

Ruth

Ruth 1:16; 2:2-3, 17-18

Faith formation for twos

The story of Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, is a beautiful picture of service, love, and faithfulness. Ruth says to Naomi, “Where you go, I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.” Ruth gleanes grain in the fields, threshes it, and shares it with Naomi.

As a leader, you have the opportunity to convey love to the children the way Ruth did to Naomi. The work you do and the love you share are gifts to each child. Today you will also provide opportunity for the children to show love by sharing and helping each other.

Preparation

- Place a bookmark in your Bible at Ruth 1.
- For the “Pick it up” Gather option, prepare small squares of brown construction paper. You may also use the squares for telling the Bible story.
- Practice telling the Bible story.
- Prepare a healthy snack.
- Prepare the activity card:
 1. Fill several shaker bottles with finely-ground grain (flour, wheat germ, oatmeal, cornmeal)
 2. Place several strips of double-stick tape on the basket.
- Gather materials for Responsive play.
- Copy a sending card with basket for each child (p. 265).

Environment for twos

As you share a snack today, recognize each child by name. Say, “Let’s share food with (child’s name).” Talk about how Ruth and Naomi shared their food.

While the concept of gathering grain from a field will likely be unfamiliar, twos love to pick things up and put them in containers. As they do this (see *Gather, Connect, Create in Responsive play*, p. 202), they will experience a movement Ruth used to gather food.

FAITH FOCUS

We love God by helping others.

AT A GLANCE

Gather

- Welcome
- Snack or “Pick it up” activity

Share the Bible story

- “Helping song” with blanket
- Song with the Bible (“Jesus loves me”)
- Story (Ruth 1:16; 2:2-3, 17-18)
- Basket prayer
- Song (“Love one another”)
- Activity card: “Grain in a basket”

Responsive play

Sending

SUPPLIES

- *Wee Wonder* CD
- CD player
- Bible
- Snack
- Baby blanket
- Baskets (1 per child)
- For “Pick it up” Gather option: squares of brown paper
- Story figures: younger woman, older woman
- For telling story: brown cloth, squares of brown paper and/or barley (or other grain)
- For activity card: grain shakers, double-stick tape, baking sheets (1 per child)
- Responsive play materials (see p. 202)
- Sending cards

Gather

1. Welcome children by name. Invite them to join your gathering activity.
2. Choose one of the following options for children to do as they enter the room:
Option 1: Snack—If you do not offer snack right now, plan to serve it just *before* Responsive play.
Option 2: Activity, “Pick it up”—Place a baby blanket on the floor. Provide one basket for each child. Scatter small squares of brown construction paper on the blanket. Encourage children to pick them up and put them in the basket. Say, “We’re picking up our food.”
3. When you are ready to tell the story, move all the materials off the blanket. (*Or, if you have been having snack, bring out the baby blanket.*) Help each child hold onto the edge of the blanket. Walk together to the story area with the blanket.

Share the Bible story

1. Still holding the blanket, walk in a circle and sing the “Helping song” to the tune of “Mary had a little lamb.”

I help you and you help me, you help me, you help me.

I help you and you help me,

We can help each other.

Lay the blanket in the middle of the group.

2. Sit down to sing “Jesus loves me” along with the *Wee Wonder* CD. (*See words on p. 271.*)

Jesus loves me, this I know
for the Bible tells me so . . .

Hold up the Bible, with today’s story marked. Say,

“This is the Bible.”

Open the Bible to the story and point to the words.

“Here is the story.”

Carefully set the open Bible to the side.

3. Share the Bible story.

Story figures: Younger woman (Ruth), older woman (Naomi)

Other props: brown cloth, squares of brown paper and/or barley (or other grain)

Set the scene: Place brown cloth on floor. Sprinkle pieces of brown paper and/or barley (or other grain) on cloth. Gather “grain” into basket as you tell the story.

Tell the story.

