

TEXT Ruth 1:1-18

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to tell that Ruth chose to follow Naomi and relate why she was a person God could use.

MEMORY VERSE Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways. — Psalm 128:1

Ruth

MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

BLESSED IS — With thumbs of fists touching lips, move hands down and away from body opening fingers.

EVERY ONE THAT — Point to others.

FEARETH — Hold hands as in prayer, look up.

THE LORD — Make an L with thumb and first finger of the right hand. Touch thumb to left shoulder, bring across in front of body touching right waist.

THAT WALKETH — Extend hands, palms down, move one hand in front of the other in imitation of our feet when walking.

IN HIS WAYS — Palms facing each other about 8" apart, move hands straight away from body.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

Three children in a group will be the visual display for our memory verse this week. (See pattern at the end of this lesson.) Cut the display into pieces as indicated by the heavy black lines. Post the arrangement on your board one piece at a time, as your group learns the verse.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Adapt the preschool activity using four hearts as your opener for this lesson. As your students look at the pictures of a home, beautiful scenery, some people, and Jesus that you have pasted on the hearts, explain that your Bible lesson for today is about a woman who had to make a choice. Put the first three hearts in a group together, and have the heart with Jesus remain separate. Explain that she had to choose between these.

1. A man of Israel moves his wife, Naomi, and his family from Bethlehem to Moab because of a famine.
2. He and his sons die, and Naomi decides to return to her homeland.
3. Naomi urges her two daughters-in-law to stay with their own people, though they both intend to go with her.

Climax: Though Orpah returns to her own people, Ruth decides to go with Naomi and serve Naomi's God.

Conclusion: Naomi's godly life influenced Ruth to want to serve the true and living God.

Response: The students should be able to explain why it is important to set a godly example as well as to recognize and follow a godly example.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the time of the Judges, Elimelech, a man from Bethlehem, and his wife, Naomi, and their two sons, emigrated to Moab because of a famine in Israel. While there, the two sons were married to Moabitish women, but subsequently Elimelech and his two sons died leaving Naomi and her two daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, widows. Having had these bitter experiences in this foreign land, Naomi resolved to return to Israel. Ruth was determined to accompany her despite her mother-in-law's recommendation that she stay, and answered her with those beautiful words, "Intreat me not to leave thee . . . for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God" (Ruth 1:16). Because of her faithfulness and determination, this woman of foreign birth was married to Boaz, a kinsman of Elimelech, and became the grandmother of David and honored ancestor of Jesus Christ.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Draw finger puppets of Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah (see Patterns). Act out the story.

Talk about trips. Discuss how much you want to go on one and get to your destination. Tie in the story to the halfway point on the trip. Example: "Do you want to go home?" or "Do you want to finish traveling and reach the place where you were going?"

As your class discusses this lesson on Ruth, have your students tell one way they can be like her. Make a list of ways that each student is already like Ruth.

Make copies of the landscape background and cut out figures of Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah (see Patterns).

Have the children color the background and figures. Let them glue on the figures in the spaces indicated. Use a marking pen to make the path that each woman took. Tell the story of Ruth.

QUESTIONS

Do you suppose that God had a special plan for Ruth’s life? What was it?

Who made the wisest choice, Ruth or Orpah?

What do you think was so special about Naomi that Ruth wouldn’t leave her?

Does God still call people to live a certain way for Him? Talk about some testimonies of people who have left their families, homes, etc., to follow after God’s people.

How could Ruth know she was making the right choice?

How can we know when we are making the right choices?

PRESCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Take a wooden or ceramic figure (to represent an idol) and a picture of Jesus. Ask your little ones if the figure you are showing them could answer their prayers. Explain to them that Ruth chose to follow after Jesus, the true God.

Cut out a set of four hearts. In one paste a picture of a home, in the second a picture of scenery, in the third a picture of several people, and in the fourth a picture of Jesus. Show your little ones the first three hearts first. Ruth could have had these things in her heart — her home, her country, and her friends — and could have decided to stay in the land of Moab because of them. But instead she had Jesus in her heart, so she chose to

go where she could learn more about Him. Show the heart with Jesus.

Cut out the picture of Ruth (see Patterns) and place it on the back of a hand mirror. “Follow” God with the mirror by moving it in front of your students to portray the Christian walk. Then ask them, “Who else can follow God?” Turn the mirror over so they can see themselves.

Make a set of Ruth and Naomi finger puppets for each child (see Patterns). Using these they may show how Ruth followed Naomi to Bethlehem.

REVIEW IDEAS

Dress up as a Biblical woman, in a simple gown, belt, scarf, headband, sandals. Label each piece with the aspects of Ruth’s character — faith, obedience, sacrifice, family love, constancy.

Compare the similarities of Ruth, a Moabite, living in Bethlehem, a foreign land to her, to our living in a foreign country. In the Orient or Europe the language, dress, food, religion, eating habits (use of chopsticks) may be strange to us. But Ruth loved Naomi and Naomi’s God and wanted Him for her God.

COORDINATING SONGS

- “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”
- “The Bible Tells Me So”
- “Trust and Obey”
- “Family of God”
- “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

SUPPORT MATERIAL

Ruth and Naomi — Arch Book, Concordia
Ruth — My Bible Story Card, Concordia (Picture on the front/story on the back)

NOTES

MEMORY VERSE SONG



Blessed is ev-ry one that fear-eth the Lord; that walk-eth in his ways.



Blessed is ev-ry one that fear-eth the Lord; that walk-eth in his ways.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

