

October 08, 2000

Ruth

Early Childhood

RTH01EC

Ruth Was Faithful and God Provided.

Memory Verse:

Two- and three-year-old verse: Ruth 1:16b: Your God will be my God.

Four- and five-year-old verse: Ruth 1:16b: Your people will be my people and your God my God.

Aim Questions for 2's & 3's:

1. Was Naomi sad when her husband and two sons died? (Yes.)
2. Did Ruth love Naomi and want to live with her? (Yes.)
3. Did Ruth work hard to gather food for Naomi? (Yes. Ruth was a hard worker.)
4. Did Boaz want to take care of Naomi and Ruth? (Yes. Boaz was a kind man who took Naomi and Ruth to be his own family.)

Aim Questions for 4's, 5's & K:

1. What is the name of the woman whose husband and two sons died? (Naomi. Naomi's husband and sons died in the land of Moab.)
2. Why did Ruth want to go to Bethlehem with Naomi? (Ruth wanted Naomi's God to be her God, and she wanted Naomi's people, the Israelites, to be her people.)
3. What was the man's name who took Naomi and Ruth to be his own family? (Boaz was a kind man who became Naomi and Ruth's kinsman-redeemer.)
4. How did God bless Ruth for her faithful, hard work? (God gave Ruth a good husband and a baby who would be the ancestor of Jesus, the true Redeemer.)

Key for symbols:



This box symbol represents ideas that can be used for two-year-olds through kindergarten. Please remember to slow down the pace for two-year-olds and keep the pace moving for five-year-olds.



This symbol represents ideas that are best used for two- and three-year-olds.



This symbol represents ideas that are best used for four-year-olds through kindergarten.

Background Information for Teachers

Ruth (RTH01)

Introduction

A. Theme: Faithfulness in Faithlessness

The story of Ruth is set in the midst of Israel's darkest hours of sin during the period of the Judges (Ruth 1:1). The book serves to demonstrate that even in the worst times, God is still at work in the hearts of His remnant people. It is a wonderful story of a woman's faithfulness and obedience to God and God's faithfulness and blessing to her. As a result of Ruth's love and loyalty, the Lord blesses her with a new husband, a new son, and the privilege of being in the lineage of Christ. A highlight of the book is the theme of redemption. Through Boaz' actions as a kinsman-redeemer, God's gracious character and sovereign care are displayed. The name "Ruth" comes from the Hebrew word meaning "friendship."

a. Author and Date: Unknown, ca. 1011-971 BC

The author of the book is unknown, but could possibly be attributed to King David, since Ruth was his great-grandmother. Another possibility according to Jewish tradition is Samuel. It was most likely written just prior to or during the reign of David.

(Background Information, continued)

b. Setting and Date: ca. 1400 to 1050 B.C.

The story of Ruth is said to occur "In the days when the judges ruled." This is roughly between 1400 to 1050 B.C. since Saul became king in 1043 B.C. The narrative takes place in 4 different locations with various times in each locale:

1. the country of Moab for roughly 10 years (1:1-18)
2. a field in Bethlehem for several months (1:19-2:23)
3. a threshing floor in Bethlehem for one day (3:1-18)
4. in the city of Bethlehem for around one year (4:1-22).

Synopsis

The book of Ruth takes place during the time of the Judges (1:1). Right in the middle of Israel's darkest hour of sin and rebellion against the Lord, the story of Ruth takes place and gives refreshment and encouragement. The reason for this is that despite the spiritual darkness that has covered the land, there remains a faithful remnant of light which God preserves.

The story begins with a famine in the land of Judah. God caused the famine because of Israel's lack of faithfulness to Him (cf. Lev. 26:3-4). A family from the town of Bethlehem headed by Elimelech and his wife, Naomi, head off to a country called Moab in search of better living conditions. They had two sons named Mahlon and Chilion. While living in the land, Elimelech dies, and then her two sons marry Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other named Ruth. Naomi's grief isn't over just yet because eventually, both her sons die as well (1:5).

After roughly ten years living in this foreign land and losing her husband and two sons, Naomi hears that the famine back in Judah has subsided and there is food once again. So she decides to return to her homeland, but insists that her two daughters-in-law remain in their homeland of Moab. Naomi was widowed, beyond her childbearing years, and too old to remarry; therefore she had nothing to offer these two women if they chose to stay with her. After they wept and kissed Naomi, Orpah decided to return to Moab, but Ruth chose to stay with Naomi. This was a very difficult choice because she would be leaving all of her family in Moab, forsaking her former gods, and most likely never marrying again.

She told her, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." (1:16-17) By her statement, Ruth showed that her faith wasn't in the gods of Moab, nor in the words of Naomi ("the Lord's hand has gone out against me!" ~ v. 13) but in Yahweh, the God of Israel. When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to trust in her God despite her bitterness and stay with her, she allowed her to make the journey back to the land of Judah.

So Naomi and Ruth traveled to the town of Bethlehem in Judah during the months of barley harvest (around March-April). Despite the hard struggles which entered Naomi's life, God was about to open up a brand new world of blessings for her and Ruth. Naomi did not know this, but she did in fact have a near relative by the name of Boaz. Boaz was from the family of her late husband, Elimelech. Boaz was an older man (probably in his late 40's to early 50's) of godly character and great wealth. He owned a field and hired workers to reap the barley for the harvest. Since Naomi and Ruth needed food, Ruth volunteered to glean barley from the fields. Landowners during this time would leave the corners of their fields for the needy to come and pick. It just so happened that Ruth began gleaning in one of Boaz's fields.

When Boaz came to this particular field, he took notice of Ruth and asked one of his workers, "Whose young woman is that?" The worker identified her as "Ruth the Moabitess" who returned with Naomi, her mother-in-law. Boaz had heard of Naomi's suffering and was impressed that Ruth would return to Bethlehem with her. He was also impressed by the fact that she was taking care of her mother-in-law by working from early morning to evening time. Boaz called Ruth over and lavished her with great kindness. Ruth was allowed to reap alongside of his workers, instead of having to wait and pick from the edges of the fields. She was also privileged to drink from the waterpots the servants typically drank from instead of having to go to a well to draw water. When Ruth saw Boaz's kindness, she humbly fell on her face and asked Boaz why he would even take notice of this foreigner. Boaz commended Ruth's faith and her willingness to trust God, even though she had no idea what lay ahead in her future.

Boaz invited Ruth to dine with the other workers and she was able to eat as much as she wanted. He even asked his workers to watch out for her and to drop handfuls of stalks of barley in her path so she could easily pick them up. After working hard all day, Ruth brought back over 30 pounds of barley for

Naomi and her to eat for several days and shared with her all the experiences of the day. When Naomi heard that Ruth had been cared for by a near relative named Boaz, she began to realize that their future wasn't so hopeless after all.

