**october 17th, 2021: elementary grades sunday school
THE BOOK OF RUTH lesson 3: facing responsibility**

**AS KIDS ARRIVE: WHAT IS OUR LESSON ABOUT (Activity: printed activity sheet)**

 **OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE AND MEMORY WORK**

**"Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous." 1 John 3:7 NIV** Have the kids find this verse in their Bibles, and read it several times out loud. Have them close their eyes and try to say the verse again. Discuss the meaning of this verse with the children.

 **SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION**

**Introduction:** Because of the generosity of Boaz, Ruth was able to gather plenty of grain for her and her mother-in-law to eat quite well. But Naomi was still concerned. Ruth was young and deserved more than just food. She needed a husband, a home, and a family of her own. So she urged Ruth to go once again to Boaz, but not to gather wheat as before. This time Ruth went to Boaz with a very special request.

**Ruth 3:1-18 (Boaz agrees to marry Ruth)**Read this passage to the kids with feeling. If possible, use slightly different voices for the characters.**Discussion Questions:**1. How did Ruth prepare herself to meet with Boaz?*(She washed, put on perfume, and put on her best clothing.)*2. What did Ruth do to let Boaz know she was there? *(Uncovered his feet in the middle of the night.)*3. What did Ruth ask Boaz to do because he was a kinsman redeemer? *(Cover her with a corner of his garment.)*4. Why was Boaz pleased with Ruth?*(She didn't run after young men.)*5. Boaz said he would do what Ruth asked. What did she want? *(For Boaz to redeem or marry her.)*6. How did Boaz show that he was a responsible man? *(He treated Ruth with respect and agreed to take care of her as a husband.)*7. How can being responsible and doing what is right honor the Lord? *(Allow for answers.)*

 **STORY: THE GAME *A twin brother finds that putting others first instead of hiding behind a lie is the right choice.***

Bobby and his twin brother Jeremy were ten years old, and both were members of the local school's soccer team. One Saturday morning, Bobby was completely occupied playing his new video game when Jeremy ran into the room, dressed in his soccer uniform.

"Hey! How come you're not dressed," Jeremy asked. "This is an important game today, and we need to leave really soon."

Just then their mom came into the room and her eyes grew big as jawbreakers when she saw that Bobby wasn't dressed.

"Bobby!" she yelled. "Hurry up and get dressed, you've got a game. You're the goalie and they need you there. So hurry up and get dressed while I get the car out of the garage."

But Bobby was too involved with his video game to be bothered right now. "I'm not done yet, I'll get ready in a minute," he said as he continued fighting the enemy on the screen.

Bobby's mom didn't hear what he said as she was already hurrying for the garage. She started the car and backed it out into the driveway. She waited for a few moments, then honked the horn several times. Finally, out came her son, half running, while attempting to put on his goalie uniform at the same time.

"Now where is Jeremy?" his mother asked, as she fumbled for her sunglasses in the glove compartment.

"Oh, he ran into the bathroom." came a reply. "He said he didn't feel well. I think he has a runny belly. He said for us to go on ahead and if he got to feeling better he would have dad bring him to the game. Let's go."

"I hope he feels better," mom said. "I know he was really excited about this game and it would be a shame for him to miss it. Well anyway, at least our star goalie will be there on time, right?"

"Yeah, right mom." And off they went to the game.

About an hour and a half later, they drove back home, very quiet, and quite disappointed. When they arrived, the boy's father greeted them at the door, also with a concerned look on his face.

Jeremy, still in his brother's goalie uniform, finally broke the silence. "I know it's my fault we lost the game. I couldn't catch the ball at all. I didn't know how," he said sadly.

"That's alright Jeremy," his mother said in a disappointing voice. "You did what you could, but just like what I said earlier, you should have not pretended to be your brother, Bobby. Especially so he could finish a video game. See what happened? It only got you into a situation you didn't want to be in.

"And as for you, Bobby, was playing a silly video game more important than your soccer team? You disappointed them. Not only did you miss the opening game of the season, you also missed the opportunity to show you are a team player. Not to mention how you got your brother in trouble with the coach."

The boy's father shook his head and said, "I'm sorry too for what happened. I could have brought Bobby to the game, but he needed to learn the consequences of his actions. I wanted him to wait here and see the outcome of today's game and maybe learn a lesson about what is important. Well, Bobby, what do you think?"

Bobby went up to his brother Jeremy and with his head down said, "I'm sorry for what I did. Next time I'll be ready on time. Hey bro, it's cool you care so much about me. I won't disappoint you again. Every ball I catch will be for you. Will you forgive me?"

"Sure," said Jeremy. "But the coach told me you're not playing the first half of next game. He wants to teach me to be a goalie too, just in case you don't show up again. But don't worry, if you prove to the coach that you learned your lesson, I'm sure he'll let you play a lot."

Both boys got a big hug from their mom. "Well, I think everyone learned a valuable lesson today," she said. "Next time, we'll make sure we check our schedules twice. Now, go on and get washed up for dinner."

**APPLICATION:** Responsibility is not something we are born with. It must be learned and practiced throughout our lives. Being responsible affects our feelings, thoughts and actions. Responsible people do what is right, even when no one is watching. Boaz is a great example of someone who acts responsible. Although Boaz is Ruth's relative, he is not a close relative; therefore, it was not mandatory that he agree to marry Ruth. Yet, Boaz agrees to marry her anyway because it was the right thing to do. Not only was he fond of Ruth, but also he wanted to give her the security she deserved for being faithful to God. Boaz did the right thing by showing respect and compassion towards Ruth and showing his own self-respect by acting in a righteous manner. In fact, in God's eyes, Ruth and Boaz were perfect for each other.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

**What we learned:** Today the children learned what it means to be responsible, and how responsibility affects our feelings, thoughts, and actions. Through the example of Boaz, they saw how being responsible honors our Lord. Responsible people do what is right, even when no one is watching. (Scripture used: Ruth 3:1-18)

**Memory Verse:** "Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous." 1 John 3:7 NIV Practice this verse several times with your child during the week. This will not only help him or her remember the verse, it will also help to reinforce what he or she learned during class.

**Suggested Parent/Child Activity:** This week, make homemade greeting cards. Give the cards to someone you know who is sick, in the hospital, or depressed. If you do not know of anyone, you can also visit a children’s hospital and give anonymous get-well cards to some of the patients. With your child discuss how responsibility is not only helping or doing something when asked, but also responsibility is helping or doing something, out of Godly love, without being asked. It is in this way, out of Godly love, that Boaz acted towards Ruth.

**Daily Prayer:** Dear God, help me to be a responsible person, with a desire to do the right thing even when no one is looking. Let me be like Boaz, willing to help others and wanting to please You in everything I do. Protect me Lord from anyone who tries to lead me astray and keep me from doing what is right. Amen.