



PHUMC Sunday School lessons for Preschool – 5th grade.

August 8, 2021 – Ruth and Naomi (Book of Ruth)

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: Courage

This week we will explore the courage of two women, Ruth and Naomi. Naomi and her husband moved from Judah to Moab. They had two sons who married women from Moab. Naomi's husband died and soon after, her two sons died, leaving all three women widows. Naomi decided to move back to Judah. She encouraged her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, to go back to their homes. Naomi hoped they would marry again. Orpah returned to her home, but Ruth decided to go with Naomi. "Wherever you go, I will go. Your God will be my God." She tells Naomi.

Naomi knew it would be a hard life living in Moab with no man to care for her. It might not be any better in Judah. It took courage for Naomi to leave her home in Moab to travel to the unknown in Judah. It took courage for Ruth to go with Naomi. She was giving up the only life she knew and the family she could return to. Ruth was brave enough to go with Naomi, but she also told Naomi that she would believe in Naomi's God.

Life turned out to be good for Ruth and Naomi in Judah. Ruth once again showed courage by asking to glean in the field of Boaz. A relationship grew between Ruth and Boaz. They married and had a son, Obed.

It is interesting to note that Boaz was the son of Rahab, the woman who helped the spies in Jericho. Obed was born into a family of people with courage.

Wonder with Me

READ the Bible Story

- Ruth and Naomi, from the book of Ruth (*Read from your Bible, see the verses listed below, or see one of the following pages for a picture of the Celebrate Wonder version.*)

Naomi Loses Her Husband and Sons

¹ In the days when the judges ruled,^[a] there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. ² The man's

name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

³ Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

Naomi and Ruth Return to Bethlehem

⁶ When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷ With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

⁸ Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. ⁹ May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband."

Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud ¹⁰ and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people."

¹¹ But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? ¹² Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons—¹³ would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has turned against me!"

¹⁴ At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."

¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "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. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

¹⁹ So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?"

²⁰ "Don't call me Naomi,^[a]" she told them. "Call me Mara,^[a] because the Almighty^[a] has made my life very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted^[a] me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me."

²² So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

WATCH the Bible Story

- <https://youtu.be/hIGcW7OKOIM>

SHARE the Faith Word

Faith Word: Courage – means choosing to act in faith, even when you are afraid.

WONDER Together:

1. Do you think Naomi was afraid to go to Judah?
2. Do you think Ruth was afraid to go to Judah?
3. Who would you want to be in the story: Ruth, Naomi, or Orpah?

Spiritual Practice

- **Share the Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book together** (page 22 & 23). On page 23 (*and below*) you will find the suggested Spiritual Practice activity for the week.

Ruth showed her courage by traveling with Naomi to a strange place. Ruth loved Naomi. Being kind and caring can be an act of courage for others.

Make a Courage Chart. Photocopy a blank calendar with large squares. Each time someone in the family shows an act of courage, that person can color a square. Share with the family how you felt before the act and after the act of courage.

Pray that God will always help you be courageous, even when you are afraid. Let your child hear you say the prayer when you are faced with making decisions this week.

Remind your child he or she can say this prayer aloud or silently when faced with making a decision.

Go in Peace

Blessing: Touch your child and say: **“May God bless you with courage and strength.”**

Prayer: Dear God, help me to have courage and strength. Amen.

Additional Activity for each age group

Select the material toward the end of the lesson that is age appropriate for your child(ren)

Book of RUTH

Ruth and Naomi

Book of Ruth

Naomi lived in the country of Moab. She had a husband and two sons. Ruth and Orpah were married to Naomi's sons and were her daughters-in-law. They were all family.

