

Rhythms of Grace Worship • September Year 3

Theme: The Story of Ruth- A story of
love and caring-helping one
another brings a full life

Scripture: Ruth 1-4

Date: _____

Location: _____

Volunteer Roles:

Facilitator _____

Storyteller _____

Celebrant _____

Center Leader _____

Guide _____

Items needed for this Session

Gathering: bundles of dried “barley” (actually wheat) from craft store, large basket

Storytelling: Bible, Jesus doll, Storytelling pages, sheaves of barley (wheat) from gathering, figures of: Naomi, Elimelech, Mahlon, Kilion, Orpah, Ruth, use one of the male figures again for Boaz, a young child (figures could be paper, felt board pieces (form in; Resources: Lydia-An Early Christian or wooden pieces), the family tree picture, and the bushel of “barley”.

Response Activities:

Family tree- either use the diagram in the resources or draw with marker a bare tree on cardstock, pencils, crayons, markers, etc.

Traveling to and from- maze or obstacle course using items to go under and over around and through, tape direction arrows on the floor, sign saying Bethlehem and one saying Moab at either end

Story retell- all the items from the story telling left out to work with

Picking “Barley”- “barley” from the gathering and storytelling, a mortar and pestle or a bowl and heavy spoon to crush the buds

Regathering: *Jesu, Jesu*, elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist-Book 1)

Eucharist: altar table and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth), Eucharistic Prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), *Gather our Hearts* song lyrics (see book 1 p. 99)

Dismissal: *Jesus Loves Me* song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99 and CD Yr. 2 additional resources)

Session Plan • The Story of Ruth • Sept. Yr. 3

A story of love and caring-helping one another can bring a full life

Gathering: Spread “barley” around the room prior to beginning. Participants gather the “barley” spread around the room and place it in the basket then sit in the storytelling circle.

Storytelling: Use the Bible and Jesus doll, Storytelling pages, key figures in the supply list, family tree, and bushel of “barley” from Gathering.

Response Activities:

Family tree- Participants will create their own family tree with brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents or others they might be able to tell the leader. Parents may be helpful suggesting family members. They may draw pictures or write names whichever they prefer.

Traveling to and from- After creating a maze/obstacle course with a sign for Bethlehem at one end and a sign for Moab at the other have the participants travel back and forth from and to each site.

Story retell- Leave out all the pieces from the storytelling for children to tell their favorite part of the story.

Picking “Barley”- Participants will pick the buds off the stems, put in mortar or bowl and crush.

Regathering: **Who’s in my family tree?** Family members and friends, if without a family member, stand in a circle and the children sit in the center. Leader says to the individual child “Jack,” who here is in your family tree. The child then says, if able, who is with them and goes to that person. If not able you can say the name and they can go to the person. Note: If someone does not have a family member use the phrase, “Who is your friend here today” Once all are done and singing *Jesu, Jesu*, participants pick up an element for placement at the altar, and as the clergy sets the table all create a circle around the altar.

Eucharist: Sing: *Gather our Hearts*

Gather our hearts, oh God

Gather our thoughts, oh God

Bring us together around you

Celebration of the Eucharist

Dismissal: All sing and sign *Jesus Loves Me*

Celebrant provides the blessing:

Celebrant: “*Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord*”

Participant: “*Thanks be to God!*”

Storytelling • The Story of Ruth • Sept. Yr. 3

A story of love and caring-helping one another can bring a full life

Place the Bible and Jesus doll by the Storyteller along with the figures of: Naomi, Elimelech, Mahlon, Kilion, Orpah, Ruth, use one of the male figures again for Boaz, a young child, the family tree picture, and the bushel of "barley".

Our story today is from the Bible, (*show the Bible*) our book that tells the stories of God and God's people, of Jesus (*show Jesus doll*), God's son, and of how much God loves us (*place hands over heart*).

This is a story about one of Jesus' earthly ancestors in the Old Testament. An ancestor is someone who is part of your family but from the past or is older than you, like your parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, great grandparents, great, great grandparents and back even farther. Remember Joseph, Mary's husband, came from the town of Bethlehem which was the city where King David lived with his father and brothers.

