



# OLD TESTAMENT: RUTH

Lesson 21

### BIG IDEA

Ruth a Moabite becomes a widow. She follows her mother-in-law, an Israelite, and worships the God of Israel. Ruth seeks food in the field of Boaz who is a distant relative. Boaz takes Ruth as his wife, he is her kinsman redeemer. Ruth is an important person in the lineage of Christ.

### MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 8 and/or Ruth 1:6

### KEY VERSES

Book of Ruth

### • PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

### BIBLE LESSON: SKIT

- TL wearing baseball cap
- Bear wearing bear ears
- *Experience Mission provides baseball cap and bear ears*

### CRAFT - BOOKMARKS

- 1/4 inch ribbon, 14 inches per child
- Pony beads of various colors
- Metal charm or other decoration (inexpensive at Walmart)

### GAME- FOLLOW THE LEADER& COPYCAT

- no materials needed for game



### WORKSHEETS

- copies of coloring pages, one per child

### EM PROVIDES

- scissors
- staplers
- hole punches

## Psalm 8

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(extend hands to sides)

You have set your glory in the heavens.



(extend hands high)

Through the praise of children and infants you have



("stop" hand)

established a stronghold against your enemies,

To silence the foe and the avenger.



(index finger over lips)

(wiggle fingers both hands)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,



The moon and the stars which you have set in place,



(point to moon and stars)

What is mankind that you are mindful of them,



(shrug shoulders)

Human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels



(flat hand at waist)

And crowned them with glory and honor.



(make crown with hands)

You have made them rulers over the works of your

hands;



(open hands)

You put everything under their feet:



(stomp feet)

All flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,



(hands like claws)

The birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim

the paths of the seas.



(hands together wiggle like fish)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(arms up as if cheering)



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BIBLE LESSON • SKIT

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## STAGING

TL wears baseball cap. Bear wears bear ears.

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## SCRIPT

Bear TL, I need your advice.

TL Sure Bear, how can I help you?

Bear Well, my friend Theodore and I have made an agreement to split our treasures equally whenever we go treasure hunting.

TL That sound like a good arrangement, what's the problem?

Bear How do we make it official? You know, how can we have proof that we've made the agreement?

TL Hmmm, well some people do a spit shake. They spit on their hand and then shake hands.

Bear Yuk. There's got to be something better than that.

TL Some people get a lawyer to write an agreement.

Bear That sound expensive. Give me another idea.

TL I suppose you could make paw prints on the same paper and write the date on it.

Bear Yah, that's a great idea! Thanks TL.

TL (Chuckle a bit) Bear, I have a great story about a man who made an agreement. You'll really get a kick out of what he uses to guarantee his promise.

TL This story takes place when Israel was still ruled by judges, they did not have a king. There was an Israelite woman named Naomi who was living in the land of Moab. Her husband died and she was living with her two sons and their wives, Orpah and Ruth. About ten years later her two sons also died and she was left with her two foreign daughters-in-law. After a while the famine ended and Naomi heard that the Lord had blessed the Israelites with good crops. She decided to go home to Bethlehem where she had once lived. She told her daughters-in-law, "Go back your families. May the Lord be as good to you as you have been to me. May you marry again and have your own homes." And she kissed them goodbye.

"No! We will go with you!" They begged.

But Naomi said, "I am too old to have other sons for you to marry. You must go home." So Orpah kissed her mother-in-law and went back to the home of her parents. Ruth, however, kept holding onto



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BIBLE LESSON • SKIT (PAGE 2)

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Naomi.

“Please don’t ask me to leave you! Wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you live, I will love. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you died, I will die.”

Bear That’s loyalty right there. Ruth is committed to Naomi.

TL That’s right. And not only that, but she is choosing to be loyal to the one true God rather than the customs of the people of Moab. So, since Ruth was determined to go, Naomi did not argue and they began the long journey to Bethlehem. When they arrived everyone was excited to see them because they remembered Naomi. “Is it really Naomi?” they asked. She didn’t want them to call her Naomi though, because it meant pleasant. She told them to call her Mar a instead because it meant bitter. “When I left here, I had plenty, but the Lord has brought me back without a thing.”

It was the season that barley was ripe and since there was no man to provide for them, Ruth said to Naomi, “Let me go to the fields to gather the grain that the workers leave.” And Naomi gave permission for Ruth to go to the fields.

Bear Uh-oh. Isn’t that stealing?

TL Bear, that’s a really good question. Do you remember when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments and many other laws for his chosen people? Well, one of those laws was for the field owners to leave some of the grain or fruit in the fields so that the poor would have something to gather and eat.

Bear Whew. That’s good news. I was just starting to think Ruth was a pretty good sort of person, you know, being loyal and all. What a terrible thing it would be if she was planning to steal food!

