

March 7th Children's Worship Lesson

Scripture: Ruth 1:6-19

⁶ Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah.

⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud.

¹⁰ They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people."

¹¹ But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³ would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me."

¹⁴ Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵ So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶ But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

¹⁷ Where you die, I will die—

there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!"

¹⁸ When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

Question Time:

1. Who are the main characters in this story?
2. What is their relationship?
3. What did Naomi want Ruth and Orpah to do?
4. Why do you think Ruth stayed?

Let's Talk About It.....

There are lots of parts in the story of Ruth and Naomi that I enjoy and that I find very meaningful. In the part of scripture we read and listened to for today shows us about how powerful love can be. Let's recap: Naomi is Ruth's mother-in-law and they all lived together with Orpah who was another daughter in law. Then all the husbands died leaving all three women as widows. Now, in this part of human history in this part of the world, your family clan is what protected you. The family was led by male relatives and it was their job to make sure everyone was cared for, but when all the men died, Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah no longer had that connection to the family. Widows were very vulnerable in this period of human history.

This is why Naomi told them to go back to their families. She hoped their families would take care of them since she no longer could provide them food, shelter, and safety. Naomi was traveling back home, hoping her family would help take care of her, but she could not guarantee that her clan would look after Ruth and Orpah too since they were no longer married into the family. Her way of loving them was to tell them to go to home.

And yet Ruth stayed. This doesn't mean that Orpah didn't love Naomi the same, it just means that they showed their love in different ways. When Ruth stayed she knew she was putting herself at risk because it wasn't likely that the rest of the clan would be kind or nice to her. But she stayed with her friend anyway, and took care of her.

What would this look like today? One thing I think about is if a friend of mine is being teased or bullied, what do I do? Do I help? Do I stay with them? Do I do nothing? Do I tease them too?

It can be hard to always know what the right thing to do is all the time. What we can do is try to do the next best thing.

ACTIVITIES! LeT's Do StUff!!!

Option One: There is a word find attached to the end of this lesson.

Option Two: "Stick Together" Relay

- Get a ball or a balloon. You will decide on a path or a course that you will take. In pairs, work as a team to get the ball or balloon from beginning to end without using your hands and arms (other than to pick it up and place it). Try to make it more difficult each round.

Prayer:

God, thank you for giving us ways to learn and grow. Help and guide us as we begin our question asking journey. May our questions empower our learning and re-shaping of our heart spaces. Thank you for all you are going to teach us. AMEN.

Name: _____

Ruth and Naomi

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| O | E | U | E | K | I | S | S | N | B | S | I |
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| H | U | I | B | P | C | O | R | P | A | H | T |
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| R | N | H | U | S | B | A | N | D | S | D | R |
| B | J | U | D | A | H | J | R | U | T | H | I |
| C | D | A | U | G | H | T | E | R | S | M | X |

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → and ↓ .

DAUGHTERS
FOLLOW
HUSBANDS
JUDAH
KISS

MOAB
MOTHER
NAOMI
ORPAH
RETURN

RUTH
SISTER