



RUTH

Young Preschool • #OT16 • September 22, 2024

Concept

God uses people to carry out His plan.

Goal

Children will learn that Ruth chose God to be her God and He used her in His plan. They will know that God wants to use them in His plan when they accept Christ's death on the cross for their sins.

Passage

Ruth 1-4

Key Verse: "... your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." Ruth 1:16b

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Beginner's Bible, Karyn Henley</i> • <i>Parachute</i> • <i>Foam ball</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Laminated puppets on sticks:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Ruth</i> ◦ <i>Orpah</i> ◦ <i>Naomi</i> ◦ <i>Naomi holding baby</i> ◦ <i>Boaz</i> 	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printed picture of Ruth gleaning, 1/child • Glue sticks • Barley in a narrow-mouth bottle or baggie, 1/CT class • Markers, crayons

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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"Ruth is a cameo story of love, devotion, and redemption set in the black context of the days of the judges. It is the story of a Moabite woman who forsakes her pagan heritage in order to cling to the people of Israel and to the God of Israel. Because of her faithfulness in a time of national faithlessness, God rewards her by giving her a new husband (Boaz), a son (Obed), and a privileged position in the lineage of David and Christ (she is the great-grandmother of David)."[1]

"It may seem surprising that one who reflects God's love so clearly is a Moabitess. Yet her complete loyalty to the Israelite family into which she has been received by marriage and her total devotion to her desolate mother-in-law, mark her as a true daughter of Israel and a worthy ancestress of David. She strikingly exemplifies the truth that participation in the coming kingdom of God is decided, not by blood and birth, but by the conformity of one's life to the will of God through the "obedience that comes from faith" (Romans 1:5). Her place in the ancestry of David signifies that all nations will be represented in the kingdom of David's greater Son."[2]

"The most striking feature of this simple and beautiful story is the sense of God's intimate concern in humble affairs. He is the One who orders all the circumstances of daily life, even for the most unimportant people. And so the new-found faith of a Moabite girl, and her sacrificial love for her mother-in-law are woven into the great tapestry of God's plan of salvation. For descended from Ruth is King David, and from the line of David comes the Messiah himself."[3]

The book of Ruth serves to show that even amidst the strife and unfaithfulness, there were those whose personal faith clearly remained strong. Thus, once again, God sovereignly continued His plan of salvation for the world. As you prepare this lesson, consider your daily decisions and the impact they have on your future effectiveness for Christ. As our culture deepens in rebellion against God, we will likely find ourselves very much alone in our belief. Our decisions now will determine the future strength of our personal faith.

[1] Children's Ministry Resource Bible, p. 232.

[2] NIV Study Bible, p. 363.

[3] David and Pat Alexander, Eerdman's Handbook to the Bible, Lion Publishing, Icknield Way, England, 1973, p. 226.

Set Up

The day of class: Before the children arrive, pray with your team that the Spirit will be present in a powerful way.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Station:

- **Story – Ruth**

- **Instructions:** Read the story to the children, pages 154-159 of The Beginner's Bible. Talk about Ruth's love for God. She stayed with Naomi because she wanted to learn about God from her. Ruth went with Naomi and took care of her. The only way to get food in those days was to go into the fields to get it. Ruth and Naomi were poor. They didn't own a field so Ruth went to Boaz's field to gather or glean the leftover barley that had fallen on the ground.

- **Parachute**

- **Instructions:** Spread the parachute out on the floor and have the children stand around the edge. Take hold of the edges and pull on the parachute to stretch it tightly. Try the following three activities. Walk around in a circle holding the parachute, keeping it stretched tightly. Hold the parachute high and have children take turns running under it. Throw a foam ball into the stretched parachute and have the children try to bounce the ball keeping it on the parachute.

Introduction Lg. Group

Do you know that God has plans for this world and that God uses people to carry out His plan? He uses people to do great things. Let's watch a puppet show about a woman named Ruth, who made a choice to believe God, and let's see how God used her to do great things.