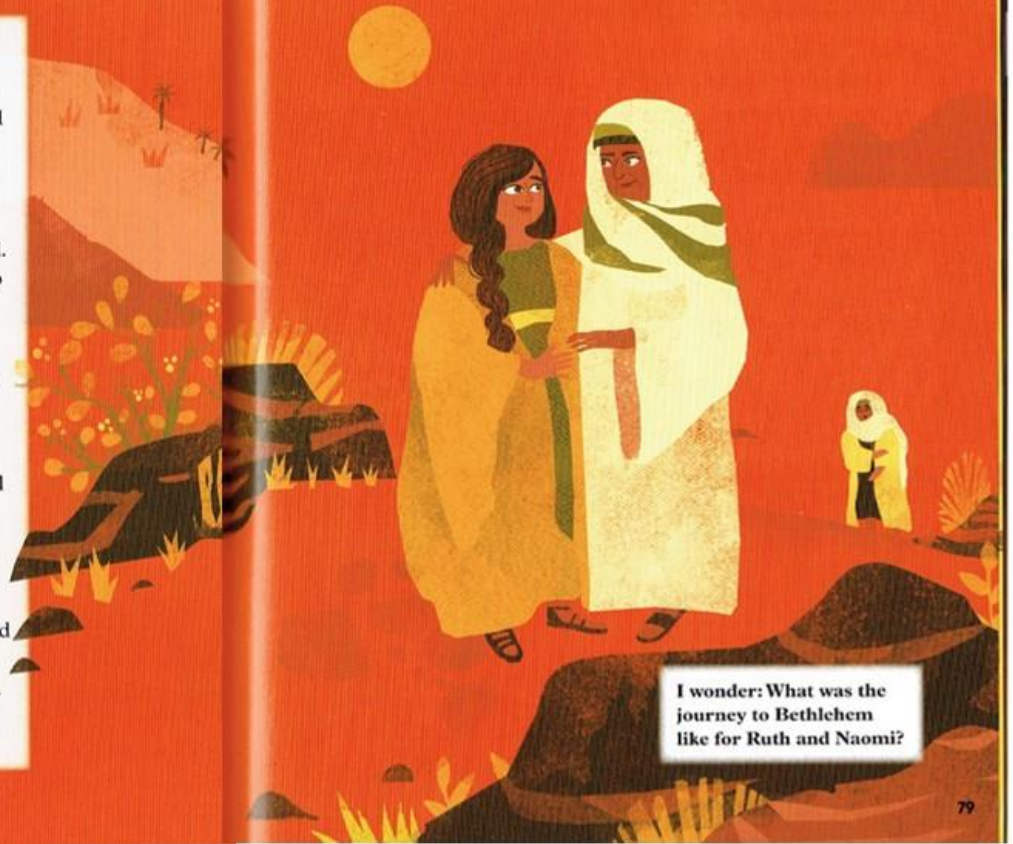
One day Naomi's husband and two sons died. The women were very sad. Naomi decided to go back to her family in Bethlehem.

Before Naomi left Moab, she told her daughters-in-law to go back to live with their families. Orpah returned to her family, but Ruth would not leave Naomi.

Ruth said to Naomi, "Wherever you go, I will go. Your God will be my God."

Soon, Naomi and Ruth were on their way.

In Bethlehem, Ruth worked in a field and gathered fallen grain. Ruth worked in the field of a man named Boaz. He liked Ruth. Boaz married Ruth, and soon they had a baby boy. His name was Obed, but people called him, "Naomi's boy."



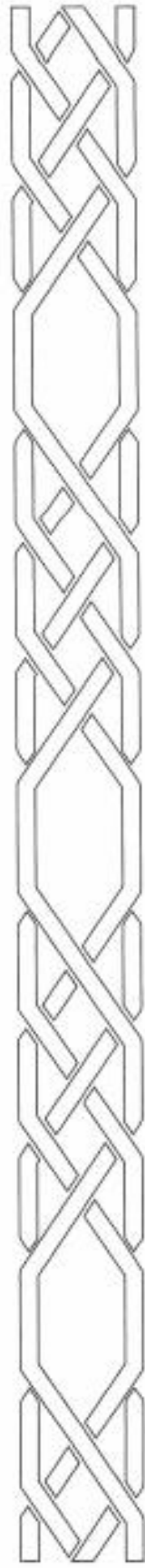
I wonder: What was the journey to Bethlehem like for Ruth and Naomi?

