

St Mary's Anglican Church – Regina

Faith Quest: RUTH

LESSON #1 Let There Be Art!

THEME: Making use of resources

OBJECTIVES:

- Learn about wheat and barley.
- Learn Ruth's story and find it in the Bible.
- Learn about making use of resources.

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:

- Wheat stalks with their heads intact, Probably 5-13 straws per child.
- Instructions for the projects (see below; found @ <http://www.wheatweaving.com/projects.html>)
- Waxed dental floss, or red embroidery cotton
- Tub of hot water to soak wheat straw in. (straw must soak for 60-90 minutes)
- 12" X 12" Pieces of Cardboard or black foam core board to mount projects on to dry and take home. (Pins may be needed for mounting.)
- Masking Tape
- Samples of wheat weaving -- possibly still stored in Let There Be Art!
- Story scroll

LESSON:

1. Welcome students. Take attendance. Gather offering. Open with prayer.
2. Read the story of Ruth using the story scroll, and helping students to find it in their Bibles.
Focus is on the part about gleaning from the wheat fields. Ask if anyone knows what that means? Explain that gleaning means picking through for what was missed by the first pickers. Fields were often allowed to be gleaned by people who were poor and had no other way to get food.
3. Show them the complete wheat stalk; let everyone touch it to feel how brittle it is. Show samples of wheat weaving - it would be a good idea to make an example beforehand of the project they are going to make.
4. Explain that when wheat is soaked in hot water it becomes pliable and easy to work with. If there are younger children, project #5 may be best, otherwise do #1.
5. Demonstrate how to make the weaving , then pass out supplies and let them try.

6. Mount the finished project on foam core/cardboard with pins/masking tape to dry and take home.

Questions to discuss while/after you work:

- * what would it feel like to leave your home and go to a strange land?
- * how do you think Ruth felt as she was gleaning wheat?
- * what are some things that are made from wheat?
- * do you think Ruth really wanted to marry Boaz?
- * how do you think Naomi felt when Ruth insisted on staying with her?
- * who would you would follow and support?
- * would you change your beliefs to support another person?
- * do you know of anyone who has done that?
- * REVIEW memory verse

7. Close with prayer.

8. Clean up.

Reference: < www.rotation.org > from Trinity Episcopal Church - Bloomington

Resource: <http://www.wheatweaving.com/projects.html> at www.wheatweaving.com

Beginner Wheat Weaving Project #1 - Braided Heart”

(Mordiford)

Materials needed for this beginner's wheat weaving project:

- 10 matched straws with seed heads attached.
- 3 matched straws with or without heads (to make a braided top loop hanger, not shown in pictures).
- Waxed string for making the ties (dental floss works).
- A 12" by 12" piece of cardboard or styro-foam for a "pinning board" for shaping and drying the project.

Preparation:

- Select 13 similar straws (diameter and seedhead appearance).
- Trim straws just above the first joint (node) and slip off the leaves.
- Soak these straws in hot tap water for about an hour until they feel "bouncy and flexible" (weigh them down to keep them from floating during soaking).
- If straws crack when you try to bend them, let them soak longer.
- To take a short break once you start the project, keep straws wet by wrapping them in a damp towel.

Steps:

1. Tie together 10 straws about one-quarter inch below the heads.
2. Separate so that you have 3 straws on the left, 3 on the right and 4 in the middle.
3. Tie the 4 straws in the center at a point 3" from the first tie (away from the heads).
4. Braid (just like braiding hair) each set of 3 straws for at least 6" and tie off (make both the same length).
5. Form a heart by bringing the ends of the two braids to the 4 center straws at the tie made in step #3.
6. Make sure there are no twists in the braids.
7. Tie the 2 braids to the 4 central straws at the tie made in step #3.
8. Using 3 more straws with or without heads make another 6" braid (not shown).
9. Form a loop with the braid you just made and tie it at the step #3 tie location (not shown).
10. Wet the figure and pin it to a piece of cardboard so it can dry to its final shape (not shown).

Beginner Wheat Weaving Project #5 "5-Pointed Star"

Materials needed for this beginner's project:

- 5 straws, 6' of waxed string, scissors and ruler.

Preparing the wheat for weaving:

- Prepare straws by trimming bottom of the straws just above the first joint (node) and slip off the leaves.
- Select 5 similar straws that are at least 13" long (not counting the seed heads).
- Cut off the seed heads about 1/2" below their bases.
- Soak these 6 straws in hot tap water for about an hour.
- If big end of straws crack when you try to bend them, let them soak longer.

Steps:

1. After soaking the five straws, cut each straw into two 6" pieces.
2. Set aside one set of 5 straws for a second figure.
3. Line up the remaining set of 5 straws side by side, placing a tie string under them at their centers.
4. Hold the straws side-by-side on a flat surface and tighten the tie letting the straws fan out as you tighten the knot (see Figure 5-1).
5. Tie the straws together in pairs, making all 5 ties exactly 5/8" from the center (see Figures 5-2).
6. Tie the end of each straw to the end of the nearest straw in the adjacent pair (see Figure 5-3).
7. You've made a star - it should look something like the one in Figure 5-4.

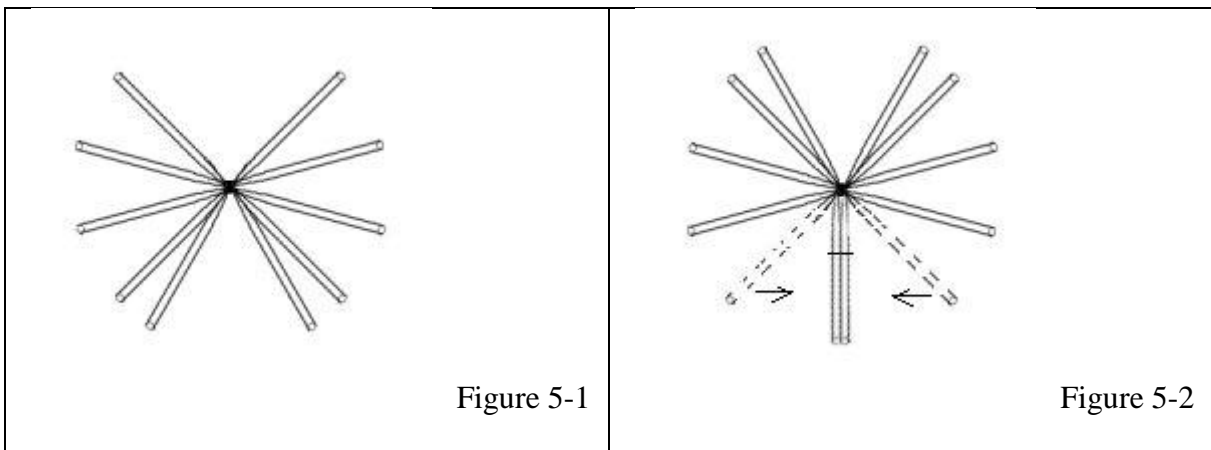


Figure 5-1

Figure 5-2

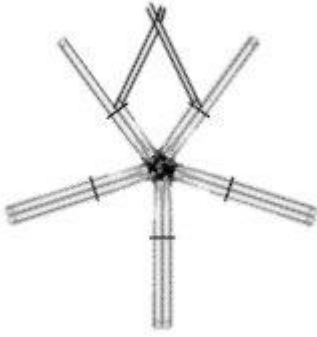


Figure 5-3



Figure 5-4