Lesson Lg Group

Drama – "The Story of Ruth" puppet show presented by the teachers

Characters: Narrator, Ruth/Orpah, Naomi/Naomi holding baby, Boaz

Instructions: One teacher will narrate while another teacher uses the provided puppet characters to present the following story of Ruth. Hold up the character/s as they talk.

Narrator:

Naomi

move Naomi up and down to show children who she is
along with her husband and two sons had gone to a far away land because there was no food where they lived. Naomi's two sons married Ruth and Orpah.

move Ruth and Orpah up and down to show who they are
While they were in this far away land Naomi's husband died and then her two sons died. Naomi was very sad and wanted to go back to her home. So Ruth and Orpah started walking with her.

Naomi, Ruth and Orpah start walking together then stop

Naomi: Thank you for walking so far with me. Now it is time for you to go back and be with your families.

Narrator: Naomi kissed each of the girls, and they all cried for a little while because they loved each other and would miss each other. Orpah kissed Naomi again and began to walk back to her home.

Exit Orpah

But Ruth wouldn't go back. She said,

Ruth: Do not tell me to go back. I love you! You are like a mother to me. Where you go, I will go. Where you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

Narrator: So Naomi and Ruth walked all the way to Israel together. When they arrived in Israel, there was food growing in the fields. The barley grain was ready to be picked off the plants and there were workers in the fields picking it. As they picked, some of the barley fell on the ground. They left this barley for the poor people to gather for their food. Ruth and Naomi were poor.

Exit Naomi

Ruth went to the fields of a man named Boaz to gather some of the extra grain so she and Naomi would have some food to eat.

Hold up enlarged background picture behind the puppets

Ruth gathered grain in Boaz's field.

Enter Boaz

Boaz was a rich and important man in the city of Bethlehem where Naomi and Ruth lived. Boaz saw Ruth and went over to talk to her. He told her that she could come back to get grain from his fields. When Ruth asked Boaz why he was so kind to her, he said,

Boaz: I have heard about everything you've done for Naomi. You left your family and your land to come be with her and to follow her God. God will use you.

Narrator: Soon Boaz decided that he wanted to marry Ruth. Boaz always took very good care of Naomi and Ruth. After a while, Ruth and Boaz had a baby boy. Naomi loved and cared for their baby Obed.

Enter Naomi carrying baby

Obed was the grandfather of David. David was a very great king. After many, many, many, many, many years, Jesus was born. And do you know what??!!! Ruth was Jesus' great, great, great, great, great, great... grandmother.

Exit Naomi, Obed, Ruth & Boaz

Lesson Continued

God used Ruth to take care of Naomi. Jesus is a descendant of Ruth (came through her family line)! God uses people to carry out His plan. Ruth made a very important decision when she decided to stay with Naomi and believe God. Remember what Ruth said to Naomi? It is our key verse: "... your people will be my people, and your God will be my God" (Ruth 1:16). When Ruth learned about God she decided to believe in Him and become His child. God wants everyone in the whole world to choose to believe in Him and become His child. Will you choose to become God's child like Ruth did? You can tell Jesus you are sorry for all your bad choices and thank Him that He died on the cross to pay for every bad choice. God uses people to carry out His plan and He will use all of us who choose to become His children. I don't think Ruth knew how much God would use her when she said, "... your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." When we believe God and decide to become His child, He uses us to do BIG things for Him. Isn't that exciting?!

Let's pray and thank God that He wants to use people to carry out His plan. Let's ask Him to use us.

Transition

Let's make a craft to help us remember that God uses people to carry out His plan. When Ruth moved away with Naomi to learn about God, Ruth gathered grain to make bread for Naomi and her to eat.

Learning Activity#1

Craft – Ruth Gleaning

Instructions: Give each child a printed page. Color the pictures on the page. When finished coloring, rub glue sticks on paper. A teacher will sprinkle some barley over the glued areas. Press the barley down with fingers to get it to stick.