4. Carefully place the story figures and pieces in the Tell-It-Again box. Give each child a small basket. Lift your baskets high as you pray:

“God, we share our love with you. Amen.”



track 1



Figures
5 and 6

BIBLE STORY: Ruth 1:16; 2:2-3, 17-18

Ruth worked in the fields all day. *(Place younger woman figure on one side of story area.)*
She picked grain and put it in her basket. *(Gather grain from cloth.)*
She worked until her basket was full of grain.

Then she carried the basket home. *(Set basket close to younger woman figure.)*
“I am hungry,” said Ruth. So she ate.

Then she saw Naomi, a person she loved very much. *(Place older woman on other side of story area.)*
“Come, Naomi,” she said. “Come and share my food.” *(Gesture “Come” and move two women together.)*
So they ate together.

5. Sing “Love one another” along with the *Wee Wonder* CD. Use simple motions for each verse:

Love: *Cross arms over chest*

Help: *Hold hands in a circle*

Serve: *Cup hands and then extend arms as if giving something*

6. Activity card: “Grain in a basket.” Place a baking sheet in front of each child with the activity card on it. *(The card should already have strips of double-stick tape on the basket shape.)* Children can use shakers to sprinkle finely ground grain on the basket. Shake off the excess onto the baking sheet.

Offer snack now, if you did not at the beginning of the session.

Responsive play *(See p. 202.)*

Using the suggestions, set up areas for “free play” around the room. After Share the Bible story provide ample time for children to play alone or with others in the areas they choose.

Sending

Hand each child a sending card with a small basket shape *(see Preparation, p. 199)*. Say the card’s verse together:

“I am God’s helper!”

Option: Sing “Holding hands together” from the *Wee Wonder* CD, while holding hands.



track 13

MODULE 10 THEME SONG

Love one another

Love one another,
Love one another,
This is the happy way,
Love one another.

Help one another,
Help one another,
This is the happy way,
Help one another.

Share with one another,
Share with one another,
This is the happy way,
Share with one another.



track 10



Responsive play

CONNECT

Provide costumes and props related to Ruth.

Faith Link: "Ruth gathered grain and shared it with Naomi."

Supplies: robes, baskets, brown cloth, squares of tan or brown paper (grain)

Tip: Lay out a brown cloth. Drop squares of paper on it for children to put in their baskets. Children could also work together to put the paper in one basket.

BUILD

Use craft sticks as the building material.

Faith Link: "We can share sticks with friends."

Supplies: craft sticks

Tip: Children will use the sticks in many ways—stacking, lining them up, making piles. Perhaps they will try to lean them against the bin to stand them up. Support children as they learn to share materials with others.

TELL-IT-AGAIN

Set out the day's story items for children to retell the story in their own way.

Story figures needed: Ruth, Naomi

Additional props: brown cloth, brown paper "grain," basket

EXPLORE

Enjoy playing with water. Include a plastic watering can to water the "crops."

Faith Link: "Ruth gathered grain. Water helps plants to grow."

Supplies: water bin, plastic watering can, small plastic bowls and cups

Tip: Two's love water! Water play encourages children to pour, fill, scoop, sprinkle, and splash. Provide extra towels for any spills. Limit the area to one or two children at a time.

CREATE

Make an instrument and then make music! Today, partially fill a pan with rice. Hold opened plastic egg over the pan so a child can fill it with rice. Encourage picking up the rice with hand or fingers. When egg is $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ full, close it and seal with packing tape. Shake the grain shaker!

Faith Link: "Ruth gathered grain in her basket to share with Naomi."

Supplies: rectangular baking pan, plastic eggs, rice, packing tape

Tip: Be sure children don't eat the rice! Have a small broom and dustpan ready in case of spills.

READ

Read books about helping others.

Let's Be Kind by P. K. Hallinan

Sing, David, Sing by Donna Scorer

The Basket in the River by Patrick Girouard

Touch-and-See Bible illustrated by Eileen Hine