

**SECTION**  
**2.4**

# The Bible Teaches Us About History



## Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

### Option 1: You want me to eat that?!

**What You'll Need:** Empty box of cotton swabs, mini marshmallows, white candy sticks, butterscotch chips, microwave-safe bowl, spoon, wax paper, plate

**PREP:** Make used cotton swabs by placing a marshmallow on both ends of each candy stick. Melt 1/3 cup of butterscotch chips in the bowl for 30 seconds and stir until melted. Dip the tips of the marshmallows into the melted butterscotch chips and place on wax paper for 10 minutes. Place the empty box of cotton swabs on a plate. Arrange a few of the prepared candy in and around the box.

Before class, ask a leader or a kid to be the first to try one during class.

(Optional: Search online for alternative gross snack ideas. Prepare according to directions.)

**STEP 1:** Display the candy cotton swabs. Assure them that even though they look like somebody used these cotton swabs to clean their ears, they are safe to eat. Ask the volunteer to try one in front of the class. Then offer one to each kid.

**STEP 2:** Ask the following questions:

- Why did this treat seem gross?
- Did you have second thoughts about trying it? Why or Why not?
- How did having someone else try the candy first help your decision to try it?

**STEP 3:** Share these key concepts:

- Knowing that someone has demonstrated courage or gone through something before you makes it easier for you to face a similar situation.

- People from the Bible often kept going and never gave up hope. They chose to follow God and serve Him faithfully.
- The Bible helps us learn about history and the people who faced trials and hardships, yet they continued to trust that God would get them through.

**STEP 4:** Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that the Bible teaches us about history.

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## Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

### Option 2: Do you trust Me?

**What You'll Need:** Duct tape or masking tape, blindfold

**PREP:** Make 15 duct tape or masking tape balls of various sizes (be sure that at least one or two are fairly large). Use tape to mark off a square area of your classroom, somewhere between eight to 10 feet (2m to 3m) on each side.

**STEP 1:** Ask a leader to demonstrate trust in the kids. Blindfold the leader and ask him or her to stand on one end of the marked area. Instruct kids to stand outside the marked area. Give each kid one or two taped balls, and instruct them to toss the balls into the square.

Explain to the kids that their job is to get the blindfolded leader across the other side without stepping on a duct tape ball using ONLY verbal instructions.

**STEP 2:** After the leader is safely across, ask the following questions:

- What is trust?
- How did the leader demonstrate trust in you?
- Why would it be easier for you to go through the activity after someone else has successfully faced it?

**STEP 3:** Share these key concepts:

- Knowing that someone has demonstrated courage or gone through something before you makes it easier for you to face a similar situation.
- People from the Bible often kept going and never gave up hope. They chose to follow God and serve Him faithfully.

- The Bible helps us learn about history and the people who faced trials and hardships, yet they continued to trust that God would get them through.

**STEP 4:** Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that the Bible teaches us about history.

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## Main Lesson (10 Minutes)

### Option 1: Real-Life Examples of Faith

**What You'll Need:** Bible (optional: Bible times costume) (*Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.*)

**PREP:** Choose a leader(s) to act out one or both of the on separate page monologues. Give the leader a printed copy of the chosen monologue. Encourage the leader to be creative and full of expression as he or she presents the monologue. (Optional: Ask the leader to wear a biblical costume during the presentation.)

**STEP 1:** Read or recite this week's memory verse, Romans 15:4. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- The events that were written in the Bible really happened; they are a part of our history.
- The Bible was written for learning, which means that God wants us to learn from the true stories about people in Scripture.
- God gave us His Word so that we could learn more about Him and His eternal plan for us.
- God's Word teaches patience and offers comfort. By trusting in the truth of the Bible, we have hope.

**STEP 2:** Have the leader present the chosen monologue(s). Then, have the kids break into groups of two or three and discuss these questions:

- What hardship did that character face?
- How did that person demonstrate faith in God through the trial?
- How can these characters encourage you and give you hope when you face struggles?

**STEP 3:** Share these key concepts:

- These people from the Bible really lived. Their stories really did happen (Proverbs 30:5)!

- These people—and others like them in the Bible—were not super smart or strong; they chose to have faith in God. Studying their stories encourage us and offer us hope (Romans 15:4).
- The same God who helped the people in biblical history is the same God who loves us and promises to always be with us. Our faith grows stronger as we read and believe His Word (Romans 10:17).

**STEP 4:** Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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**Main Lesson (10 Minutes)**

**Option 2: Character Comics**

**What You'll Need:** Bibles, card stock, pencils, markers or crayons, easel, white board or poster board and markers (*Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.*)

**PREP:** Choose several Bible characters who demonstrated faith in trials, such as Daniel (Daniel 6), Deborah (Judges 4-5), Ruth (Ruth 1-4), David (1 Samuel 17), or Paul and Silas (Acts 16).

Bookmark a Bible to each passage you chose.

Set up the easel and whiteboard or poster board in the front of the room. Divide the board into three columns. At the top of the left-hand column, write "Character." At the top of the middle column, write "Experience." At the top of the right-hand column, write "faith."

**STEP 1:** Read or recite this week's memory verse, Romans 15:4. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- The events that were written in the Bible really happened; they are a part of our history.
- God gave us His Word so that we could learn more about Him and His eternal plan for us.
- God's Word teaches patience and offers comfort. By trusting in the truth of the Bible, we have hope.

**STEP 2:** Encourage kids to discover firsthand historical characters from the Bible who demonstrated faith in difficult circumstances. Divide kids into groups of two or three, and give each kid a sheet of card stock and markers or crayons. Assign a character to each group, and give that group the Bible bookmarked to that passage.