During this time, there was a law that said the nearest relative of a widow (usually the brother-in-law) could marry the widow and care for her and her family (cf. Deut. 25:5-10). The person who "redeemed" the family and property was known as "the kinsman-redeemer." Although Boaz was not Mahlon's brother (Naomi's son), he could still marry Ruth, and thus preserve the family name of Elimelech. Naomi sensed that Boaz was interested in Ruth and so she encouraged her to remain in his fields throughout the barley and wheat harvests (through June).

When the time was right, Naomi arranged for Ruth to approach Boaz discreetly to see if he would marry her and be her kinsman-redeemer. The custom of this day was such that it would have been improper for Boaz to approach Ruth for marriage since she was quite younger than he was. As Ruth had cared for Naomi, now Naomi cared for Ruth and desired to provide a future for her. Naomi told Ruth to wash herself, put on her best clothes, go to the threshing floor at night, and lie at the feet of Boaz. That night, Ruth did exactly as Naomi instructed her. In the middle of the night, Boaz awoke and asked who was lying at his feet. Ruth revealed her identity and asked Boaz if he would be her kinsman-redeemer. In other words, was Boaz willing to take responsibility for her under the Mosaic Law?

Boaz responded with great joy. He commended her for her willingness to marry an older man and to preserve the family name of Elimelech. Boaz called her a "woman of excellence" since she kept herself pure and did not chase after the younger men of the town. But there was a snag! Boaz knew that there was a closer relative than himself who could redeem Ruth and Naomi. Yet Boaz placed his confidence in God and trusted in His sovereign plans for their future. When Ruth returned to Naomi early in the morning, she told her everything that happened.

That same day, Boaz went to the city gate where legal matters were settled and called together the elders (leaders) of the city. He brought before them the nearer relative and explained the situation to all of them. The nearer relative initially agreed to purchase the property that belonged to Naomi. But when Boaz explained that he also had to marry Ruth, he refused to do so out of concern that his inheritance would be divided among his own children and any from the marriage with Ruth. When this happened, Boaz was next in line to be the kinsman-redeemer and publicly stated his decision to purchase Naomi's property and to marry Ruth. The legal transaction between the nearer relative and himself was made official when the nearer relative handed Boaz his sandal (an interesting way of signing on the dotted line!).

Boaz now had the legal right to marry Ruth! The elders of the city blessed Boaz with his future marriage. Boaz married Ruth, and then God allowed this godly couple to have a son whom they named Obed. The women of the city praised Naomi and said of Ruth, her daughter-in-law, that she "loves you and is better to you than seven sons." What once was a sad beginning for Naomi turned into great joy and blessing from the Lord. Not only would Naomi's family line continue through Obed, but Obed would later have a son named Jesse, who would later have a son named David, the second king of Israel.

Through God's providential hand, He turned a difficult situation into one of the greatest stories in the Bible! Ruth was a blessed woman because of her great faith in God and her love and respect for Naomi. During an awful time in Israel's history, the story of Ruth serves as a reminder that God is faithful even when His people aren't!

Application:

God, Our Kinsman-Redeemer

The great kindness that Boaz expressed to Ruth symbolizes the great kindness God has for His people. Even though Ruth did not deserve to be treated in the gracious manner she was, Boaz showered her with many blessings. This is the same thing God does for His children. Even though we have never deserved, nor ever will deserve, His kindness, He lavishes us with His grace and compassion. God blessed Naomi and Ruth and allowed them to be a part of the line of Christ, His Son. When we realize just how kind God has been to us in the past, we will learn to trust Him with our lives in the future.

Ruth, a Model Picture of a Woman of Faith

Through the book of Ruth, we are able to see a picture of God's ideal woman. Unlike Naomi, Ruth had a strong faith in God that saw beyond the present, bitter struggles of life. She was free from the comforts and securities in the world, which allowed her to move away from her home and to trust God completely. She had a deeply loyal commitment to the relationships God appointed in her life. Ruth is a wonderful example of a woman who trusts God because He is in total control of each and every situation in life.

Hook:

- "Picking up Grain" Center: (RTH01ECGF3)** Using the GF3 picture of Ruth gleaning in a field, have the children glue (glue stick) wheat or barley kernels to appropriate areas on the picture. Talk about harvest and gleaning. Today's Bible Adventure shows how a woman named Ruth was faithful to God and was a hard worker. God provided lots of food for Ruth.

- Introduction to the Book of Ruth (Friendship) Center:** A leader will need to stay in this area during free play. Provide any number of toys for free play. "Today, we will be learning about a woman named Ruth. She had faith in the one, true God. Her name, Ruth, means friendship. While we are playing with the toys in this area today, think about how you can be a friend to the others playing here. You can think of them first. I will be watching you play, and every time I see a kind, considerate act by one of you to another, I will tell the whole group what you did and how that shows friendship to others."
- House Building Center:** Provide the following construction paper shapes for the children to make houses: 4" squares, 1" squares, 1" x 3" rectangles, and triangles measuring 5" across at the bottom and 3 1/2" on either side, and construction paper to glue the houses to. Other shapes can be included for apartment buildings, trailers, etc. Have the children work with the shapes and when they have a house that suits them, they can use glue sticks to put the house together. "In today's Bible Adventure, we will be learning about a woman named Ruth. She had faith in the one, true God, and God provided her with a house. She first lived with a woman named Naomi, and after she was married, she lived with her husband, Boaz."
- Family Portraits Center:** Using magazine or catalog pictures, choose pictures of people to represent family members. Help the children name the people represented. Using a glue stick, have the children paste the pictures to a piece of construction paper. In today's Bible Adventure, Ruth was faithful to God, and God provided her with a family. Ruth and Boaz had a baby named Obed. His grandmother's name was Naomi.
- Wheat from Stalk to Grinder:** Show children how kernels are separated from wheat stalks. If a wheat grinder is available, show the children the kernels and then how it is made into flour that is used for cereals and bread.
- Farmer's Visit:** Invite a farmer to come to class and bring any equipment or pictures of equipment that he might use for harvest (including a scythe, if available). Talk about growing wheat and how it needs rain and sunshine to make it grow. Discuss wheat harvest today and how it is different from the past. Help children understand that "gleaners" came along after the harvesters and took the leftover grain to make bread.
- Bread Kneading:** Before class, mix up a batch of bread dough or use thawed frozen bread dough. Bring wipes for children's hands and let them take turns kneading portions of the dough on a floured bread board. Be sure to cover the table and surrounding floor with plastic. Instruct the children how to knead. Form rolls if time allows.
- Puppet Relative Talk:** Using two different puppets, discuss what relatives they each have and what they mean to each other. Include a relative that would help take care of him if he lost his parents. That relative would give him a place to live and all the food and water that he needed.
- Grocery Buying:** Set up a pretend grocery store with empty cans, containers, and plastic food. With lunch sacks and play money, let children buy food to take home to their families to help with dinner. In the Bible Adventure today, we are going to hear about some people who needed food and didn't have grocery stores like we have. God provided food for them in a different way.
- Visiting Grandmother:** Gather the children in a circle and let this grandmother tell you about her family, her mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, etc. She can show pictures of her relatives. Today we are going to hear about Jesus' great, great, great, great, great, and more greats, grandmother!
- Attributes in the Book of Ruth: (RTH01ECGF1, RTH01ECGF2, RTH01ECGF3, and RTH01ECGF4)** Give each child a picture to color. Make two or three of each picture so every child

Boaz said, "Come eat with us at mealtime. Eat as much as you want until you are full." How grateful Ruth was to have good food to eat. She even had some food left over to take to Naomi at the end of the day.

