

Ruth

Bible Passage: Book of Ruth, Chapters 1-4

Story Background: The story of Ruth and Naomi is one of the most famous love stories in the Bible. It is a story of loyalty and friendship between two women. It is also a story of kindness and hospitality to strangers and a story of God's love for everyone – no matter who they are or where they live. The story is found in the Old Testament. Ruth is a book of History in the Bible. The story took place during the time of the judges. Judges were rulers of the time with God as their King. Later, Israel wanted to have kings, but this is a time before there were kings in Israel. The story took place long before Jesus was born, but it is especially interesting because Ruth was one of the ancestors of Jesus. Ruth was the great-grandmother of David who was in the family line of Jesus.

Bible Memory Verse: "Where you go I'll go. Where you stay I'll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God." Ruth 1:16

Themes:

Friendship, loyalty, courage, love for those who are different. God's love for everyone.

Lesson Objectives:

- Children will locate the story of Ruth in the Bible.
- Children will define Ruth as a book of history in the Old Testament.
- Children will retell the story in their own words.
- Children will identify the following characters in the story: Ruth, Naomi, Boaz, Obed
- Children will recognize that Ruth was a member of the family tree of David and Jesus.
- Children will explain some of the Old Testament customs of gleaning, treatment of foreigners and kinsman redeemer.
- Children will recognize God's love for everyone.
- Children will understand that God is with us and will use even difficult or bad situations to bring about good. (Romans 8:28 connection)
- Children will memorize Ruth 1:16.

Lesson Summaries

Art Workshop

The children will tie together sheaves of wheat and decorate it with a heart and the Bible verse. Use the art project to talk about wheat and remind the children of how valuable bread was as a source of food, and that Ruth and Naomi had to glean grain from Boaz in order to survive. Additionally, tell the children that Bethlehem means "House of Bread." The heart represents the love that was shown to Ruth and Naomi, even though they were "outsiders."

Bible Skills and Games Workshop

Students will learn about sharing, gleaning, and redeeming by studying the story of Ruth and playing various games together.

Computer Workshop

Students will use computer software to study the story of Ruth discussing the region of Moab, Ruth and Naomi, and the Bible memory verse.

Drama Workshop

The children will act out highlights from the book of Ruth to learn the themes of faith, love, loyalty, and courage through the story.

Video Workshop

Students will watch the video *Ruth (Testament: The Bible in Animation, Diamond Entertainment Corporation)* and practice retelling the story.

Family Reflection and Prayer

Father, thank you for being faithful to those who show faith. Go with us this week, guide us each day that we may be faithful to our friends, to our family, and to You. Let our lives be a gift to You. Amen.