

Vacation Church School
Heroes Unit #2
Faith

Lesson: Ruth

*...whither thou goest, I will go;
and where thou lodgest, I will lodge:
thy people shall be my people
And thy God my God.
Ruth1:16*

Goals: By the end of the class the child should:

1. Know the story is from the Bible.
2. Know the name of the main character.
3. Know that God took care of Ruth.
4. Believe that God can care for him/her.

Materials and Preparation Needed:

Introduction:

- Bag
- Bible
- Bill of Sale or legal document from office supply store, or make one up your self.
- Shoe
- Prepare:
 1. Make a bill of sale/pretend document
 2. Place bookmark in the Book of Ruth.

Story:

- Pictures
 1. Naomi
 2. Orpah
 3. Ruth
 4. Boaz
 5. Baby Obed
 6. famine
 7. field and house background
- poster board
- cardstock

- Glue
- Velcro dots or strips
- Prepare:
 1. Make copies of story pictures.
 2. Color, cut and glue to cardstock or poster board.
 3. Optional, laminate figures.
 4. Attach Velcro strips or dots to the back of the figures.

Optional Activities:

Introduction:

Have you ever make a promise to somebody else to do something?
Sometimes you shake hands like this.

Shake a child's hand.

Sometimes when grownups agree to something they make a piece of paper that says they agree.

Take out a Bill of Sale.

They agree by signing their names on the paper.

Sign the paper.

Do you know agreements back in the Bible time?

Hold up the Bible.

They took off their shoe and handed it to the person

Hold up shoe. Hand to student.

This means that I am agreeing to tell you a true story about a brave woman in the Bible.

Take Back the shoe and open the Bible to the Book of Ruth.

Let's find out what happened to her.

Story: Faithful Ruth

Long ago in Bible times, lived a husband and wife named Elimelech and Naomi. They lived in a land called Israel. Things were very bad in Israel. It had not rained for a long time. All the crops were drying up!

Place famine picture.

There was almost no food. Elimelech decided to take hi family to a strange country called Moab.

Remove Famine picture.

Then a sad thing happened. Elimelech got sick and died.

Place Naomi.

Naomi was alone with her two sons. They stayed in Moab for ten years. Naomi's sons even found wives there in that strange land. Orpah and Ruth.

Place Orpah and Ruth

Then both the sons died! Poor Naomi! Orpah and Ruth loved Naomi. They were very kind to her, but Naomi began to miss her homeland of Israel. Then she heard good news.

God had blessed Israel. He sent rain again. Crops were growing in the fields.

Place picture of fields to one side.

There was more food for everyone! Naomi decided to go back home. "I am going back to Israel." She told Orpah and Ruth.

"Oh no!" They both cried.

Move one figure on each side of Naomi.

They hugged Naomi and cried and cried. They didn't want to lose their wonderful mother-in-law.

"We will go with you." They said.

"No, you can't." said Naomi. "You are both young. You can find new husbands here."

Finally Orpah agreed. She kissed Naomi goodbye and turned back toward Moab.

Remove Orpah

But Ruth didn't go anywhere! "Your people will be my people and your God will be my God! She cried. The people of Moab prayed to statues and make believe Gods. Perhaps Ruth could see that Naomi's God was real and He would take care of them. So Ruth and Naomi set off on their journey to Israel.

Move Ruth and Naomi along the board towards the field.

When Ruth and Naomi got to Israel, the fields were full of crops ready to pick. It was the rule in Israel that if the farm workers dropped any of the food they were picking, they should leave it on the ground for the poor people to pick up. Ruth and Naomi were poor, so Ruth went to the fields to follow behind the farm workers to find some food.

Place Ruth

One day, Ruth, was working in the field of a wealthy man named Boaz.

Place Boaz.

Boaz was a kind man who always treated his workers well.

"Hello, God bless you." He said to each of his workers as he arrived that day. Then Boaz saw Ruth working. "Who is that woman?" he asked one of the servants.

"She is the daughter-in-law of Naomi." The servant answered. "She came here from Moab."

Boaz had heard about how kind Ruth was to Naomi. He wanted to help her. "Work in my fields as long as you want." He told Ruth. "You can even eat lunch with my workers. If you are thirsty, drink our water. I know that you are a good woman who trusts God." Later Boaz told his workers, "Drop extra on the ground for Ruth when you are working in the fields."