Color Sheet for all



Faith Word—Unit 3

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GOOD FAITH

Preschool Activity

Grinding Grain (Activity)

Supplies: If you have the supplies – gather barley or wheat kernels, hard plastic bowl and a flat rock. If you do not have those items, then use the pictures on the following page for your discussion.

Give your child a bowl and a flat rock.

Show the children how to grind the kernels with a rock.

Say: **Ruth would bring home the kernels of wheat, and then they would grind the wheat into flour, just like you are doing.**

Ask: **How much grain do you think they need to make one loaf of bread?**

Say: **It takes a lot of work to get flour for bread. We could work all day, and we still might not have enough.**

Wonder: **Who cares for you so much that they work hard to make sure you have food to eat? Who do you care for so much that you are willing to work hard?**

Be Strong (Music)

If you wish, revisit the song we learned last week – Be Strong (It is to the tune of “The Bear Went Over the Mountain”)

Say: The Bible story this week told us that Ruth and Naomi showed courage and cared for each other. Their hearts were strong in the Lord.

Doing Spiritual practices help us connect with God and help make our hearts strong in the Lord too. Let’s spend some time with God by singing the song together that we learned last week.

Sing: **Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Be strong! Let your heart take courage and be strong in the Lord!**

Say: **Our bible verse for the month is Psalm 27:14, the song we just sang. Saying or singing a favorite Bible verse can help us have courage.**



Wheat grows in field



When it is ready, the stocks are cut



The wheat seeds are taken off the stock and they are ground into powder so it becomes what is known as flour. We use flour to make bread.

Ruth went through the field and picked up the wheat stalks that got left behind when it was being cut. She took the stocks home for her and Naomi to grind the seeds in a bowl with a flat rock to make flour for bread. It was hard work and took lots of grain to get enough flour to make some bread!



Early Elementary Activity

Kind Comments!

Supplies: Copy of “Kind Comments” (elementary activity sheet below)

SAY: In our story, Ruth showed kindness to Naomi.

WONDER: Do you know that we can pass on kindness too?

SAY: One way we can do that is by sharing kind comments with one another.

Each child receives the “Kind Comments” page. Have the child write kind comments in each square. Examples.....”You are courageous.” “You are strong.” “Your God is my God.” “You are loved.”

Have the children cut the squares and share them other others.

Older Elementary Activity

Kind Comments!

Supplies: Copy of “Kind Comments” (elementary activity sheet below)

SAY: In our story, Ruth showed kindness to Naomi.

WONDER: Do you know that we can pass on kindness too?