TL You can relax and trust Ruth’s character in this story. And, as it turns out, the field that she gathered from happened to be owned by a man named Boaz who was a relative of Naomi’s dead husband. Boaz noticed Ruth in his field and asked his man in charge about her. The man replied, “She asked to gather the grain that the workers miss. She has worked all morning.”

So Boaz went over to Ruth and said, “Why don’t you stay in my field. Work close to the other women and when you get thirsty they can give you some water.”

Ruth was surprised and bowed down with her face touching the ground. “Why should you be so concerned about me, a foreigner?”

Boaz replied, “I have heard about your kindness to Naomi. I know how you left your home and came to live among strangers. May the Lord reward you for what you have done.” After Ruth went back to work, Boaz gave orders to his workers, “Let her gather all she needs. And pull out some of the grain from your bundles and leave them for her to pick up.”

Bear That’s cool. He’s giving her extra on the sly!

TL That’s right. And when she went home that evening and weighed out all the grain, she had 25





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BIBLE LESSON • SKIT (PAGE 3)

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pounds. It was a real blessing to Ruth and Naomi. Naomi was surprised and asked where she got so much grain. So Ruth told her all about Boaz and how kind he had been. Naomi was suddenly extremely happy and began to praise the Lord, "The Lord always keeps his promise to the living and the dead! That man is a relative of my husband and he is responsible for taking care of us!" Naomi was very happy and so Ruth continued to work in Boaz's field until the barley and wheat harvest season was over.

As time passed, Naomi decided she should find a husband for Ruth. She thought up a plan and Ruth agreed to do as Naomi said. That evening Ruth went to the place where Boaz was threshing barley, but she stayed hidden. After he ate and drank, he lay down beside a pile of barley to sleep. When she was sure Boaz was sound asleep, Ruth slipped over quietly and lay down at his feet. During the night he suddenly woke up and discovered her. "Who is it?" He asked.

"It is your servant Ruth. Since you are my close relative, you are responsible for taking care of me. So please marry me."

Boaz said, "This loyalty to your husband's family is even greater than the loyalty you've shown Naomi. I will marry you, but first I need to talk to the man who is your closest relative." The next morning Boaz went to the town gate where men would gather to meet and he found Ruth's closest relative, the one who had the first right to be Ruth's husband and inherit Naomi's land. Boaz explained the whole situation to the man. The man thought about it and decided it would not be a good choice for his family, so he said, "I give up my claim on the land and Ruth." And to seal the deal, he took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz.

Bear (Make a face) His SANDLE?! That's how he guaranteed his promise. Away (hold nose).

TL Back then, in Israel, the custom was to exchange sandals. Boaz made sure things were really clear, he spoke to the town leaders, "You are all witnesses of this." "Yes, we are," they all replied, "And may the Lord make your wife like Rachel and Leah and may you have many children!" So Boaz married Ruth, the woman from Moab who had chosen to be loyal to Naomi and to God. She eventually had a son named Bed. And Bed eventually had a son named Jessie. And Jessie eventually had a son named David. And David became a very important man in the history of the Israelites and the world...but that's a story for another day.

Bear That's a great bible story TL. Thankfully, bears don't wear sandals so we can't use that option to prove our agreement. But I do like your dated paw print idea. Thanks a bunch!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who was Naomi?
- Who were Orpah and Ruth?
- Was Ruth an Israelite?
- What choice did Ruth make when Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem?
- What is loyalty?
- How did God bless Ruth and Naomi?
- Who are the people in your life you should be loyal to?



# OLD TESTAMENT: RUTH

## CRAFT

Lesson 21

### • CRAFT •

#### NAME BOOKMARKS

Objective: Kids will make fancy book marks

#### MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- scissors
- hole punches
- staplers

#### DIRECTIONS

- Snip one end of the ribbon into a point
- Thread charm/decoration onto ribbon, tie at the other end
- Add several pony beads
- Tie a knot above the beads
- Optional: Add one more bead at the top of the

#### MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- 1/4 inch ribbon, 14 inches per child
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#### EXAMPLE





# OLD TESTAMENT: RUTH

GAME

Lesson 21

• GAME •

**OBJECTIVE: FOLLOW THE LEADER & COPYCAT**

In Follow the Leader kids try and follow everything the leader does. In Copycat kids try to identify who the leader is.

**MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM**

- no materials needed for game

**DIRECTIONS**

**Follow the Leader**

Object of game - Try and follow everything the leader does. Children line up in a line and do everything the leader of the line does. There is no winner or loser in the game of follow the leader. Children take turns leading and following.

Set up the game - Choose who will be the leader. All the other children playing will line up behind the leader in a single file line.

Play - The leader leads the group any direction they want and tries to make up funny things for everyone to do after them. Skip, turn in circles, summersault, crab walk etc. If any player messes up or refuses to follow the leader they are out. The last one standing is the new leader.

Variations: Set time limits so everyone gets a chance to be the leader.

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