

St Mary's Anglican Church – Regina
Faith Quest: RUTH

LESSON #2 Divine Diversions / Kings Theatre
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THEME: Friends share, care and encourage

OBJECTIVES:

- Learn what it means to be a friend.
- Learn how friends share their strength with each other.
- Learn how friends encourage each other.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Where you go, I will go; where you live, I will live.
Your people shall be my people and your God my God.” Ruth 1:16b

MATERIALS:

- Strips of cloth (to tie legs together for race)
- Several hankies for drama
- Heavy sack (or a blanket) for drama
- Loose wheat kernels for drama
- Baby doll for drama
- simple costumes for drama

LESSON:

1. Welcome children. Take attendance. Gather offering. Open with prayer.
2. Briefly review the story of Ruth and practice the memory verse. Use the story scroll but also asks the children to help you tell the story.
3. Activity: Practice sharing strength with a friend by doing a three-legged race. Have the children work in pairs (similar height helps) and stand side by side. Tie the innermost legs together, then have the children try to run and walk around the room. As they play, explain that we need to share our strengths to help each other reach a common goal. You may wish to assign each team a specific task to do, such as retrieve an item from across the room, so they can practice working together.
4. Drama: Assign readers for the cast members and act out the story of Ruth.
Discuss how Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz needed each other and shared their strengths to help one another. You may wish to add simple costumes to the drama.

NOTE: IF the majority of the children are younger then you may wish to use the story scroll for the narration (done by the older children) and have the younger ones act out the story in mime.

5. Following the Drama:
Gather the students to practice the memory verse.
6. Close with prayer.

SCRIPT FOR BIGGER KIDS

Wherever you go, I will go

(The story of Ruth adapted from the Good News Bible © LDMcKenzie)

CAST:

1. Narrator, 2. Naomi, 3. Elimelech, 4. Mahlon, 5. Chilion, 6. Orpah, 7. Ruth,
8. Harvesters, 9. Boaz, 10. Foreman, 11. Folks from town (3)

ACT 1

Narrator: Long ago in Israel, there was a famine in the land. So a man named Elimelech from Bethlehem went with his wife Naomi and their 2 sons to live for a while in the country of Moab.

While they were there, Elimelech died. This left Naomi alone with her sons and their wives from Moab, Orpah and Ruth. Ten years later, Naomi's sons died too. Then Naomi heard good news.

Naomi: Girls, I hear things are growing like sixty in Judah. Maybe we should head back.

Orpah: Okay.

Ruth: Okay.

[the women start walking]

Naomi: Hang on. You two really should go back home. That's where you belong.

Orpah & Ruth *[with lots of crying, hankies, etc]:* No. We won't go. We want to stay with you.

Naomi: No. Seriously. You don't belong with an old woman like me. I love you both dearly. But coming to my country with me is a very bad idea for you.

Orpah *[still sniffing]:* Okay. Maybe you're right. My mom might need me. Good-bye. Make sure you write. Or send an email...

Naomi to Ruth: What's your problem. You should go home too.

Ruth: Uh-uh.

Naomi: I mean it.

Ruth: Too bad.

Naomi: Seriously. I want you to turn around and go back.

Ruth: That is just too bad because wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God.

Naomi: You're a hard case.

Ruth: You got that right.

Naomi: Fine then. Let's go.
[the pair walk a minute without saying anything]

Naomi: Well here it is. Bethlehem. And it looks like we're just in time for barley season.

ACT 2

Ruth: What about this idea. Why don't I try to gather some grain behind the harvest workers.

Naomi: Okay. Give it a whirl.
[insert tableau of several people harvesting with Ruth following behind & picking up leavings]

Narrator: So Ruth went out to the barley fields to pick leftover grain. She happened to end up in a field belonging to Boaz. He was a wealthy man and a relative of Naomi's husband. The boss noticed Ruth.

Boaz to Foreman: Who is that young woman?

Foreman: She's the foreigner who came back from Moab with Naomi.

Boaz to Naomi: Excuse me. Okay, listen carefully. Gather your grain only in this field. Not anywhere else. The men and women here will look after you.

Ruth: That's awfully nice of you. Why?

Boaz: Because you've been so good to Naomi since her husband died. I've heard the whole thing. I hope God showers you with many blessings.

Ruth: Aww shucks. That's so sweet. *[she goes on working]*

Boaz to Foreman: Look out for her, will ya? Leave a few extra barley tops lying around for her to find...
[Ruth picks up heavy bundle (use blanket) and heads home. Plunks sack/bundle down on floor.]

Naomi: Oh my goodness. Where did you get all this?

Ruth: From this guy, Boaz. He was really nice to me.

Naomi: This is incredible. He is a relative of ours. Stick with him, and we'll be all right.

ACT 3

Narrator: As the harvest season marches on, Boaz and Ruth have an interesting conversation at the threshing place.

Boaz: You know, Ruth, you're an awfully special gal, looking after Naomi the way you do.

Know what, I think we should get married. But first I'd like to have best wishes of some of the older wiser people in town. Just let me check that out with them.

Ruth: Oh wow. That would be really nice.

*[insert tableau of Boaz meeting with/sitting in circle with townsfolk (harvesters from before).
They shake hands as if agreeing on something.]*

Narrator *[over tableau of happy couple with Naomi showing off their new baby to same townsfolk]:*
So Boaz took Ruth home as his bride. Later on they had a baby, a little boy.

Folk 1: He looks just like his father.

Folk 2: Naomi, you are so lucky. Who would have thought you'd be such a happy grandmother after all you've been through.

Naomi: It's so true.

Folk 3: Of course, you'll name him Obed.

Ruth: Why not?! Obed. I like it. It has a nice ring to it.

Narrator: Obed went on to become the father of Jesse, who was the father of an uncommon shepherd that became king, called David.

Reference: adapted from www.rotation.org - game from Christian Education Ministry of Kingdom Worship Center, Towson, MD: Drama from St John's UC, Georgetown, ON