**October 3rd, 2021: Elementary Grades sunday school
THE BOOK OF RUTH lesson 1: following on faith**

***With this introduction to the wonderful story of Ruth, children will learn that even during times of uncertainty, they can always follow the path of truth when they put their faith and trust in the Lord.***

**AS KIDS ARRIVE: TRUST IN THE LORD WORD PUZZLE (Materials: printed puzzle, markers)**

***After crossing out certain words, the remaining message will help kids know how to trust in the Lord. Proverbs 3:5-6***

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:**

Give each child a pencil or a marker and a copy of the puzzle. Have students cross out all words that are days of the week. Next, have them cross out all words that are colors. Next, have them cross out all words that are names of women in the Bible. Finally, have them cross out all the words that are numbers. Have students write the remaining words, in order, on the provided lines on the bottom of their pages.

**OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE AND MEMORY WORK: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV**Children will already be familiar with these verses from the opening activity. Have them find the verses in their own Bibles and read them several times. Then have the kids see if they can say it without looking.

**SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION**

**Introduction:** Our Bible story today is about a young woman named Ruth, and her mother-in-law Naomi. Ruth was from Moab, a place where they worshiped all kinds of idols. But her mother-in-law was a Jewish woman from Bethlehem. As we read our story, you will discover that Ruth has a big decision to make. Should she stay in Moab and hopefully find a husband, or go with her mother-in-law to Bethlehem where she would most likely live a difficult life? Will she turn to God and follow the truth, or take the easy path? Let's find out what Ruth decided to do.

**Ruth 1:1-22 (Ruth and Naomi)**Read this passage to the kids with feeling. If possible, use slightly different voices for the characters.**Discussion Questions:**1. How many years did Naomi live in Moab with her daughters-in-law Orpah and Ruth? *(Ten years.)*2. Why was Naomi able to return to Bethlehem? *(The famine there was over.)*3. At first both Ruth ad Orpah decided to go with Naomi. Why did Orpah change her mind? *(Naomi convinced her that it would be easier for her if she stayed in Moab.)*4. What did Ruth do instead of staying in Moab? *(Clung to her mother-in-law and went with her to Bethlehem.)*5. What did Ruth say in verse 16 that tells us she wanted to worship God? *("Your people will be my people and your God my God.")*6. Why is it important to follow God even during the difficult times? *(Allow for answers.)*

 **CLASS EXERCISE: FOLLOWING ON FAITH (Bible Research Activity Materials: printed activity sheet, pencils)**

***This Bible research activity teaches us how we can faithfully follow God even through difficult times.***

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** Divide the class into teams of two or three. Each team can work on all three Bible stories, or if time is short, each team can work on one specific story. After the worksheet is completed, have the groups share their answers and discuss what it means to follow God on faith.

Abram and Sarai move (Genesis 12: 1-5)
Leaving your home and going on a long journey to a place you never were before can be frightening. Yet, Abram and Sarai knew, because of their extreme faith in God, that obeying His instructions would benefit them in the end. God was able to carry out His plan because Abram and Sarai followed Him on faith. (Answers: 1B, 2D, 3C)

Elijah flees danger (1Kings 17: 1-6)
Elijah's source of food required a lot of faith in God. Imagine depending on ravens to bring bread and meat every day. However, Elijah did exactly as God asked, going to a very specific location and waiting for God to let him know when to leave. (Answers: 1B, 2A, 3C)

Paul and the shipwreck (Acts 27: 20-26, 39-44)
Paul was no doubt as afraid as everyone else on the ship. Still, Paul had faith in God. When the angel of the Lord told Paul he would be safe along with everyone on the ship, he believed it. Because of his faith in the Lord and His messenger, Paul convinced the others to put their faith in the Lord, and they were all brought to safety. (Answers: 1A, 2D, 3D)

**Additional Questions:**1. Why is it sometimes hard to follow God by faith, even when we know it is the right thing to do?
2. What bad things can happen when we do not follow God on faith?
3. Name some other people in the Bible who followed on faith. (see Hebrews 11)

**APPLICATION:** In our lesson today, we learned that following the Truth is not always easy, but God will be there to help guide us. Ruth was born a Moabite woman, but after living with Naomi for several years, she learned the truth. She chose to give up her own heritage and go with her mother-in-law back to Israel to worship the one true God. She knew it would be difficult without a man to look after them (both women were widows), yet Ruth knew it was more important to follow God and let Him take care of her than to remarry. Sometimes following the path of truth involves making a difficult decision. The path can be paved with hardships and uncertainties. No matter what the obstacles are, God will take care of us if we place our trust in Him.

In the weeks to come we will see exactly how Ruth trusted God and followed the customs and laws of the Israelites. We will also see how God allowed some wonderful things to happen in her life because she trusted and obeyed Him. Likewise, we will see how we can imitate Ruth’s obedience to God by trusting Him in all things. When we do this, we will see the many wonders He gives us in our own lives.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**Top of Form**

**Bottom of Form**

**What we learned:** Today the kids learned that they can always follow the path of truth when they put their faith and trust in the Lord. Sometimes the path of truth is not easy; it can be filled with hardships and uncertainties, but God will take care of us if we put our trust in Him. (Scripture used: Ruth 1:1-23)

**Memory Verse:** "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV Practice this verse several times with your child during the week. This will not only help your child remember the verse, it will also help to reinforce what he or she learned during class.

**Suggested Parent/Child Activity:** Following the path of truth is easier when you know the way. This week, along with your child use a recipe to make something special, such as a cake or cookies. Have your child follow the recipe exactly as written, and enjoy the results. Compare how following a recipe to produce the right results is like following God's Word to walk down the path of truth.

**Daily Prayer:** Dear Lord, sometimes I have a hard time doing the things You want me to do, but I want to live a life that is pleasing to You. Help me during those difficult times. Help me to understand Your Word, so I can apply Your Truths to my life, and walk down the straight path of righteousness. Amen.