

# Lesson 9: Ruth – Part 1

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Look at the book of Ruth and see an example of a family during the time of Judges
- 2) See that not everyone is bad, even in an evil time like the period of Judges
- 3) See that God cares about every person including ordinary people and families
- 4) Understand that kind loving people like Naomi, attract loyal companions like Ruth

**Accommodations:** How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 for idea

## Supplies:

### Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Ways to be Faithful Sheet – one per student
- Paper Lunch Bag – one per student
- Scissors to share

### Optional:

- Song of Ruth – one for each student or to share as class
- Ruth and Naomi Color Page – Let students choose either color page or word search
- Books of the Old Testament Word Search – (there are two on a page so have scissors to cut the page in half)
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

### Snack:

- Something made of wheat or barley ex: bagels                      enough for each child (check allergies)
- Napkins for snack    one per child
- Juice or water and cup    one per child

## Lesson:

### 1) Introduction to Lesson

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied).

Say to students:

**Today we are going to study the next book in the Old Testament the Book of Ruth. Can anyone tell me what book we finished last week? Judges.**

**Let's all name the first 8 books of the Old Testament that we have studied so far – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges and now Ruth.**

**What did we study last week?** We studied the last Judge Samson in the Book of Judges and saw that during that time it was full of wars, oppression, and all sorts of ungodly behavior.

Does anyone have any questions from last week?

The book of Ruth was written during that time of the Judges when most people were not following God. The story of Ruth though will show us many wonderful things. Some of them being that:

Not everyone is bad, even in an evil time like the period of Judges

God cares about every person including ordinary people and families

Kind loving people like Naomi – whom we will meet in this account shortly, attract loyal companions like Ruth her faithful daughter-in-law.

Let's get our Bibles and turn to Ruth Chapter 1 now.

## 2) Ruth

15-20 minutes

**Optional:** Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Let's all turn to Ruth Chapter 1. Can I get a volunteer to read Ruth 1:1-5?

**Discussion Questions:**

During what period of time did the story of Ruth occur? (Ruth 1:1)

Where did Naomi's family go to live for a while and why? (Ruth 1:1-2)

What were the names of the two Moabite woman that Naomi's sons' married? (Ruth 1:4)

Who died in the land where they had gone? (Ruth 1:3 and 5)

Can I get a volunteer to read Ruth 1:6-14 and another volunteer to read verses 15 to the end of the chapter? Or read yourself.

**Discussion Questions:**

Did Naomi give up her faith in the Lord after losing her sons and husband (See verses 8-9)?

What did Orpah decide to do? (Ruth 1:15)

What did Ruth decide to do? (Ruth 1:16-17)

What did Naomi want to be called when she returned and why? Mara – meaning bitter

When did Naomi and Ruth return? During the barley harvest season and a few weeks before the wheat harvest began.

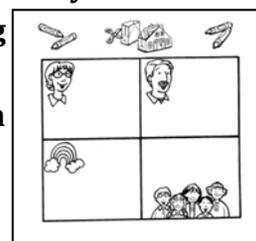
Today we began to study the book of Ruth. In the next few weeks we will see how life changed for Naomi and Ruth thanks to God and we will see that faithful people like Naomi, even though they face times of trouble, will be blessed if they remain faithful and that they attract loyal friends and family like Ruth!

## 3) Ways to Be Faithful Craft

15 minutes

Say, "We saw today that Ruth remained faithful to Naomi – meaning she remained loyal to Naomi and would not leave her and stayed to help her even though Naomi had nothing to provide for Ruth.

To help us see how this relates to us today we are going to do a craft. First, I am going to hand out a paper lunch bag for each of you with a pair of scissors. Cut the top two corners off the lunch bag to form a house. (Show students a picture



from their sheet which has a picture of the “house” paper bag so they can see what the house will look like. Next, hand out markers/crayons and have the students decorate their house. Finally, hand out one ways to be faithful sheet to each student with the scissors and crayons and read the directions aloud. Remind them the idea is to draw or write ways we can be faithful to our families and faithful to God – meaning loyal and willing to help.

**It was nice to hear in the story that even someone like Ruth, who did not grow up knowing God – turned to God and was willing to follow Him because of the kind influence and love shown to her by Naomi and her family. We can remember that we can influence people too to follow Jesus by our kind actions, love, and caring attitude, even during times of difficulty.**

#### 4) Optional Color Page or Word Search

20 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child based on their ability or preference. Tell students that are doing the word search that they are to try and find all the books in the Old Testament in the word search provided to help them remember all the books of the Old Testament. Then hand out crayons or pencils for students. Remind them that we are studying the book of Ruth. It is part of the Books of History in the Old Testament and the 8<sup>th</sup> book we have studied so far.



\*If you would like to give “homework” ask the children to read Ruth Chapters 1 and 2 on their own (or with parents) to hear the complete account of Ruth.

#### 5) Optional – Snack: Something made of Barley or Wheat (like a bagel piece)

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice. \*\*\*Check for allergies.

Explain that: **Today we began the study of Ruth. What happened at the beginning of the story that made Naomi’s family have to move to Moab?** Famine. **What is a famine?** A time when there is no food because the crops stopped producing. It is usually due to an infestation of insects, hail, heavy rains, or drought that damage crops and can cause livestock to die. **Who did we study today?** Naomi’s family including Ruth her daughter-in-law. **What was sad about Naomi’s situation?** She had to move from her home town only to lose her husband and two sons and then returning to her homeland poor and without anyone to help her – except Ruth!

**Let’s think about the kind qualities of Ruth while we eat our snack. And let’s remember how blessed we are to be able to eat food at a time in the Bible that we see there was not enough food for the people to stay in their land.** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

#### 6) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. An example: **Song of Ruth** – See sheet attached for lyrics.

#### 7) Close in prayer

\*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Dear God, help us this week as we go from our church family – we pray that you will be with us and our families, help us share the good news of Your love to every one we meet and help us to remember to pray and study the Bible every day.

Thank you for the book of Ruth that shows us faithful examples of godly women who put their faith and trust in You especially in difficult times. Thank you for showing us that there are good people always following You even if most people around them are not.

We pray for those who could not be here today. We pray you will bring them back safely next week.

Thank you God for Your love, thank you for Your Son Jesus, thank you for caring for us and providing such a beautiful world for us to live in, and thank you for giving us Your Word – the Bible so we can know how to live and learn what pleases You. In Jesus precious name, Amen.

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Thank you for serving Christ in this way!