Give groups five minutes to create a comic strip that highlights their character's example of faith. Encourage each kid to work on one frame of

their comic strip. Ask leaders to walk around the groups, offering assistance as needed.

**STEP 3:** After five minutes, have each group introduce their character and present their comic strips and highlight their character's faith.

Ask the following questions:

- What hard experience did your character face?
- How did your character show faith even in a difficult situation?

Encourage a volunteer from the group to record their findings under the appropriate chart on the prepared board.

**STEP 4:** After all the groups have presented their characters and comic strips, share these key concepts:

- These people from the Bible really lived. Their stories really did happen (Proverbs 30:5)!
- These people—and others like them in the Bible—were not super smart or strong; they chose to have faith in God. Studying their stories encourage us and offer us hope (Romans 15:4).
- The same God who helped the people in biblical history is the same God who loves us and promises to always be with us. Our faith grows stronger as we read and believe His Word (Romans 10:17).

**STEP 5:** Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

**Notes:**



# Bible Character Monologue Scripts

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose a leader to act out one or both of the following monologues. Encourage the leader to be creative and full of expression as he or she presents the character in front of the club. If desired, the leader can dress like the character in biblical attire.

## MONOLOGUE FOR RUTH

(Begin the monologue by pretending to hold a baby in your arms, rocking him and talking to him. After several seconds of activity, notice the kids and pretend to lay the baby in a cradle. Then stand and begin the monologue.)

Pardon me. I was just taking care of my baby boy, Obed. My life is so happy now, but it has not always been easy.

My name is Ruth. I grew up in the country of Moab where we worshiped false gods. We had to do many things to please these gods, and we were frightened of them. I married a man whose family had moved into our country from the country of Israel. He and his family served only one God. They loved and trusted their God, and I learned many things about this God from them.

However, my first husband—and his brother and father—died, leaving me and my mother-in-law, Naomi, alone. I was heartbroken, but I knew Naomi needed someone to love and care for her. When Naomi decided to return to her homeland, I willingly left my hometown, my friends, and my family to be with her. It was not easy for me to go, and I was afraid. I wondered: *Who would care for us?* Where would we live? How would we find food? But I knew all about my mother-in-law's God, and I bravely declared that He would be my God as well.

Shortly after we moved, I was able to gather grain in a field owned by Boaz. I found out later that Boaz was a relative of my dead husband. The work was hard, but Boaz took notice of me and told his field workers to leave extra grain for me. I could take the grain home

and use it to make bread. Already our God was at work providing food for Naomi and me!

After Naomi saw the kindness of Boaz, she shared with me an ancient custom of her people, the Jews. Since Boaz was a relative of ours, he could become my husband and help our family! I was scared. What if he did not want me to be his wife?, I questioned. I did not understand the custom, but I knew that God would work out all things, so I obeyed my mother-in-law's unusual requests and I did EXACTLY what she told me to do. And guess what? Boaz, a man who loved and trusted God, fulfilled the custom. He became my husband.

As I think back to the times when I was scared, alone, and heartbroken, I can see that even then, God had a plan for me. Now I have a wonderful husband who provides for me and Naomi. I even have a son! God has truly been good, and I am so glad that I can trust Him.



# Bible Character Monologue Scripts

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose a leader to act out one or both of the following monologues. Encourage the leader to be creative and full of expression as he or she presents the character in front of the club. If desired, the leader can dress like the character in biblical attire.

## MONOLOGUE FOR DANIEL

Have you ever been challenged to do something you know isn't right? Let me tell you from experience: it's hard.

My name is Daniel. You may have heard some pretty amazing things about my time in the lion's den, but I want to share with you a true story about what happened to me when I was—well, just a few years older than some of you! (Point to the kids in the room.)

A wicked king conquered my town and forced me and many of my friends to return to his city of Babylon to serve him. I was torn from my family, my home, and my people—all that was familiar to me. Babylon, though a great city of riches and power, was completely foreign to me. The people of that city spoke a different language, ate different foods, read different books, and worshiped different gods.

Even though I was lonely, homesick, and frightened, I remembered everything that I had been taught about the one true God. I KNEW that God was with me; even in this foreign land I was not alone.

The king chose me—and several other young Jews who were about my age—to live at his palace and be trained as his special servants. The training program was challenging, and part of the training included eating rich foods that the king would eat. While I'm sure the foods were delicious, I knew that many of the foods were forbidden by my people and my God.

You see, a long time ago, God had given the Jews special rules about the foods they were allowed to eat. So to eat of the king's foods

would be like forgetting about my God and my homeland—all that I believed and had faith in.

Even though I was afraid, I made a choice that I would not go against my beliefs and dishonor God by eating the king's food. I knew that it could cost me my life—and the lives of the men who were in charge of me—but I made my request. I challenged my guards to give me and my three friends only vegetables and water (food that would honor God and my people) for 10 days. At the end of the challenge, these men could look at us to see if our special diet was good for us.

At the end of the 10 days, I stood before my captors. My friends and I were healthy and fit and able to perform better than those who were given the meat and fine foods from the king himself! My God did not fail me! In time, God made us smarter and wiser and more skilled than all the other young men in the training program.

Even though that situation was hard, I learned that I could ALWAYS trust God. I learned that if I chose to obey Him in every situation I faced, God would strengthen me and never leave me. My faith grew, and God used me in great ways. My life was not easy, but my God is good, and He is faithful. Will you choose to trust Him like I did?