



## LESSON 29

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Principle: Faithfulness, compassion, kindness

Scripture Reference: Ruth 1

Bible Character(s): Ruth



**PERSONAL PREPARATION:** Before this weekend, please read through Ruth 1.

Everything in Naomi's life seemed to be falling apart: her husband died, then her sons died, and she and her daughters-in-law were left alone. We see a beautiful example of faithfulness as Ruth chooses to return to Naomi's homeland with her. Ruth cared for Naomi and showed compassion. She sacrificed the familiarity of her hometown, everyone she knew, and the gods she worshiped in order to stay at Naomi's side. Think about times in your life when it seemed like things were falling down around you. Who was a faithful friend to you during that time? Was there someone who displayed love and compassion to you? Did you feel God's presence and love for you when no one else was around? When have you been a faithful friend to someone else? Be prepared to discuss God's faithfulness in your life by providing examples. Spend some time in prayer asking God to help you teach the campers about His faithfulness.

### PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

### True Friend

Ask the campers to think about what a true friend looks like. Have them say different qualities and characteristics of a true friend. Teachers, write their ideas on the white board.



### BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

**\*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.**

## The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will learn about faithfulness, compassion and kindness as we study the book of Ruth. We will see what made Ruth a great example of this principle. We will also examine the faithfulness, compassion and kindness we are shown by people in our lives.

## Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

### Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn about in Big Group? Why did the counselor give Lifeguard and Outdoor Guide t-shirts? (Both of them showed faithfulness and compassion to the counselor.) How did Lifeguard and Outdoor Guide show faithfulness and compassion to the counselor? (They helped the counselor when he was in trouble.) Who did the counselor think they were acting like? (Ruth.)

Last week we finished our study of the book of Judges. We saw how God used Samson for His purpose even though Samson disobeyed God repeatedly. Samson did not obey the authority God placed in his life, he used the gifts God gave him for his own purpose, and he bragged about the gifts God had given him. He responded in anger and violence to different situations in his life. Samson did not lead a very good life. But God still used him to save the Israelites from the Philistines; that was God's plan. Samson killed all of the Philistines, but he died when he did it. Samson reaped what he sowed.

Today we continue in the book after Judges - Ruth. Ruth is a short book, only four chapters long. At the beginning of Ruth, we learn that a man named Elimelech ("uh-lim-uh-laeck") left his hometown of Bethlehem when the food ran out and he went to live in Moab. His wife was Naomi ("nay-oh-mee") and they had two sons. While in Moab, Elimelech died and Naomi was left with her two sons. One son married Orpah and the other son married Ruth, both Moabite women. About ten years later, both of Naomi's sons died, leaving Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth alone. In those days, a woman needed a man to take care of her, provide food for her, and protect her. It was sad and scary for all three of these women when Naomi's sons died. Naomi heard that the Lord had blessed her people in Bethlehem by giving them food again. Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem to find protection and help from her husband's family. She set out with both Orpah and Ruth.

Let's begin reading the Bible in Ruth 1 [NLT].

### Ruth 1:8-18

8 But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back to your mothers' homes. And may the Lord reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me. 9 May the Lord bless you with the security of another marriage." Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept.

10 "No," they said. "We want to go with you to your people."

11 But Naomi replied, "Why should you go on with me? Can I still give birth to other sons who could grow up to be your husbands? 12 No, my daughters, return to your parents' homes, for I am too old to marry again. And even if it were possible, and I were to get married tonight and bear sons, then what? 13 Would you wait for them to grow up and refuse to marry someone

*else? No, of course not, my daughters! Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord himself has raised his fist against me."*

*14 And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi. 15 "Look," Naomi said to her, "your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same."*

*16 But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. 17 Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!" 18 When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.*

Ruth decided to stay with Naomi to help her, take care of her, and to comfort her. She was willing to leave behind her home, the people she knew, and the gods she worshiped in order to stay by Naomi's side. Ruth was faithful to Naomi.

## Faithfulness is...



The purpose is to define faithfulness.

### Supplies:

Definition of "a faithful person" (below)

Read the definition a few times and then read through the tie-it together.

A faithful person: joyfully cares for others, can be trusted, and can be counted on to do what he/she says he/she will do.

## Tie It Together



A person who is faithful is one who joyfully cares for others, can be trusted, and can be counted on to do what they say they will do. Ruth joyfully loved Naomi and cared for her. Naomi trusted Ruth because Ruth did what she said she would do. Ruth told Naomi she would stay with her and she did, even when times were tough. Naomi knew she could trust Ruth because Ruth was faithful.

## Being Dependable



The purpose is to help the campers understand what it means to be dependable.