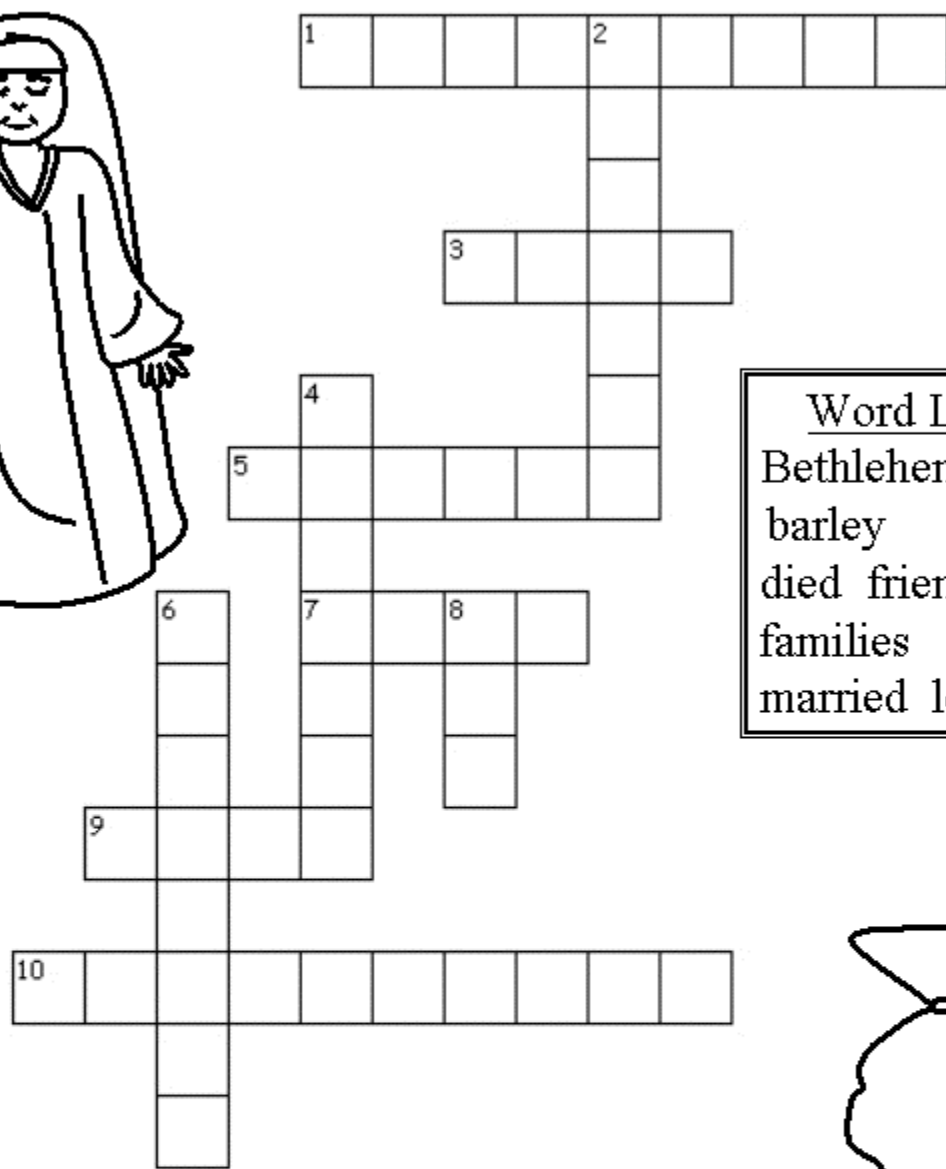
SAY: One way we can do that is by sharing kind comments with one another.

Each child receives the “Kind Comments” page. Have the child write kind comments in each square. Examples.....”You are courageous.” “You are strong.” “Your God is my God.” “You are loved.”

Have the children cut the squares and share them other others.

<p>A kind thought to share with you! I hope that you will share it too!</p>	<p>A kind thought to share with you! I hope that you will share it too!</p>
<p>After reading the comment above, pass it along to another person to help kindness spread!</p>	<p>After reading the comment above, pass it along to another person to help kindness spread!</p>
<p>A kind thought to share with you! I hope that you will share it too!</p>	<p>A kind thought to share with you! I hope that you will share it too!</p>
<p>After reading the comment above, pass it along to another person to help kindness spread!</p>	<p>After reading the comment above, pass it along to another person to help kindness spread!</p>

Ruth and Naomi Crossword



Word List:
Bethlehem two
barley Boaz
died friendship
families Ruth
married loyalty



Across

1. This is the place that Naomi wanted to move back to.
3. The name of the kind man that owned the field where Ruth worked.
5. The type of grain that Ruth would pick up after the harvesters.
7. This was the name of Naomi's daughter-in-law who stayed with her.
9. All of Ruth's immediate family ____ so she decided to move back to her hometown.
10. Ruth and Naomi's story is a story about ____.

Down

2. This is the act of putting someone's interests before your own.
4. Boaz and Ruth later fell in love and were ____.
6. Naomi encouraged Ruth and Orpah to move back to their own ____.
8. The number of sons Naomi had.