

The Family Puzzle

A 20-minute lesson for Sunday school, VBS or midweek kids · Ephesians 3:15

Questions or a church request: hello@ljandfamily.com · ljandfamily.com

AGES	4–10 (adaptations for 3–5 and 10–12 at the end)
YOU NEED	A screen for the episode · a large sheet of card with simple stick figures drawn on it, cut into 6–8 jigsaw pieces · crayons · the coloring page
EPISODE	Ep 7, The Family Puzzle (3:45) · youtu.be/7cyXT5d-0jo
MEMORY VERSE	“Every family in heaven and on earth is named by the Father.” Ephesians 3:15
BIBLE STORY	Ruth and Naomi, Ruth 1
THE ONE THING THEY TAKE HOME	Love makes a family. God puts families together in many ways, and every family gets its name from Him.

The class plan

MIN		WHAT HAPPENS
0–2	Welcome	Hold up one puzzle piece. Ask: “Can one piece make the whole picture?”
2–6	Watch	Show Ep 7, The Family Puzzle (3:45).
6–10	Talk	Three questions below. Let them answer before you do.
10–13	Bible	Tell Ruth and Naomi from Ruth 1.
13–18	Activity	The family puzzle (below).
18–20	Pray	Close with the episode prayer.

Talk about it (5 minutes)

1. Why did LJ fold up his drawing and throw it away?

Listen for “the boy said they weren’t his real sisters.” Name the feeling: he felt like his family didn’t count.

2. What did Mom, Dad, Pastor Reed and his sisters each show LJ about family?

Mom: God put us together. Dad: love made a man his dad. Pastor Reed: nobody is half or step. Sisters: they showed up.

3. Ruth wasn’t born into Naomi’s family, but she chose to stay. What makes someone family?

Listen for love, staying, and choosing. Families look different, and God names every one of them.

Open the Bible (4 minutes)

“For this cause, I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.” Ephesians 3:14–15 (WEB)

How to tell it

Naomi had lost her husband and both her sons, and she was walking home to Bethlehem alone. Her daughter-in-law Ruth came from another country and was not born into her family. Naomi told her to go back to her own people. Pause there. Then read Ruth 1:16: “Where you go, I will go... Your people will be my people, and your God my God.” Ask: did Ruth have to stay? Why did she?

Going deeper with older kids

With older kids, read Ruth 4:13–17 and find who baby Obed’s great-grandson became (King David). Then read Ephesians 3:14–15 and ask what it means that every family is “named” by God.

Activity: The family puzzle (4 minutes)

- Give each child one piece of the cut-up card puzzle.
- One at a time, each child places their piece and says one way people become a family (born, adopted, married, chosen, stayed).
- When the picture is whole, point out that every piece is a different shape, and that is why they fit.
- Finish by saying Ephesians 3:15 together, one phrase at a time.

A WORD OF CARE

Families in your room may include adoption, foster care, step-parents, grandparents raising children, or a parent who is absent. Never ask children to explain their family. Celebrate every kind of family the same way, and if a child shares something painful, thank them gently and follow up privately with a parent.

Close in prayer (2 minutes)

Have the children fold their hands and repeat after you, one line at a time:

God, thank You for my family, every single piece of it. When someone says we don’t belong together, remind me that You put us together and love holds us there. Help me love my family the way You love me. Amen.

Adaptations

Ages 3–5

Skip question 3. Use a four-piece puzzle and let each child say “God made my family.”

Ages 10–12

Do the Going Deeper section. Ask them to write what Ruth might have said to Naomi on the road.

Large group

Make several puzzles for small groups. Take three answers to each question.

Short on time (10 minutes)

Watch the last minute and a half (2), one question (2), tell Ruth and Naomi (3), say the verse and pray (3).

A note for teachers

Keep the tone warm and never compare kinds of families. The point is not that families must look alike, but that love and God hold them together.

Send the family guide home with every child so families can watch and talk about it together. It is free to print and share at ljandfamily.com.