

Wherever You Go

Ruth

Ruth 1-2, 4:9-17

Character Trait: Loyalty

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that Ruth showed loyalty to her mother-in-law, Naomi, even when it was difficult.
- Children will discuss the impact their loyalty has on others.
- Children will identify ways they observe God's loyalty in their own lives.

Supplies:

- *Wherever You Go* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- White paper *(one for each child)*
- Pieces of brown, red, and/or yellow yarn *(a few for each child)*
- Unpopped popcorn kernels *(a few kernels for each child)*
- Glue
- Coloring supplies *(optional)*
- Double-stick tape or glue dots *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Ask the children who are wearing the color blue to stand up. Next, ask the children who are not wearing the color blue to find someone who is and go stand next to them.

SAY: Some of you were stuck sitting until you found help: someone else who was wearing the color blue.

Tell the children to return to their seats.

SAY: In that quick game, the problem was simple. But sometimes problems are much more difficult and require more help. In today's lesson, we will be learning about a woman named Naomi, her daughter-in-law, Ruth, and a very special man named Boaz who helped them.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **What were the three promises that Samson made to God?** *(Never drink wine, never touch dead things, never cut his hair)*
- **What did God do in return?** *(God made Samson very strong.)*
- **Who did Samson tell about the secret to his strength?** *(Delilah)*
- **What did Delilah do?** *(She had Samson's hair cut off while he slept.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Wherever You Go* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- A famine came to Israel.
- Elimelech, Naomi, and their sons went to Moab to find food.
- Elimelech died. The sons married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth.
- Then the sons died, too.
- The three women had no husbands.
- When the famine in Israel was over, Naomi decided to go home.
- "Stay in Moab," she said to her daughters-in-law. "It's your home."
- Orpah stayed.
- But Ruth said, "Wherever you go, I will go. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God."
- Together, Ruth and Naomi went back to Israel.
- It was harvest time in Israel.
- Naomi told Ruth to gather the bits of grain left behind in a field.
- The field belonged to Boaz, Elimelech's relative.
- Boaz approached Ruth.
- "You were very kind to Naomi," Boaz said. "Leaving home must have been hard. May God bless you."
- He gave Ruth food and told his workers to watch over her.
- Ruth told Naomi what happened. Naomi smiled.
- "When someone dies, his closest relative cares for his family. That person is their kinsman-redeemer. Boaz is our kinsman-redeemer. Stay close to him!"
- So Ruth stayed close to Boaz.
- He liked her more each day.
- Boaz bought Elimelech's land and took care of Naomi and Ruth.
- Then he asked Ruth to marry him.
- Ruth had a son called Obed.
- Obed's son was Jesse, Jesse's son was David, and David became Israel's greatest king!
- So God blessed Ruth just as Boaz had prayed.

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

What did Ruth do differently than Orpah? *(Orpah stayed in Moab, but Ruth went with Naomi back to Israel. Ruth was loyal to Naomi even when it was difficult.)*

What did Boaz see Ruth doing in his field? *(Ruth gathered the bits of grain left behind by Boaz's workers.)*

How did Boaz help Ruth and Naomi? *(He gave Ruth food, told his workers to watch over her, bought Elimelech's land, took care of Naomi and Ruth, and married Ruth.)*

What did Naomi tell Ruth that Boaz was to them? *(Kinsman-redeemer)*

Boaz prayed that God would bless Ruth. How did Boaz's prayer come true? *(She gave birth to a son named Obed. Then, Obed later had a son named Jesse. Later, Jesse's son, David, would become Israel's greatest king.)*

SAY: Ruth did not choose the easy path that Orpah did. It would have been much easier for Ruth to stay in her homeland, but instead she chose to remain loyal to her mother-in-law, Naomi. And later on, God provided help for them through Boaz.

SAY: Thankfully for all of us, God remained loyal to us, too. Even though we have all sinned, God sent His Son, Jesus. Boaz became Ruth and Naomi's kinsman-redeemer by rescuing them from a life of poverty. Through His death on the cross, Jesus became our Kinsman-Redeemer by rescuing us from a life without God and the punishment for our sin.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Boaz became a kinsman-redeemer to Ruth by caring for and protecting her. Jesus is the Kinsman-Redeemer for all who choose to believe in and follow Him. Jesus offers protection against the punishment we deserve for our sin and creates a way for us to know and have a relationship with God.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

"Wherever you *(point forward)* **live** *(bring hands together above your head)*,
I *(point to yourself)* **will live** *(bring hands together above your head)*.
Your people *(with palms up, lace fingers together and wiggle them)*
will be my people *(bring palms to your chest)*,
and your God *(point both hands up)*
will be my God *(point to your heart)*."

Ruth 1:16b (NLT)



Activity:

(15 minutes)

Select one child to be "it." Children who are tagged by the selected child cannot move and must stand with one arm out. Children are only "unstuck" when another child passes under their arm. The game continues until all the players are stuck. The last person to be stuck is "it" for the next game. Play as time permits.

SAY: Naomi and Ruth were stuck, too. But God used Boaz to help them.



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

SAY: Ruth showed her loyalty to Naomi by working hard to collect the leftover grain in Boaz's field.

Provide each child with a piece of white paper and several small pieces of brown, orange, or yellow yarn. Tell the children to glue the pieces of yarn down onto their papers from top to bottom to create a "field." Next, provide each child with a few unpopped popcorn kernels to glue along the bottom of their paper.

SAY: Ruth was only able to collect the grains that were left on the ground after the workers were done harvesting. This required a lot of work and effort from Ruth and showed the depth of her love and loyalty to Naomi.

For younger children...
This activity can be made easier for younger children by using double-stick tape or glue dots instead of glue.

For older children...
Make this activity more challenging for older children by encouraging them to draw Ruth in the forefront *(up close)* of their paper. Then, ask them to draw Boaz in the background *(farther away)*, watching Ruth work.

Character Trait: Loyalty

(10 minutes)

SAY: Loyalty means being faithful, true, and trustworthy. Who was loyal to Naomi, Orpah or Ruth? *(Invite them to answer aloud in unison: Ruth.)*

Encourage the children to think more about loyalty by asking the following:

- **How does it make you feel when others are loyal to you?** *(Answers will vary but may include thankful, relieved, and happy.)*
- **How does it make you feel when others are disloyal?** *(Answers will vary but may include frustrated, angry, hurt, and sad.)*
- **Are you loyal to others? Why or why not?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How does your loyalty to others affect them?** *(Answers will vary but may include helping others to feel less alone and showing others that they have value and are cared for.)*
- **How can you see God's loyalty to you in your life?** *(Answers will vary but may include the various things God provides on a daily basis such as food, clothing, and shelter.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Think about a recent promise that you have made to someone else. Have you kept this promise? If not, how can you follow through and remain loyal to your word? *(Answers will vary.)*

If the children are unable to think of a recent promise, challenge them to think of a way that they can help someone else at home. Then, encourage them to make a promise to do so and commit to following through.

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Ruth and Naomi were likely very thankful that Boaz was loyal to their family and helped them. We can be grateful that God was loyal and kept His promise to send Jesus to be our Kinsman-Redeemer, too.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for blessing me with Jesus! I know that no matter what happens, I will always have my Kinsman-Redeemer looking out for me.
Amen.

Notes