When Ruth came home that night, Naomi said, "Who gave you so much good food today?"

Ruth told Naomi that the kind man's name was Boaz. Naomi said, "The Lord bless him! God has sent us to Boaz to take care of us."

(Show the RTH01ECGF4 picture.) Boaz married Ruth and they had a son named Obed. Naomi was happy again. Her friends said, "Praise the Lord! God gave you a grandson."

Naomi's grandson's name, Obed, is here in the Bible. His great, great, great, great, (many greats) grandson was Jesus. Jesus loves us and takes care of us even better than Boaz took care of Ruth and Naomi.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for helping Naomi and Ruth by taking them to Boaz. Thank You for parents who take care of us, and for Jesus, who takes the best care of us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Bible Adventure for 4's, 5's & K-

Today we are going to hear the wonderful story of Ruth. The book of Ruth is in the Old Testament section of the Bible. *(Have the children say "Ruth" as you let one of the children open your Bible at the bookmark in the book of Ruth.)*

(Show the RTH01ECGF1 picture.) During the time of the Judges, when Israel was on a sin cycle, there was not enough food for all the families to eat in the town of Bethlehem. A man called Elimelech and his wife, Naomi, decided to move their family to a land called Moab where there was more food. *(Have the children say "Naomi" several times.)*

While living in the land of Moab, Elimelech died, and Naomi's two sons had to take care of her. Naomi was sad because her husband had died. *(Draw tears on Naomi's face.)*

Naomi's sons married wives named Ruth and Orpah. After about ten years, a very sad thing happened. Both of Naomi's sons got sick and died, and Naomi was left without any men in her family to take care of her. Naomi was very sad and bitter that the Lord had let her husband and sons die. *(Draw tears on Ruth and Orpah's faces.)*

(Show the RTH01ECGF2 picture.) When Naomi heard that the famine in Bethlehem was over and there was food again, she packed up her things to move back. Her daughters-in-law wanted to go with her, but Naomi said to them, "Stay here with your families. I cannot take care of you and there will be no husbands for you in Bethlehem. You will only have a husband and children if you stay in Moab." Orpah and Ruth cried, not wanting to leave Naomi. When Naomi said again, "Stay in Moab with your parents," Orpah returned to her family.

Ruth didn't want to stay in Moab and said to her mother-in-law, "I want to go with you. Your God will be my God, and your people will be my people. Wherever you go, I will go." Ruth wanted to go to Bethlehem with Naomi.

When Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem, the people said, "Naomi's back! She has brought her daughter-in-law with her." The people were sorry that such sad things had happened to Naomi.

(Show the RTH01ECGF3 picture.) Ruth loved Naomi very much and wanted to find food for her. It was harvest time, and Ruth went out each day to find bits of grain that had been left on the ground after the men had harvested. Ruth happened to be gathering grain in the field of a kind man named Boaz who noticed how hard Ruth worked all day in the hot sun. Boaz said to Ruth, "Stay in my fields where you will be safe. Get drinks of water from my water jars any time you are thirsty." Boaz was a kind man.

Ruth was very grateful for Boaz's kindness. She bowed down with her face to the ground. She said to Boaz, "Why have you been kind to me even though I am from a different country?"

Boaz said, "I have heard how kind and faithful you have been to your mother-in-law and how you left your father and mother to come live with a people you did not know. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel."

Ruth said to Boaz, "Thank you for being kind to me. Your kind words have been comforting to me."

Boaz said, "Come eat with us at lunch. Eat as much as you want until you are full." How grateful Ruth was to have good food to eat. She even had some food left over to take home to Naomi along with the barley she had gathered for the day.

When Ruth arrived home that night, Naomi asked, "Who gave you so much food today? Whose field were you gleaning in?"

Ruth told Naomi that the man's name was Boaz. Naomi said, "The Lord bless him! Boaz is a close relative of my husband. Boaz is a "kinsman-redeemer." A kinsman-redeemer was a brother or uncle who took care of a family if the husband died.

Naomi said to Ruth, "God is taking care of us. This is what you should do to show Boaz that we want him to be our kinsman-redeemer. Tonight, when the harvesters are staying all night on the threshing floor, go and uncover Boaz's feet. When he wakes up, he will tell you what to do."

Ruth did exactly as Naomi had told her. When Boaz woke up in the middle of the night, he said, "Who is there?" Ruth said, "I am your servant Ruth. Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer."

Boaz said, "The Lord bless you, my daughter. I will take you into my family. Everyone in town knows that you are a woman of good character. I will take you as my wife."

The next day, Boaz went to the town gate and said to the elders of the city, "I would like to buy Naomi's land and marry her daughter-in-law, Ruth." The elders said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord bless you and make your family famous in Bethlehem."

(Show the RTH01ECGF4 picture.) Boaz married Ruth and they had a son named Obed. Naomi was grateful to God for a grandson. Her friends said to her, "Praise the Lord! Your daughter-in-law loves you more than seven sons and now God has given you a grandson. May the Lord make him famous throughout all Israel!"

That is what happened. Obed was the father of Jesse, and Jesse was the father of King David. Obed became famous and his name is in the Bible. His great, great, great, great, (many greats) grandson was Jesus, the true Redeemer who takes care of those of us in His family.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for helping Naomi and Ruth by taking them to Boaz. Thank You for Jesus who is our Redeemer. In Jesus' name, amen.



Look:

Aim Questions: Write the questions on 3" x 5" cards and place them under a heavy object, like a thirty pound bag of dog food, flour, or sugar. A child must move the object for each question and put it back. Ruth carried thirty pounds of grain home from the fields for Naomi and herself.

Snack: Invite grandparents of several children to class during snack time to help serve the children and then to sit at the individual tables to talk about being a grandparent. Remind them that Naomi was the grandmother in Ruth's family.

Ruth Booklet: (RTH01ECGF10) Let each child make a booklet of Ruth by folding the GF10 page in fourths so that page number one is the cover page. Talk about what happened to Naomi and Ruth's family. Sing the song to remind the children that Ruth loved Naomi's God.

