

Unit Title : **FAITH**
Lesson 5 : **RUTH' S FAITH**
Bible Story : **Ruth: A Woman of Character and Faith**
Lesson Scripture : **Ruth 1:16-17**

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

By the end of this session, the student will be able to:

1. define what famine is;
2. identify Ruth as daughter-in-law who refused to leave Naomi;
3. discover that loyalty is sticking with someone no matter what;
4. know that God wants us to be loyal to our family and friends;
5. to recite the memory verse

BIBLE REFERENCE

[Ruth 1:16-17](#)

*"But Ruth said, "Don't force me to leave you! Don't force me to go back to my own people. Let me go with you. Wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you sleep, I will sleep. **Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God.** Where you die, I will die, and that is where I will be buried. I ask the Lord to punish me if I don't keep this promise: Only death will separate us."*

WORDS TO REMEMBER

Ruth short version of '**retut**', which means '**lovely friend**'; "the woman of Moab" but was genetically linked to Israel through Lot, the nephew of Abraham (Genesis 11:31). Ruth had married the son of an Israelite family while they were living in Moab, but at some point, her father-in-law, her husband, and her husband's only brother passed away. So Ruth had to make a decision whether to stay in Moab, her home, or to go with her mother-in-law, Naomi, to a land she had never known—Judah.

Famine - is a situation where most people don't have enough food to eat.

Widow - a woman who has lost her spouse by death and has not married again.

PRE-SESSION ACTIVITY

Play a game, sing a song or give them activity to introduce the new lesson.
(Activities may vary depending on age level and purpose of the lesson either for Sunday school or outreach ministry.)

Family Portrait – have the children draw their family on a piece of paper and have them discuss their Family Portraits.

Play "**Follow the Leader**" with the children.

LESSON PROPER

A. PREPARATION and MOTIVATION

Teacher, review the past lessons.

1. Who is Rahab?
2. Why did Rahab hide the spies? *she believed their God would be victorious and wanted to be saved*
3. What did the spies report to Joshua? *that the whole area was afraid of them*
4. How many spies went into Jericho? *two (2)*
5. What reward did God give Rahab? *her family was saved, she became an ancestor of Christ*
6. What did the centurion ask Jesus to do?
7. How did the centurion show his faith to Jesus?
8. What happened to the sick servant?
9. Why do you think Jesus was so impressed with the centurion?
10. What does it mean to be blind?
11. Why did the blind man cry out to Jesus?
12. Why didn't the man stay quiet when everyone around him told him to be quiet?
13. Why did Jesus heal the man?
14. What did the man do when he was able to see?
15. Who is Naaman and where did he live?
16. What disease did Naaman have?
17. Who told Naaman how to make his leprosy go away?
18. What message did Elisha's servant give Naaman?
19. What happened when Naaman dipped in the Jordan River seven times?

B. INTRODUCTION

Background Study:

Ruth's story begins in Bethlehem, in Judah, when a father and mother and their two sons strike out for greener pastures. Their homeland and people were suffering from severe shortage of food and water. This famine didn't come upon the land just by chance. There were reasons for these dark days in Israel, then ruled by judges: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25).

It was during such a stressful time that the members of a humble family in Israel decided they must live as aliens in a foreign land, Moab, on the other side of the Jordan River. There was little food in Bethlehem and bleak prospects of garnering any. On the other hand, Moab was a fertile region with plenty of rain, and that land provided a haven for many who were hungry.

So it was that Elimelech, Naomi, Mahlon and Chilion, all members of Israelites family, packed their belongings and headed east to a fertile garden in Moab. There they settled and were blessed to find food and shelter.

C. LESSON

Read today's story aloud from the Bible, or by showing pictures, or tell the story in your own words. *(Focus on faithfulness and loyalty: to help those in need even if it means making sacrifices)*

Ruth: A Woman of Character and Faith

Ruth was a Moabitess, and her people worshipped false gods. But she had married a man from Judah, Naomi's son. She learned about the true God, the God of Israel. Both Ruth and her sister-in-law Orpah lost their husbands and were in very desperate situations. Being a widow at that time in history meant that you would depend upon the kindness of others to sustain you, and it was a very challenging existence.

Naomi wished to return to her homeland of Judah, where she had heard God had provided His people relief from the famine. She urged her daughters-in-law to go back to their homeland and pursue a life that would give them husbands to care for them. Naomi was very distressed and didn't want to burden them any longer with the curse from God that she felt was upon her. She even decided to call herself Mara, which meant "bitter," instead of Naomi, which meant "my delight."

Ruth chose to stay with the woman who was hurting and alone. She chose to follow after the one true God rather than go back to Moab and idol worship.

They journeyed to Bethlehem to begin their new life. Ruth's choice to have faith in God and follow His ways began to produce the fruits of blessing and a life of healing, both physically and spiritually. God knew that their hearts were sad with the death of their husbands, and, God knew that life was going to be hard for them, and so He prepared a way for them.

In Bethlehem, Ruth, needed to collect food for her and, Naomi. She went to a field and picked up the grain that had fallen to the ground. The owner of the field asked his workers, "Who is this woman?"

The workers explained that she was with, Naomi, from the land of Moab. What, Ruth, didn't realize was that the owner of the field was a relative of, Naomi. The owner's name was, Boaz. Boaz, saw that, Ruth, was a good worker who cared for, Naomi. Boaz, was kind to, Ruth, and invited her to join him and his workers for a meal. Boaz, then sent, Ruth, home with grain for, Naomi. When, Naomi, saw the grain she was amazed and when she found out that, Ruth, went to the field of, Boaz, she was grateful, "May he be blessed by the LORD," Naomi, said.

Naomi tells Ruth about this provision God has made for His people and tells her to go to Boaz and ask him to be your kinsman-redeemer. Ruth follows Naomi's instructions and goes to Boaz.

Boaz married Ruth and she gave birth to a son named Obed. When Obed grew up he had a son named Jesse. When Jesse grew up he had a son named David. Through David many years later the Savior was born - **Jesus!**

Points:

- Ruth is an example of how God can change a life and take it in a direction He has foreordained
- Ruth chose to leave everything she had not only to follow Naomi, but to follow Naomi's God. When we trust Jesus, we are saying we will follow Him, no matter where He leads we will trust Him. We choose Him over holding on to old ways in our life.

MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. Why did Elimelech and Naomi take their two sons and move away from Bethlehem? Famine
2. What happened to Naomi's family in Moab? (Husband died, sons married Moabite women, sons died)
3. Which daughter-in-law refused to leave Naomi? (Ruth)
4. Whose field did Ruth gather in? (Boaz)
5. How did Boaz show Ruth kindness? (Gave her food, told her to stay in his field, protection, water)

LIFE APPLICATION

God loves you very much and He cares for your needs. Even when you feel small, God is with you. Even when you feel unimportant, God loves you and you are important to Him. You can trust God with all of your needs. Pray to God because He is faithful and He loves you.

ACTIVITY

Missing Halves

Give each child a piece of the Bible Verse. Have the children find their "missing half" Once the children have put their words together, have the group put the Bible Verse in order.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you for bringing us together to learn about you! I pray that our hearts can be open to hear your Word and that we can come into community as we spend time together. Please help us to understand that you are faithful. You are an awesome and wonderful God; we love you very much! Amen.

If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.