solved it. But it wasn’t easy. Because. . . well the bag was missing. . .

Emery: Quite true, Snoop Tracy! *(Turns to the children.)* Who took the grain? And why did they take it? *(Choose a child to answer the question.)* That’s right, Ruth did. She needed food for Naomi and for herself.

Snoop: But she didn’t steal it.

Emery: No, she did not. God had provided a way for those who needed food to get it. Those working in the field would leave grain around the edges of the field. Anyone who was passing through or lived nearby could glean it.

Snoop: I think we have all the clues to put together God’s plan.

Emery: That’s right, we do. God seeks us because He loves us and wants a relationship with us. God saves us when we decide to believe in Him and to follow Him. God leads us by teaching us how to love Him and to love others. And we can trust God because He is faithful. He will always be there for us.

Snoop: That wraps up our cases for the week.

Emery: I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you and these detectives in training.

(Sherlock barks)

Snoop: Is that Sherlock? Why is he barking? Does he need to be fed? Is he lonely? Is he out of water? Does he need to be let outside? Has he cornered a . . .

Emery: *(Puts pointer finger up.)* Snoop. We almost forgot. We have one more case we have not solved.

Snoop: The felon who was tampering with our clues!

(Sherlock barks again.)

Emery: The lab investigated the paw prints and they didn't match any of the dogs on our list.

Snoop: None of them? I thought for sure Fido was the felon. I mean I've never seen Fido but his name sounds suspicious to me. Very, very suspicious. . .

Emery: We are stumped. This may be a case we never solve. . .

(Snoop and Emery stand looking dejected and confused.)

Snoop: Unless. . . UNLESS. . . I've got it!

Snoop and Emery: *(Look at each other and yell at the same time)* SHERLOCK!

(Sherlock barks a few times. Put the picture of Sherlock on the screen. Or have a real bloodhound come on stage or someone dressed in a bloodhound costume.)

Snoop: Here we were looking for a felon, and it was Sherlock all the time. Why would Sherlock cause such trouble?

Emery: He wasn't trying to cause trouble. He was getting our attention by taking a bite out of the file folder, by hiding the clue under the dog bowl with string hanging out, by coloring the water green so we would look in the water bowl, and finally by leaving pawprints leading us to the clue. He wanted to make sure we took these clues seriously.

Snoop: We sure did take them seriously. Sherlock, you are something else. Maybe I should get a dog like you for my apartment. The dog could fetch my slippers at night and could turn on my coffeemaker and . . .

Emery: Snoop. Let's not get carried away. Sherlock, thank you for your help. Case solved. *(Turns to audience.)* And thank you. We are now promoting you from detectives-in-training to just plain detectives. Congratulations!