"Ruth" Finger Play:

Ruth went walking in the fields,	<i>(Take a few steps.)</i>
Gathering barley and wheat.	<i>(Pretend to pick up grain.)</i>
She brought some home for Naomi, too,	<i>(Pretend to carry a bundle.)</i>
More than enough to eat!	<i>(Pretend to eat.)</i>
A man named Boaz owned the fields--	
So good and kind was he!	<i>(Nod head "yes.")</i>
He married Ruth and took care of her,	<i>(Clasp hands.)</i>
And they lived happily!	<i>(Clap hands.)</i>

"Ruth's Story" Activity: Have the children think of ways that Ruth showed her faith in God. After some ideas have come out, lead them in singing these words to the tune of "Mulberry Bush." Use appropriate actions for each verse.

Ruth left her country to follow Naomi to Bethlehem and worship the one true God.

This is the way Ruth walked to Bethlehem, walked to Bethlehem, walked to Bethlehem.

This is the way Ruth walked to Bethlehem, to show her faith in God.

Ruth gathered grain so she and Naomi would have some food to eat.

This is the way Ruth picked up grain, picked up grain, picked up grain.

This is the way Ruth picked up grain, to show her faith in God.

Boaz wanted Ruth to drink from his jars of water.

This is the way Ruth took a drink, took a drink, took a drink.

This is the way Ruth took a drink, to show her faith in God.

Boaz wanted Ruth to marry him and to give her a home.

This is the way Ruth cleaned her house, cleaned her house, cleaned her house.

This is the way Ruth cleaned her house, to show her faith in God.

God gave Boaz and Ruth a baby named Obed.

This is the way Ruth rocked her son, rocked her son, rocked her son.

This is the way Ruth rocked her son, to show her faith in God.

Harvesting and Gleaning Popcorn: On the floor, place a large white sheet on which you have marked off small diagonal corners and rows on the remaining center area. Seat children around the edge of the field (sheet). Discuss the job of harvesters and gleaners and show the children the “field” on the floor. With a hot air popper in the center of the sheet, make several batches of popcorn. Keep children seated at this time and away from the hot popper. Designate some children to be harvesters and give them a grocery sack to go down the center rows and pick up the corn. Other children are gleaners who receive a lunch sack and can pick up the popped corn in the small corners only. Pretend to be Ruth and show how she was a gleaner, but because God provided Boaz for her, she was able to follow the harvesters in the main field.

Snack: Snack on popcorn in the harvest field and share with each other, as Boaz shared with Ruth and Ruth shared with Naomi. Discuss “faithfulness” as seen in Ruth and Boaz.

Fun Review: Act out the highlights of the Bible story. Begin with Naomi (a teacher) and faithful Ruth (a willing child) waving good-bye to the people in Moab. Walk in place as they travel to Bethlehem. Wave again as the people greet Naomi and Ruth. Bend down and pick up grain in the field. Be faithful and do this all day long! Boaz (a male teacher or willing child) invites Ruth to stay in his fields to pick more grain, drink his water, and eat his food. (Pretend to drink and eat.) Bow down as Ruth gratefully thanks Boaz for his kindness and help. End with children marching around in pairs, pretending to be Boaz and Ruth getting married. Chant “Ruth was faithful. God provided. Praise the Lord!”

Snack and Discussion: Serve wheat rolls today. Review how wheat goes from kernels to flour to rolls. Talk about relatives in the children’s own families, where they live, and what their names are. Talk about how we are thankful to God for our parents who care for us. Ruth was very thankful that God provided Boaz for her at just the right time. If you heard the word “kinsman-redeemer” in the 4’s and 5’s Bible Adventure today, you can just think of him as a relative who takes care of someone else in the family. Talk about friendship and how Ruth was a special friend to Naomi. Talk about what makes you a good friend (faithful through good and bad times, shares Jesus, helps when in need, is kind, shares, stays close, etc.).

Gleaning Relay Game: Divide the children into two teams, forming lines at one end of the room. Opposite them is an area of the room where you have spread cotton balls. Each child receives a strip of masking tape to put around his hand with the sticky side out. Each team receives a paper grocery bag. One at a time, each team member goes to the cotton balls and gets one chance to reach down and get as many cotton balls as possible to stick to his tape. Then the child walks back to the line and places his cotton balls in the bag while the second child goes to “glean.” The team with the most cotton balls in their bag wins! Talk about Ruth who was faithful to work hard gleaning in the fields so she could provide food for Naomi and herself. Take a cotton ball home as a reminder to be faithful like Naomi. You can be faithful by doing what you are asked to do and by doing your best until it is done.

④ **God Provided for Ruth:** Place several items in a basket or on a tray and talk about which items relate to the Ruth Bible Adventure. Include a wedding picture (God provided a husband for Ruth), a picture of a baby (God provided a baby boy named Obed), a jar of water, and food. Include other things like toys, books, blocks, etc., that would not be right choices.

④ **What is Faithfulness?** In a basket, place pictures of a cat (not faithful), a dog (better than a cat but can be easily distracted and really not faithful), a grandmother (wants to be faithful but isn’t available all the time), a friend (tries to be faithful but hard to be all the time), a pair of shoes (gets old and doesn’t fit--not faithful), picture of the sun and moon (good example of faithfulness). Talk about each and how faithful they are to you. Talk about Ruth and how faithful she was to God, Naomi, and her job in the field.

Songs:



Ruth Said (tune: "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain")

Ruth said, "Your God will be my God," yes, she did. (Yes, sir!)

Ruth said, "Your God will be my God," yes, she did. (Yes, sir!)

Ruth said, "Your God will be my God;

I will love and worship the true Go-od."

Ruth said, "I will love the Lord."

Ruth was faithful to Naomi, yes, she was. (Yes, sir!)

Ruth was faithful to Naomi, yes, she was. (Yes, sir!)

Ruth was faithful to Naomi.

She said, "Your people will be my people."

Ruth said, "I will love the Lord."

Ruth went with Naomi back to Bethlehem. (Yes, sir!)

Ruth went with Naomi back to Bethlehem. (Yes, sir!)

Ruth was faithful to Naomi.

She said, "Your people will be my people."

Ruth said, "I will love the Lord."



Ruth 1:16 Memory Verse Song (tune: "Camptown Races")

Your people will be my people, and your God, my God. (Repeat.)

Ruth one sixteen says, Ruth one sixteen says,

"Your people will be my people, and your God, my God." (Hey!)



Took:



Puzzle Coloring: (RTH01ECGF3 and RTH01ECGF5) Copy RTH01ECGF3 on cardstock with the GF5 page copied on the back. Let the children color the picture of Ruth. Practice saying and singing the verse together while coloring. Cut along the lines on the back so that the picture becomes a puzzle. Provide a lunch sack to decorate and use to take the puzzle home.