In this story is sadness, family love, and yes, even a "love story!"

Let's Begin,

Many, many years ago, there was a woman named Naomi (*bring out your figure for Naomi*) who lived in Bethlehem in Judah with her husband, Elimelech and two sons Mahlon and Kilion (*bring out the 3 other figures and set them with Naomi near Bethlehem*). There was a famine in the land (*that means food would not grow*). The family decided to move to the country of Moab where they heard there was plenty of food. (*move the 4 figures to Moab*).

Shortly after the move Elimelech died (*remove Elimelech*) and Naomi was left with her two sons. They became men and married women from Moab. One wife was Orpah and another was Ruth (*add two women*). They lived happily in Moab for the next ten years but then the two brothers also died (*remove the two brothers*). Now the women were left without men to head the household.

Naomi decided that she would move back to Bethlehem in Judah as the famine had passed and she had other family members there that might help her. She told the two wives, "Go back to your families here in Moab then you can remarry and live full lives." Both said no...they were coming with her. She started out, but a short way down the road she turned to the two women and again told them to go back to their families. Orpah decided to go back (*remove on figure*) but Ruth hugged Naomi and held on refusing to turn around. She said to Naomi, "Where you go, I go; and where you live, I'll live. Your people are my people, your God is my God."

Naomi and Ruth arrived back in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest (*show basket*). Ruth took care of Naomi but they had very little. Those in Bethlehem noticed how well Ruth treated Naomi. One day Ruth, remember she is a foreigner in Judah, told Naomi, “I’m going to work so we will have food to eat. I am going to glean (*pick up*) the sheaves (*extra or dropped stalks*) by following after some of the workers harvesting the barley (*move Ruth to a green felt piece for a field*).

Now as she was gleaning in the field Ruth ended up in a field owned by a man named Boaz (*add a male figure*) who happened to be a family member of her father-in-law, Elimelech. When Boaz came out into the field, he asked the leader of his workers, “Who is that young woman?” He told Boaz that she was Naomi’s daughter-in-law, that she asked if she could glean and had worked hard all day. Boaz told Ruth to come to his fields directly and stay close to the others. Go where they go to harvest as he had given orders to allow her to take as much as she needed, plus if she was thirsty to drink the water provided to the workers. At the end of the day Boaz invited her to join everyone for a meal. She went home and told Naomi about the encounter. Naomi told Ruth to continue to go to the fields and to talk to Boaz when she could....

Now, do you think Naomi has a plan for Ruth and Boaz? (*let children respond*)

When the harvest was almost over there was a great celebration and Naomi told Ruth to dress up and go to the party. She told Ruth to watch for a time so she could talk privately to Boaz and tell him that she would be willing to marry him. Ruth did as she was told and Boaz responded with, “God bless you my dear! When you could have your pick of any of the young men around, you would pick me!”

Boaz announced to everyone that he was going to marry Ruth. The townspeople rejoiced as they knew Boaz was a kind and caring man, and they had come to know that Ruth was also by the way she loved Naomi and took care of her. They said, “May God bless you with many children to continue your family for generations to come.” Ruth and Boaz were married and soon they were blessed with a son (*add a child figure and place all back near Bethlehem*).

Naomi took the baby and held him in her arms, cuddling him and waiting on him hand and foot. This baby’s name was Obed. Obed was the father of Jesse. Jesse was the father of David... King David? We will hear all about him in November.

Here is King David’s Family Tree from Ruth and Boaz to David (*show the family tree and read off the names*)

Perez had Hezron...Hezron had Ram...Amminadab had Nahshon...Nahshon had Salmon...Salmon had Boaz...Boaz had Obed...Obed had Jesse...Jesse had David!
All in the town of Bethlehem.

And that line continued all the way to Joseph and then Jesus.

As the prophets said..., “The Savior would be from the house (family of David)!

Amen!

After an appropriate pause, the Storyteller goes to explain the activities of the day.