### Supplies:

None

Have the campers pair up. Tell them to sit on the floor, back to back, and link arms. Then ask them to stand up together. Once they have all had a chance to do this with their partner, have the campers make a large circle with their backs facing in and have them link arms with the person beside them. Ask them to stand up together as a group.

## Tie It Together



To be faithful is to be loyal, dependable, and trustworthy. How did your partner show faithfulness in this exercise? How were you faithful to your friend? Each of you had to trust the other to be faithful in keeping your arms linked, in standing up at the right time, and in not giving up. If one of you did not stand up at the right time, or gave up halfway through, then neither of you would have accomplished the goal. The same principles applied when the class as a whole stood up together. Each person had to trust and depend on the others in order to work together to stand up. If one person was not dependable, then the whole group would not be able to stand up. How do you show faithfulness to your friends? How do you show faithfulness at home? Do you have any chores you are responsible for? Your parents depend on you to be faithful in getting your chores done. They expect that they can trust you to do them. Do you ever choose not to do them, forget about them, or choose to only do them halfway? Are you being faithful by doing that? God wants us to be faithful to one another because He was faithful to us. He loves us so much that He sacrificed His only Son, Jesus, in order for us to be able to live eternally with Him.

## From Ruth to the Cross



The purpose is to see faithfulness in Ruth and faithfulness in the cross.

### Supplies:

Piece of butcher paper about 3' long (1 per session)

Markers, crayons

Have the campers think of words or phrases that describe faithfulness or remind them of a faithful friend and let them work together to write the words on the butcher paper (and decorate it!). Examples could include things like: never leave you or forsake you, love, trust, compassion, knowing God is always there, etc.

## Tie It Together



Ruth loved Naomi and showed her love by being faithful to her. Ruth gave up her old life to stay with Naomi. God wants us to have this kind of love for each other. He wants us to stand by those we love. He wants us to show them compassion and kindness and think about their needs before our own. Jesus Christ showed us what faithfulness is by dying on the cross. He gave up His life for us because He loves us so much. Christ is faithful to us; He will never leave us or forsake us.

## Our Faithful Friends



The purpose is to examine what a true friend is and recognize the faithful people God has placed in our lives.

### Supplies:

Set of verse cards (1 set per camper)

Spool of yarn (1 per bin) or zip ties/binder rings (1 per camper)

Scissors

Hole Punch

Have campers look up and read the verse out loud, one at a time. For each verse, point out what is said about being a true friend.

Give each camper a sheet with a set of verse cards. Have them cut along the lines and then help them punch holes in each of the eight cards. Use the yarn to tie them together into a booklet. Save the John 15:12-14 card for the last “page.” Next, read through the verse cards and ask the campers to give an example of how that verse would work in their lives (ex: include all friends in a game at recess, sit next to a new student at lunch, stand up for a friend when others say they don’t like him/her, pray for a friend who is sad, forgive a friend who hurts your feelings). On the back of the last page (the John 15:12-14 card), have them draw a picture or write the name of someone in their life who is a faithful friend to them. (As time allows, they can write or draw the examples they gave on the back of the other verse cards.)

### Tie It Together



God places different people in our lives to be our friends. Ruth is a great example of a faithful friend. She cared more about Naomi than she cared about herself. She loved Naomi. She showed kindness and faithfulness. She was dependable. Naomi trusted Ruth. Think about the people in your life who have been faithful friends to you. How does it make you feel to have friends like them? Do you think you are a faithful friend? Who are you a faithful friend to? We can learn from Ruth how to be a faithful friend to others, but Jesus is our perfect example of a faithful friend. He displayed perfect love for us and we can learn to love and be faithful friends to others by following Jesus and learning His ways.

### Compassion At Home



The purpose is to see ways we can demonstrate faithfulness at home.

#### Supplies:

Coupons (4 per camper)

Markers

Give each child a coupon for each member of his/her family. Ask them to think of a specific way they can show faithfulness and kindness to each person by completing a coupon for them. Some ideas might be: helping a sibling with a chore, reading to a younger sibling, doing an extra chore for your mom or dad, helping mom prepare dinner, etc.

### Tie It Together



Remember our definition of a faithful person? (Allow responses.) Someone who joyfully cares for others, can be trusted, and can be counted on to do what they say they will do. Here is an opportunity to show your faithfulness to someone in your family. You can give a family member a coupon that tells them something you want to do for them. By giving them a coupon, you are showing that you care about them and you want to do something kind for them. After you follow through and do what you said you would do, you are showing them that you are faithful. God desires for us to love others in the way that He loves us, and this is a great opportunity for you to obey His command.

## Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time, asking God to help each of us be a good and faithful friend and to give us opportunities to love others as He loves us.



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