Remove field scene and Boaz. Place house scene and Naomi

Naomi couldn't believe how much food Ruth brought home that night! "Who was so kind to you? Naomi asked.

"Boaz" Ruth answered.

"Boaz!" Naomi said happily. "He is a relative of my husband."

So Ruth worked in Boaz's field until the harvest was over.

When all the crops were picked, Naomi knew that Ruth might not see Boaz anymore. Back then if a man died, sometimes one of his relatives would marry his wife. Boaz was a relative of Ruth's husband who died. Naomi knew he would be a good husband for Ruth.

"Go to Boaz. He will marry you." She promised Ruth.

Remove Naomi and place Boaz.

So Ruth went to Boaz.

Move Boaz closer to Ruth

She let him know that she would like to be his wife. Boaz was a very happy that a woman as good and kind as Ruth would be his wife.

"I want to marry you." Boaz said to Ruth. "But we have a problem. One other relative is even closer than I. He is supposed to be the first person that gets a chance to marry you. I will go and try to work something out so that we can be married."

It turned out that the other relative was already married! He agreed that Boaz could marry Ruth. Can you guess what he did? He took off his sandal and handed it to Boaz.

Ruth and Boaz were so happy! They married and had a son named Obed.

Place Obed.

Obed was the grandfather of a great man who became one of Israel's greatest kings.

Ruth could have stayed in her own country but she trusted God to watch over her in a strange country. God watched over Ruth and brought her happiness. She became the great-grandmother of a king. Sometimes sad and scary things happen to us just like they did to Ruth. But whatever happens, God can take care of us just like He did for Ruth.

Optional Activities:(Look through review activities and prepare activities that meet the needs of your students. Use optional activities as time permits.)

Review Game: Tic-Tac-Toe

- Two sheets of poster board
 1. Draw 9 equal Tic-Tac-Toe squares
 2. Draw 12 equal squares on the second piece of posterboard.
 3. On the 12 squares, draw and cut out 6 X's and 6 O's
- Play
 1. Divide the kids into teams. Give one team X's and the other O's.
 1. Explain the game of Tic-Tac-Toe.
 2. If interest is high, play the game several times to strengthen the review.
 3. Ask each team a question about the story. A right answer gives you a chance to place an X or O.
 4. Whoever gets a Tic-Tac-Toe wins.
 5. It is okay to prompt kids with the answers to give them a chance to play or win.

Questions:

1. What book can we read this story in? *The Bible*
2. Why did Elimelech take his family to a new country? *Because there was a famine.*
3. What happened to Elimelech when he moved to the country of Moab? *He died.*
4. What was the name of Elimelech's wife? *Naomi.*

5. What happened to Naomi's sons? *They died.*
6. What did Naomi decide to do? *Go home to Israel.*
7. What was the name of the daughter-in-law who went with her?
Ruth.
8. Did Ruth say to Naomi, "Your people will be my people and your God will be my God."? *Yes.*
9. Do you think Ruth was brave and trusted God to take care of her?
Yes.
10. Who were the farm workers supposed to leave food on the ground for? *The poor people.*
11. When they got back to Israel, how did Ruth get food for herself and Naomi? *Picked up the food that was dropped in the fields.*
12. Who's field did Ruth work in? *Boaz.*
13. Was Boaz a kind man? *Yes.*
14. Did Boaz tell his workers to drop extra for Ruth? *Yes.*
15. What did Boaz's relatives do to show that it was alright to marry Ruth? *Took off his shoe.*
16. Ruth was a grandmother of a _____? *King of Israel.*
17. Did God take care of Ruth? *Yes.*
18. Can God take care of you? *Yes.*

Memory Verse Activity:

- Barley Picture for each student
- Prepare
 1. Make a copy of the barley picture for each word or groups of words from the memory verse.
 2. Cut one barley picture for each child.
 3. Print complete memory verse on the back of each picture.
- Directions:
 1. Lay out words of the memory verse in a row.
 2. Have each child take turns "Picking" the barley by picking up the words of the memory verse.
 3. Have child say the name of each word out loud while putting it into the basket.