



LESSON 30

1st and 2nd Grade

Principle: God rewards faithfulness and responsibility.

Bible Character(s): Ruth

Scripture Reference: Ruth 2, 4



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Ruth 2-4. Ruth was a faithful friend to Naomi, returning to Naomi's homeland and leaving her own family. God rewarded Ruth's faithfulness by providing a new husband, Boaz. Ruth and Naomi went from being widowed women, unable to fully care for themselves, to being under the protection and provision of Boaz. God was faithful to Ruth and Naomi by providing them with everything they needed. Spend some time thinking about times when you have been faithful and obeyed God even when it was hard. Think of how God rewarded your faithfulness. Did you receive a physical reward or did God reward you with peace and contentment? Do you view rewards as physical things, or do you recognize that rewards come in many forms? Thank and praise God for the faithfulness He has shown you and how he has rewarded your faithfulness to Him.

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!

Good Friends

Discuss with your cabin: What are some ways you have been a good friend to someone else? What are some ways someone else has been a good friend to you? Draw a picture of a good friend.



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 continue learning about how Ruth stayed by Naomi's side and cared for her. We will look at the way God rewards Ruth for her faithfulness, and how God rewards us in our lives.

Teachers, throughout the lesson, when possible, please remind campers that sometimes we see God's rewards here on earth, while we're alive, and sometimes, they are treasures stored for us in Heaven. We want children to understand that God's rewards are not a one-for-one or immediate exchange – you're nice to someone so someone is going to be nice to you, or you obey your parents and God gives you a new toy.

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 first staff member get an award? (He was first to volunteer for any job.) **How did he respond?** (He was very excited to be recognized.) **Why did the storyteller get an award?** (He was the kindest and most compassionate staff member.) **How did he respond, even when he did not get a trophy?** (He was thankful but did not want recognition because kindness and compassion are what God wants us to show to others.) **Is it more important to him to get a trophy or obey God and wait for God's reward?** (God's reward is much greater than any trophy or reward we can get on earth.)

Who remembers what we talked about last week? What book of the Bible did we start studying? (I'll give you a hint; it starts with an "r.") That's right, last week we started our study in the book of Ruth. Who had lost her husband and sons in last week's lesson? Naomi had lost her husband and sons, so she and her two daughters-in-law were left alone. Who were Naomi's daughters-in-law? Did she want them to stay with her or go back to their hometowns? Naomi encouraged both Ruth and Orpah to return to their families so they could have the chance at marrying again. What did Orpah do? What did Ruth do? Orpah did as Naomi said, but Ruth refused to leave Naomi. Ruth showed faithfulness, compassion and kindness as she cared more for Naomi's needs than her own. Last week, we saw Ruth and Naomi returning to Bethlehem, where Naomi's family lived.

This week, Ruth and Naomi are in Bethlehem and Ruth is going out to find food for them. Life could be very difficult for women without husbands. Ruth and Naomi did not own land to plant food, so they had to go out and gather leftover food from other people's farms to survive. Ruth went to gather grain in a field that belonged to a man named Boaz. Boaz was a very important man in Bethlehem; he was a relative of Naomi's husband, Elimelech. He noticed Ruth working in his field.

Let's begin reading the Bible in Ruth 2 [NLT].

Ruth 2:5-7

5 Then Boaz asked his foreman, "Who is that young woman over there? Who does she belong to?"

6 And the foreman replied, "She is the young woman from Moab who came back with Naomi.

7 She asked me this morning if she could gather grain behind the harvesters. She has been hard at work ever since, except for a few minutes' rest in the shelter."

Act It Out



The purpose is for the campers to act out the story to better understand what occurred.

Supplies:

Towel/cloth for head turbans (3 per bin)

Basket (1 per bin)

Bag of grain/rice/seed (or pasta, if needed) (1 per bin)

Cup or bottle of water (1 per bin) (make sure kids do not actually drink it)

Read Ruth 2:8-18. Have five campers act out the scenes of this story. First Boaz can tell Ruth she can get food from his fields; she falls to her knees and thanks him. Next, he gives her food and water. Then Boaz tells the three workers to leave food for Ruth. Finally, the workers pick up wheat but leave some behind; she comes behind them and picks up grain. Let the kids take turns in the different parts.

Tie It Together



God began blessing Ruth through the kindness of Boaz. A few weeks ago, we learned about the principle of reaping what we sow. Ruth had not sown seeds of wheat that she was gathering, but she did sow seeds of kindness in caring for Naomi, and now she was reaping the kindness of Boaz. Boaz went out of his way to be kind to Ruth. How does it feel when you are kind to someone else? God wants us to treat others better than we would treat ourselves; he wants us to always choose to be kind. In the next activity, we'll see and talk more about what happened to Ruth because she chose to be kind to Naomi.

How Did God Reward Ruth?



The purpose is to see God's rewards in Ruth's life.