Dress Yourself with Faithfulness: (RTH01ECGF6, RTH01ECGF7 and RTH01ECGF8) Give each child his own GF6 paper doll. Give each girl a GF7 page and each boy a GF8 page. Let the children color the clothes so that their dolls are wearing clothes the same color as they are wearing. Talk about the qualities involved in faithfulness as seen in Ruth and Boaz. Glue the clothes and shoes onto their dolls or send the clothes home to be cut out and glued on later.



Ruth Award: (RTH01ECGF9) Discuss with the children that Ruth was faithful, dependable, kind, reliable, and kept her word to God and others. She gets the award for faithfulness for today. Pray with the children to be faithful in their own families and to wear this pin as a reminder. Print the GF9 page on cardstock and cut in squares. Punch a hole in the middle top for the safety pin.



Preschool Page for Parents: (RTH01ECPPT) Send a page home with each child, encouraging parents to reinforce the Bible truths at home. Spend a few minutes before the children go home creatively reviewing the song and memory verse.



Naomi's husband and two sons died while they were living in Moab.



Ruth begged Naomi to let her go to Bethlehem with her.



God chose kind Boaz to take care of Ruth and Naomi.



God gave Naomi a grandson named Obed.

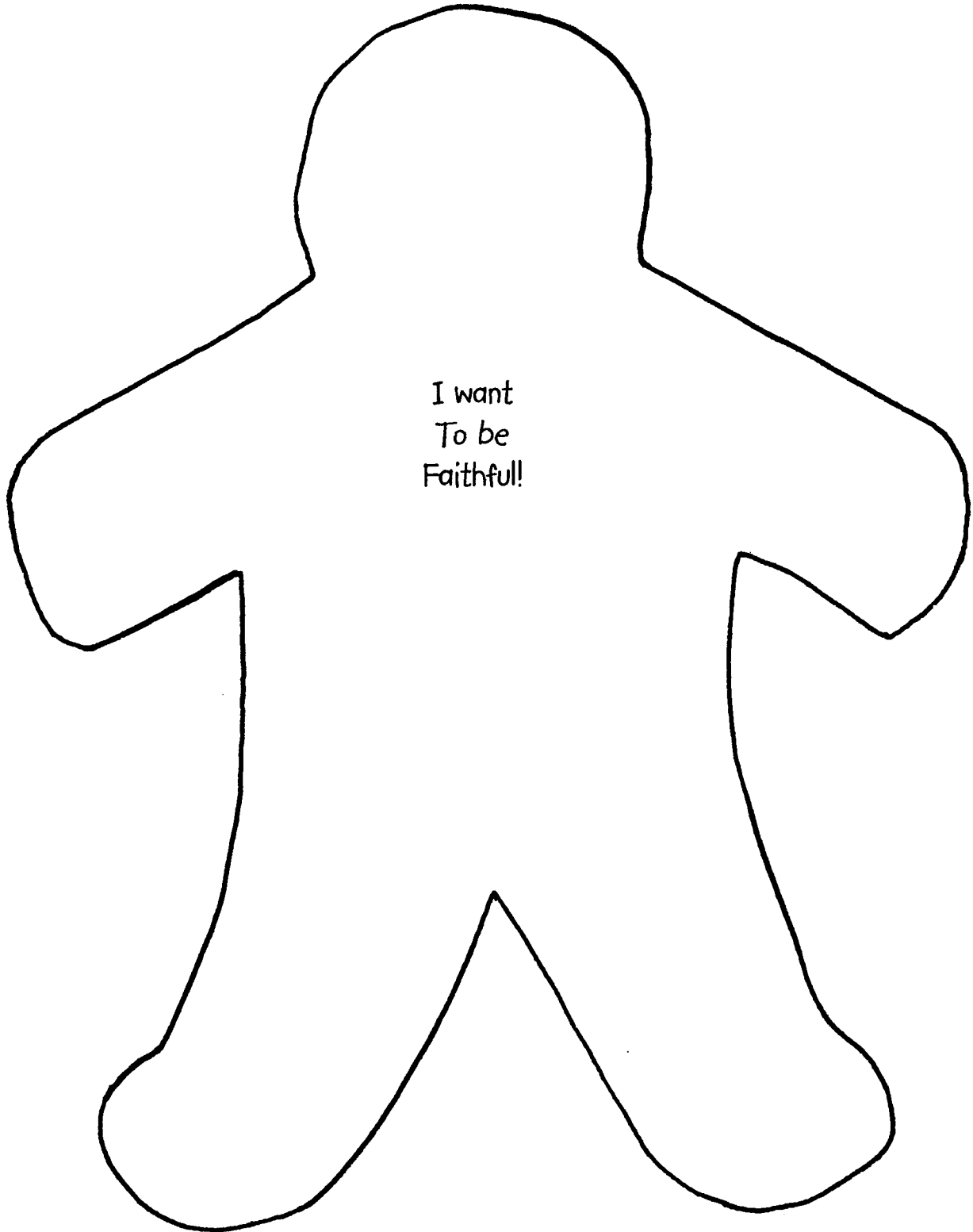


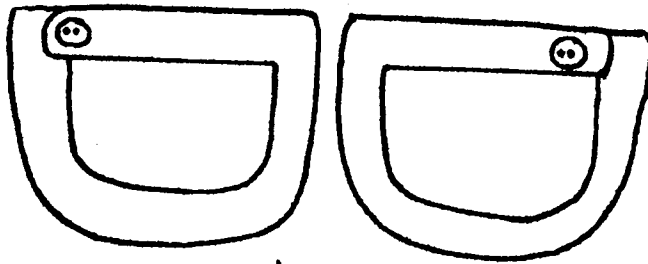
Your people
will be
my people and
your God my
God.

