



RUTH

Preschool-K • #OT16 • September 24, 2023

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>Big Book of Bible Learning, V. Gilbert Beers</i> • <i>Lollipops, 1/child</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>White bed sheet</i> • <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"> • Paper lunch bag, 1/child • Various stickers, several/child • <i>Barley in a narrow-mouth bottle or baggie, 1/CT class</i> • <i>Yarn, 1 ball/room</i> • 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

Incorporation Lg. Group

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

Activity Stations:

- **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 to a different country with Naomi so she could care for 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 that had fallen on the ground.

- **Gleaning for Lollipops**

- **Instructions:** Explain to the children that they will learn about Ruth, who was very poor. Ruth went to the field of a man named Boaz to gather or glean grain that had fallen on the ground so she could make bread to eat. To understand the concept of "gleaning," a teacher will walk around the room with a bag of lollipops pretending to pick them off an imaginary plant and put them in the bag. Every now and then drop a lollipop for a child to pick up. Allow each child to pick up a lollipop.

- **Research – Gleaning**

- **Instructions:** Read "A Day in the Grain Fields with Ruth," pages 94-105 of the Big Book of Bible Learning. Ask the children if they know how bread is made today. Many children will not know that it comes from grain that is grown in the fields.

Introduction Lg. Group

Do you know that God has a plan for this whole 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.

Drama – "The Story of Ruth" puppet show presented by children

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

Instructions: Choose 4 children to play the characters. One teacher should be the narrator and one child should be Ruth, one Orpah, one Naomi and one Boaz. Instruct the children that when their puppet's name is mentioned they will move the puppet up and down. Stretch the sheet between two chairs to make the puppet stage. Use the provided laminated puppet characters to present the following story of Ruth.

Narrator: Naomi...

(move Naomi up and down to show children who she is)

Narrator: along with her husband and two sons had gone to a far away land. Naomi's two sons married two ladies named Ruth and Orpah.

(move Ruth and Orpah up and down to show who they are)

Then Naomi's husband and her two sons all died. Naomi was very sad and wanted to go back to her land. So Ruth and Orpah started to go 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! 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, the barley grain was ready to be picked and workers were 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 glean or gather for their food. Ruth and Naomi were poor.

So, one day Ruth decided to go to one of the fields and glean some of the extra grain so she and Naomi would have some food to eat. Ruth went to the fields of a man named Boaz.

(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 noticed Ruth and went over to speak to her. He told her that she could come back any time 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 country to come be with her and to follow her God. God will reward you for this.

Narrator: Soon Boaz decided that he wanted to marry Ruth. They were married and Boaz always took very good care of Naomi and Ruth. After a while, Ruth and Boaz had a baby son. Naomi loved and cared for him as if he were her own grandson.

Lesson Continued

(Enter Naomi carrying baby)

They named the baby Obed. Obed was the grandfather of David. David was the greatest king of Israel. After many, many, many, many, many years, Jesus was born. Ruth was His great, great, great, great, great, great... grandmother.

(Exit Naomi, Obed, Ruth & Boaz)

Transition

Let's clap for the puppeteers and get into our small groups.

Learning Activity#1 Sm. Groups

Imagine that! Jesus is a descendant of Ruth (came through her family line)! The story of Ruth's life shows us that God uses people to carry out His plan. Ruth made a very important decision when she decided to stay with Naomi and believe the one true 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 the true 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. All you have to do is to tell Jesus you want his death on the cross to count for you and all of your bad choices. 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." He used her in His big plan to send Jesus to this earth. When we believe God and decide to become His child, He uses us to do BIG things for Him. Isn't that exciting?!

- What is God's plan for Ruth? (It is to be His child.)
- Would anyone like to tell us what it means to become God's child?
- What might be some ways that God uses us to carry out his plan? (ex: serving someone, helping someone see what God is like, etc.) God used Naomi to tell Ruth about Him and then Ruth was used in God's plan to send Jesus to this earth.

Let's pray now and thank God that He wants to use us in His plan. Let's ask Him to help us always believe what He says and to do what He wants us to do so he can use us in BIG ways.

Transition

Let's make a craft to help us remember our lesson. When Ruth moved away with Naomi to learn about God, Ruth gleaned the fields to gather grain to make bread for them to eat. We'll make bags for our barley.

Learning Activity#2 Lg. Group

Craft – Ruth Gleaning

Instructions: Give each child a paper lunch bag. Decorate the bag with markers, crayons and stickers. When finished decorating, a teacher should write the child's name on the bag and sprinkle some barley in the bag. Tie the bag with a piece of yarn.