Supplies:

Poster – "How Did God Reward Ruth's..." side (1 per session)

Wheat cutouts (6 per session)

Have the campers talk about what Ruth had done for Naomi (*held tight to her, cared for her, traveled with her, loved her, provided food for her*). Then ask them to tell you ways that God rewarded Ruth's faithfulness through Boaz. As they name things that Boaz did for Ruth (*spoke kindly to her, gave her food, gave her water, provided a half a bushel of grain*), write them on a wheat cutout. Have campers tape or glue each piece of wheat to the poster.

Tie It Together



What kinds of seeds did Ruth sow? (Allow responses.) Ruth chose to stay with Naomi to care for her because she loved Naomi. Then she spent all day gathering food for the two of them. Ruth cared more about Naomi than she did herself. This act of kindness caught the eye of Boaz. Boaz spoke kindly to Ruth, gave her food and water while in the field, and gave her food to take home to

Naomi. Ruth was kind to Naomi so Boaz was kind to Ruth. God brought Ruth to Boaz's field in order to reward her for her faithfulness and responsibility.

As time went on, Naomi decided to sell the land that belonged to her family. A relative, like a brother or a cousin of Naomi's, could buy this land. This relative would be called a family-redeemer because when he bought this land, he would also agree to take care of Naomi and Ruth. This would be a good thing for Ruth and Naomi; the family-redeemer would save them and give them a home and food. Boaz was a relative of Naomi, but there was another close relative who was first in line to be the family-redeemer. Boaz went to see the man at the town gate, which was like a City Hall. The man agreed to let Boaz buy the land and take care of Naomi and Ruth.

Let's continue reading the Bible in Ruth 4 to see what happens.

Ruth 4:6-10

6 "Then I can't redeem it," the family redeemer replied, "because this might endanger my own estate. You redeem the land; I cannot do it."

7 Now in those days it was the custom in Israel for anyone transferring a right of purchase to remove his sandal and hand it to the other party. This publicly validated the transaction. 8 So the other family redeemer drew off his sandal as he said to Boaz, "You buy the land."

9 Then Boaz said to the elders and to the crowd standing around, "You are witnesses that today I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion, and Mahlon. 10 And with the land I have acquired Ruth, the Moabite widow of Mahlon, to be my wife. This way she can have a son to carry on the family name of her dead husband and to inherit the family property here in his hometown. You are all witnesses today."

Ruth and Boaz married and had children. They were the great grandparents of David, in the line of Jesus! God rewarded Ruth for her faithfulness and responsibility by giving her another husband. Now Boaz would take care of and provide for Ruth and Naomi. Boaz redeemed, or saved, Ruth.

Remember the sandal in the story? A man gave his sandal to another to seal a promise. Have you ever shaken hands to promise something? Or made a pinky promise? It was like that but a serious promise that could not be broken.

Sandal Redeemer



The purpose is to see how Boaz redeemed Ruth and how Christ redeems us.

Supplies:

Flip-flop ("sandal") keychain (1 per camper)

Tag (1 per camper)

Crayons and markers

Give each camper a flip-flop and a tag to put on the keychain. Have them write "Boaz saved Ruth" on one side of the tag and "Christ saves us" on the other. (Use crayons or sharpies if tag is laminated, markers if not.) Then have them draw a cross on the flip-flop to be a visual reminder that Christ died

on the cross to save us. Punch a hole in each tag and help the campers put them on the keychains. (You might want to write the two phrases on the white board to help campers know how to spell/write them.)

Tie It Together



Just as Boaz redeemed or saved Ruth by marrying her, Christ redeems or saves us through His sacrifice on the cross. God sent His only Son to live a perfect life and take the punishment for our sin so that we can live forever with Him. It was a free gift that we cannot earn and do not deserve. All we have to do is choose to put our faith and trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

How Has God Rewarded You?



The purpose is to have the campers identify rewards and blessings from God in their lives.

Supplies:

Poster – “How Has God Rewarded Your...” side (1 per session)

Medal (or trophy) cutout (1 per camper)

Markers

Have the campers brainstorm ways they have been rewarded by God. Give each camper a trophy cutout and have each write an example of a reward or blessing on his/her trophy. Using tape or glue sticks, and have them stick their trophies on the poster. Ideas might include friends, family, food, toys, and house. It is okay if they overlap/cover each other. How great it would be to point to a poster that's crowded with rewards and blessings from the Lord! Take time to acknowledge and thank God for these gifts before moving on to the Tie It Together.

Tie It Together



What are some different rewards or blessing you see in your life that God has given you? How has He rewarded you for following Him and obeying His commands? Have there been times when you did not obey Him? Did you have to face any consequences for disobeying God? God gives us everything we need. He rewards us when we choose to obey His commands and follow Him. All we really need is Jesus, but God gives us much more. Our blessings come from God. Let's thank Him for everything. He loves us. When we love others in the way that God loves us, it shows them who God is.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for His blessings, especially for sending Jesus to save us.



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