Ruth 1:16

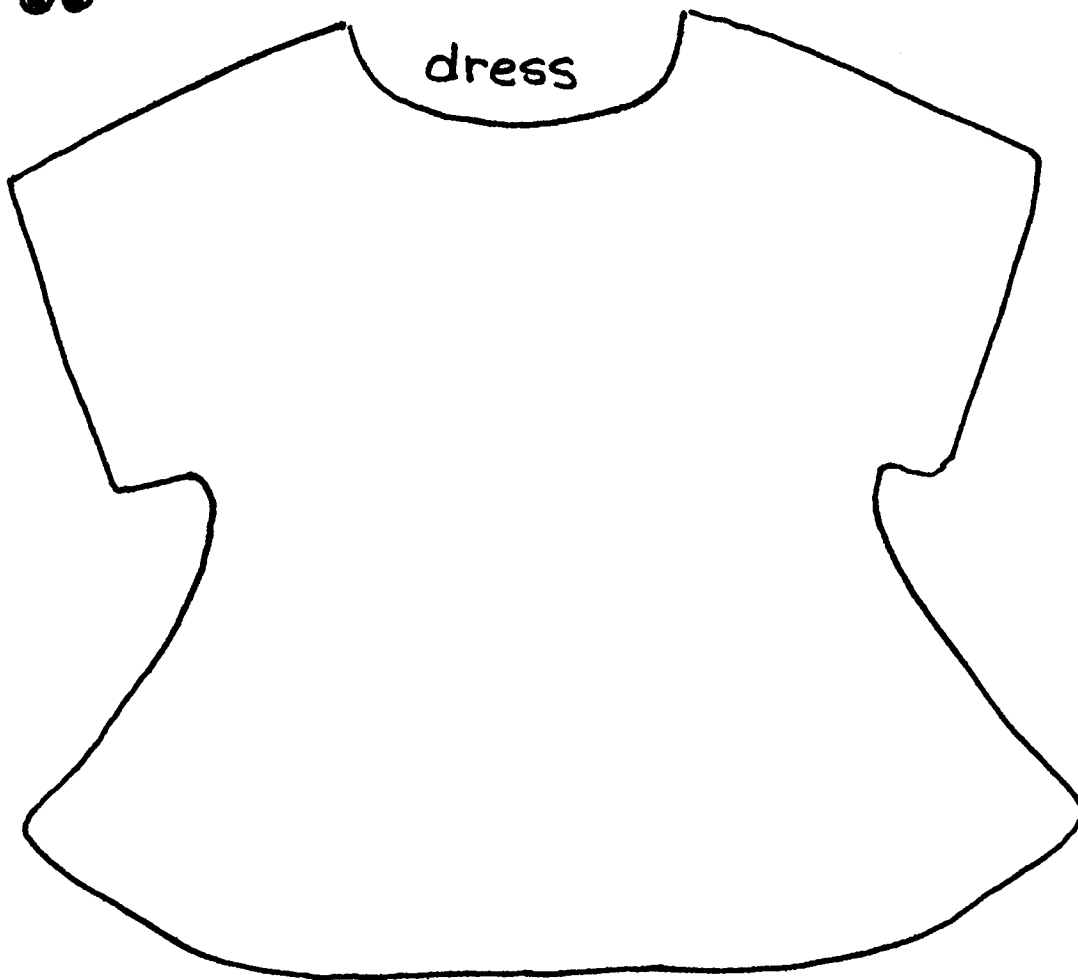
Dressed in Faithfulness!

Your people will be my people and your God my God. Ruth 1:16

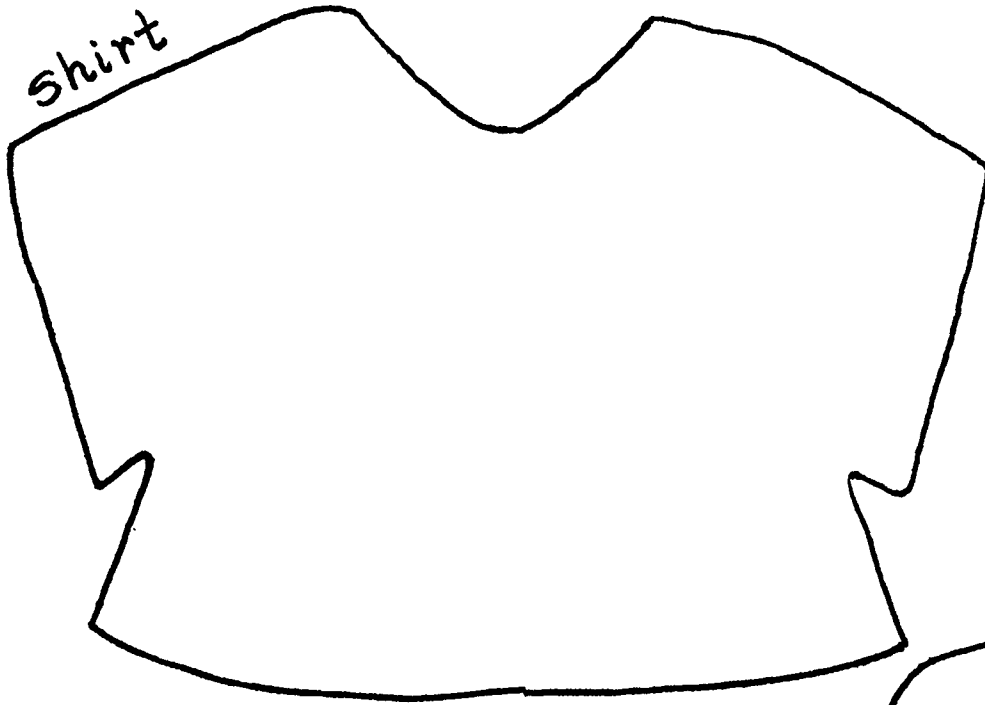




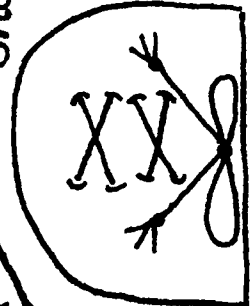
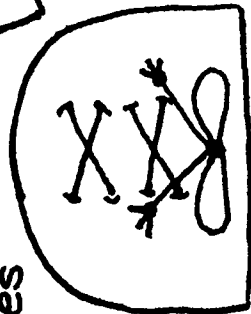
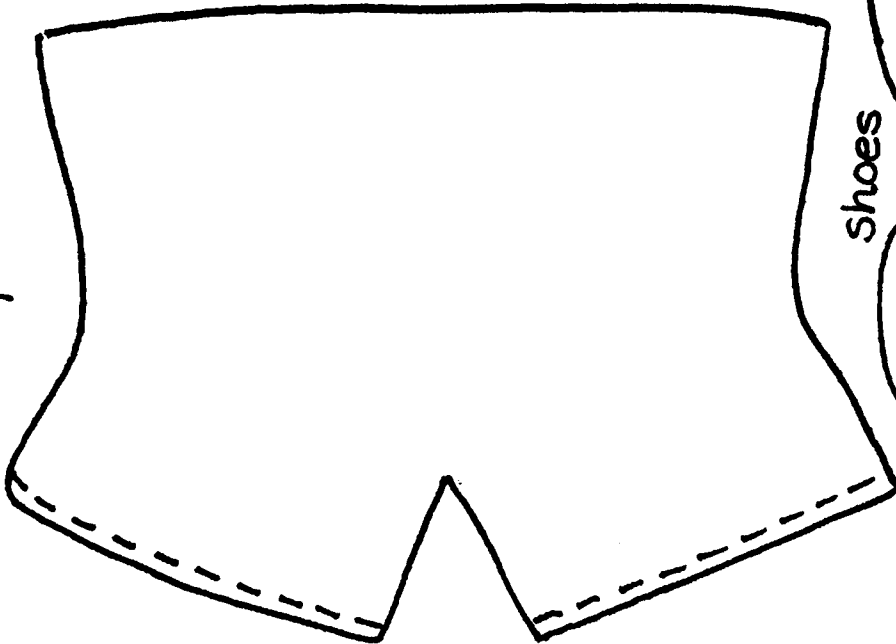
shoes

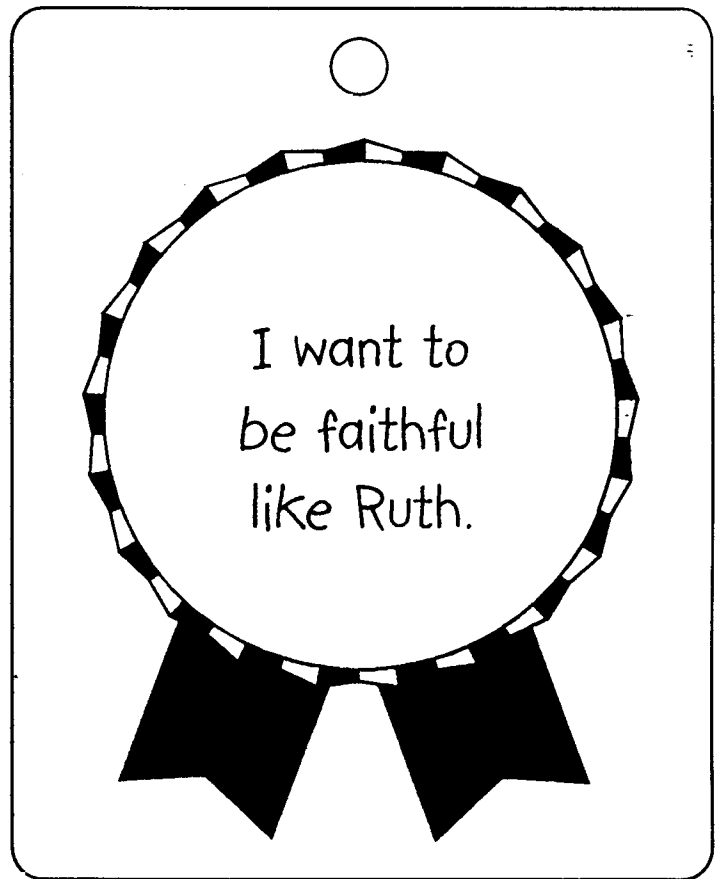
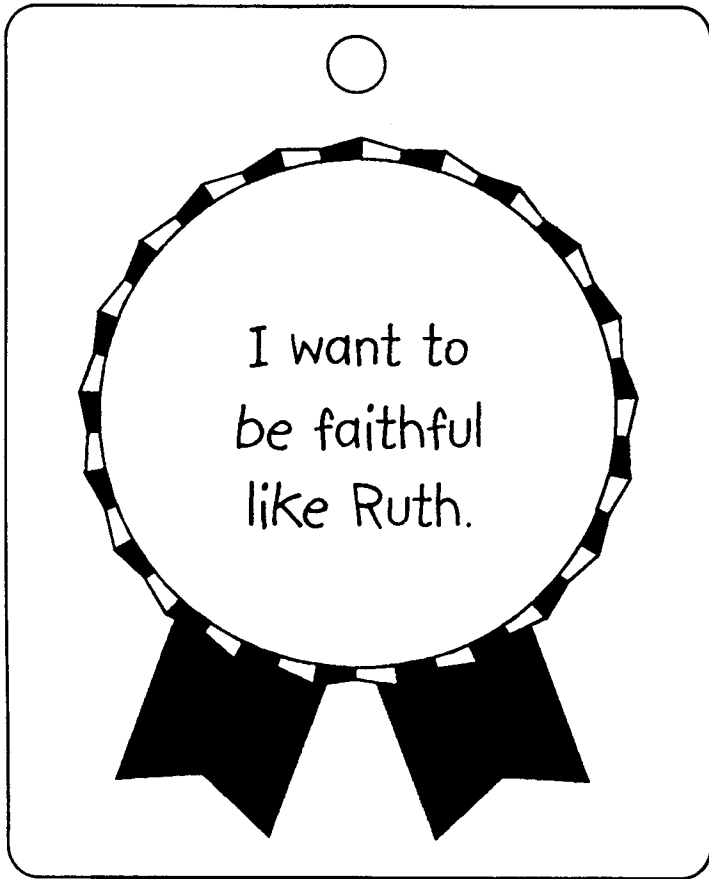


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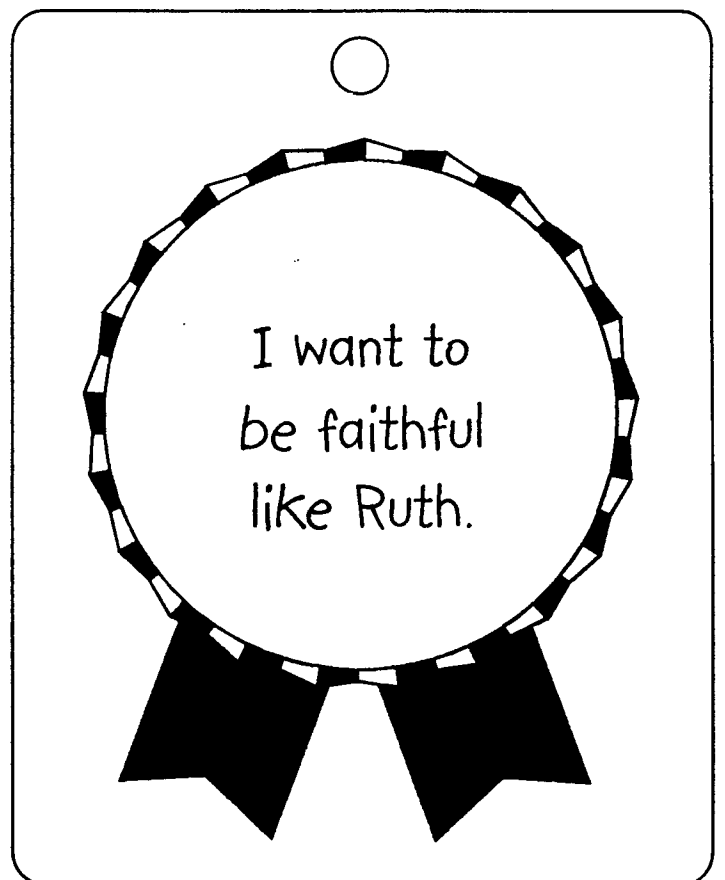
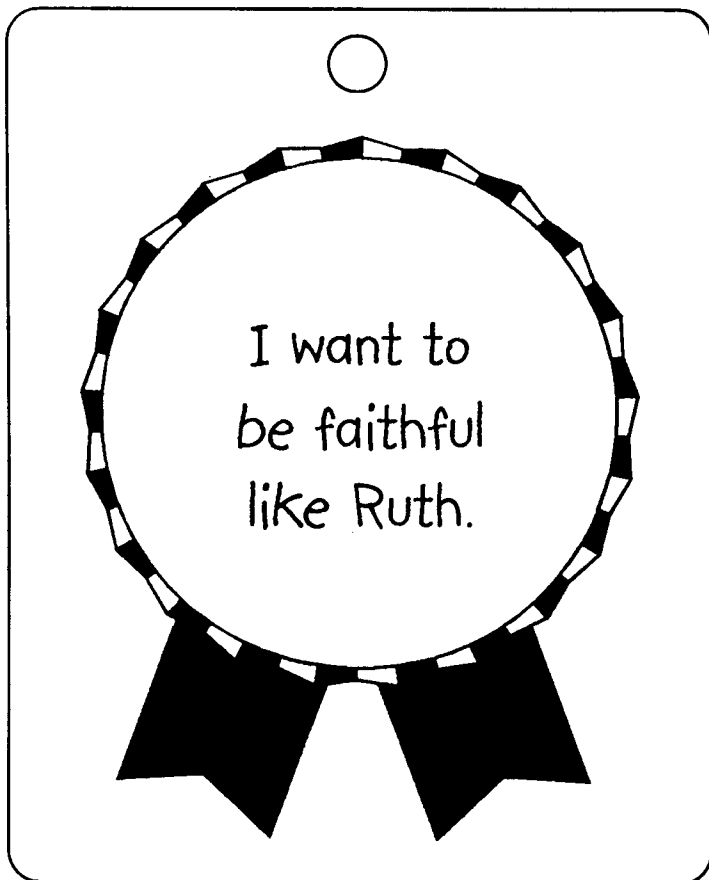


parts





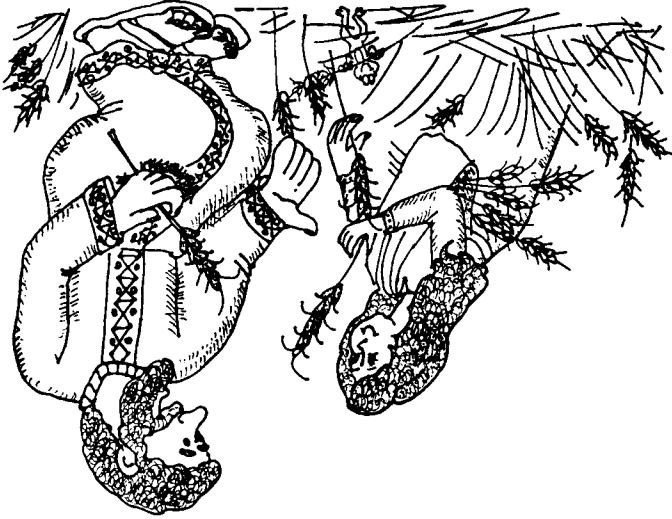
Ruth Award



3.

Ruth Said
 (tune: "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain")
 Ruth went with Naomi back to Bethlehem. (Yes, sir!)
 Ruth went with Naomi back to Bethlehem. (Yes, sir!)
 Ruth was faithful to Naomi.
 She said, "Your people will be my people."
 Ruth said, "I will love the Lord."

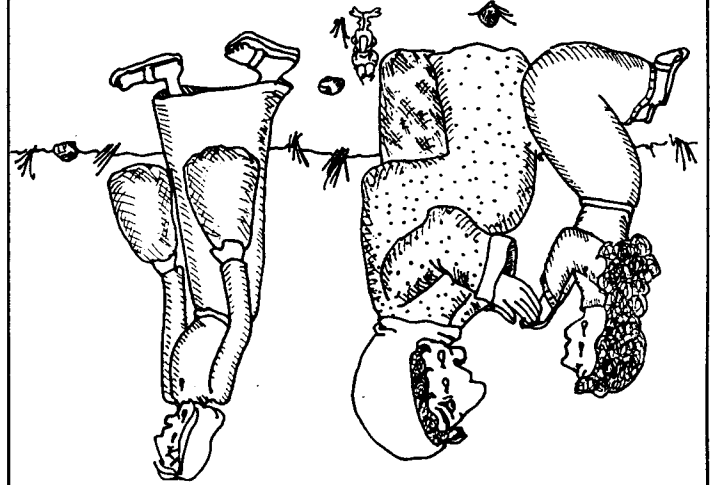
God sent Boaz to take care of Naomi and Ruth.



2.

Ruth 1:16
 (tune: "Camptown Races")
 Your people will be my people,
 And your God, my God. (Repeat.)
 Ruth one sixteen says, (Repeat.)
 Your people will be my people,
 And your God, my God.

Orpah went home to her family, but Ruth begged Naomi to let her go with her.



The Book of Ruth



Naomi Elimelech Mahlon Ruth Orpah Chillon

Ruth Said

(tune: "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain")

Ruth said, "Your God will be my God," yes, she did.

Ruth said, "Your God will be my God," yes, she did.

Ruth said, "Your God will be my God;

I will love and worship the true Go-od."

Ruth said, "I will love the Lord."

1.

God gave Naomi a special grandson whose name was Obed.

4.



This is what I learned today!

Today we learned about a woman named Ruth who loved the one true God of her mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth went to Bethlehem with Naomi and worked hard in the fields to gather wheat and barley to eat. While Ruth was in the field, a man named Boaz saw her and was very kind to her. He was a relative of Naomi's husband. Since Boaz was a relative, he wanted to take care of Naomi and Ruth after their husbands had died, and so he was called a kinsman-redeemer. It was God's way of providing a home for Naomi and Ruth. Boaz married Ruth and they had a son named Obed. God made Obed famous. His name is in the Bible because he was the grandfather of King David!

Today's Memory Verse:

2's & 3's: Your God will be my God. Ruth 1:16b

**4's & 5's: Your people will be my people
and your God my God. Ruth 1:16b**

Faithful Like Ruth



Ruth was a faithful person. She trusted God to take care of her, and she worked hard with a good attitude. This week as a family, sing this little song to the tune of "Frere Jacques" whenever one of the family is working diligently, or when someone is slacking off.

Let's be faithful; let's be faithful.

Just like Ruth; just like Ruth.

We will do keep on working;

We will keep on smiling,

Just like Ruth; just like Ruth. *(Substitute your child's name.)*

Ruth 1:16, Memory Verse Song (tune: "Camptown Races")

Your people will be my people,
And your God, my God. *(Repeat.)*
Ruth one sixteen says, *(Repeat.)*
"Your people will be my people,
And yo-our God, my God." *(Hey!)*



God blessed Naomi with a special grandson, Obed.