**October 3rd, 2021: Pre-k thru 2nd grade sunday school
THE BOOK OF RUTH lesson 1: ruth follows god** *by Elysia King*

**AS KIDS ARRIVE: COLOR GOD’S WORLD ACTIVITY (Materials: large world map or globe, printed coloring page, crayons)**

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** As the children arrive, ask each of them if they can find the country they live in on the map or globe. Provide help if needed. Then give each a copy of "The World" coloring page and have them color their country green and the rest of the world yellow or red. They can color the water blue. As the children color their world, discuss the following questions.

 **Discussion Questions:**What is the name of the country we live in?
Do people worship Jesus in our country?
Do you know anyone who lives in a different country?
Do you know what part of the world Jesus lived in? Show the children where Jesus lived on the map or globe.

**OPTIONAL COLORING PAGE: RUTH STAYS WITH NAOMI (Materials: printed coloring page, crayons)”
*Ruth decides to stay w/ her mother-in-law Naomi, saying, "Where you go I will go, and your God will be my God." (Ruth 1:16)***

**WORSHIP TIME & BIBLE VERSE:** "**You are my God, and I will praise you." Psalm 118:28a NIV**
Practice saying the verse aloud several times, then have the kids make up a song and sing the verse to God in praise and thanksgiving.

**BIBLE STORY:** Today our story is about a young woman, who grew up in a country where they did not worship God. Instead, they worshipped idols. However, this young woman met someone very special who taught her about the true God. Let's read the story to find out how her life changed. (Read the children’s version below or directly from the Bible, Ruth 1:1-22)

**RUTH FOLLOWS NAOMI: R**uth and her sister Orpah were two young women living in a country called Moab. The people in Moab worshiped idols. That’s bad. Everyone say, “**That’s bad**.” Instead, they should follow God, because that’s good. Everyone say, “**That’s good**.” Whenever you hear me say “worship idols,” everyone say, “**That’s bad**, and whenever you hear me say “follow God,” everyone say, “**That’s good.”**

One day, Ruth and Orpah met two young men from Bethlehem, where the people follow God. (**That’s good**) Their names were Mahlon and Kilion. They left Bethlehem because it had not rained there for a long time. The land was very dry, and there was nothing to eat. Along with their mother Naomi, they traveled a long way to Moab, where the people worship idols. (**That’s bad**)

Before long, the two sisters, Ruth and Orpah, fell in love with Mahlon and Kilion, and were married. It was a happy time for all. Naomi loved her new daughters-in-law and taught them how to follow God (**That’s good**) instead of worshiping idols (**That’s bad**). However, about ten years later, Mahlon and Kilion both died. It was a very sad time.

One day, Naomi learned that there was food once again in Bethlehem. Hurray! The Lord had brought more rain. She decided to return to her hometown where the people follow God. (**That’s good**). Ruth and Orpah went with her.

They all started walking the long journey back to Bethlehem. A little way down the road, Naomi turned to the two young women and said, “Go back to Moab, where you can find another husband with the help of the Lord.”

At first both Ruth and Orpah said, “No, we will go instead.” But Naomi replied, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? I am much too old to care for you.” Orpah then kissed Naomi goodbye and turned to go back to Moab, where they worship idols. (**That’s bad**)

However, Ruth clung to Naomi and wouldn’t let go. She said, “Don't urge me to leave you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. I want to follow God.” (**That’s good**)

So Ruth turned away from Moab and went to live in Bethlehem. Never again would she worship idols. (**That’s bad**). No, Ruth chose to worship and follow God. (**That’s good**).

**THE END**

**Discussion Questions:**
1. Did the people in the country of Moab worship idols, or follow God? *(They worshipped Idols.)*2. Where did Naomi and her two sons come from? *(The town of Bethlehem in Judah.)*3. Where did Ruth and Orpah live? *(Moab.)*4. When Naomi returned to Bethlehem, who went with her, Ruth or Orpah? *(Ruth.)*5. Did Ruth go with Naomi because she wanted to worship idols? *(No, she wanted to follow God.)*6. Should Ruth be afraid to follow Naomi to Bethlehem? Why or why not? *(She should not be afraid because she will be living in a place where the people worship the true God.)*7. If you were Ruth, would it be difficult to leave your home and go to a country you never been before? *(Allow for answers.)*8. Is it good to follow God all of the time? *(Yes.)*

 **FUN TIME: ALWAYS FOLLOW GOD GAME (Materials: none)**

***Children scramble to show how quickly they can follow God.***

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** Have all the kids stand up. You will explain that God wants us to follow Him wherever we go. You will call out a color. The children must quickly find an object in the room that color, go to it, and place their hand on it.

For younger children, wait until everyone is able to find and touch something of the color called. More than one child can be touching the same object. If you have any children that are color blind, assign a special assistant to help them find the color.

For older children, you can add additional challenge to the game by counting to 5 after calling out the color. Any child who is unable to find and touch the selected color within the 5 seconds must sit out the rest of the game.

**WHAT YOU WILL SAY:** “No matter where we go, to the store, to bed, for a long trip in the car, or even if we go to a new place to live, God is there with us and He wants us to follow Him. Because God is everywhere, we can follow God wherever we go. I’m going to call out a color, and you must find something that color in the room. Go to it as quickly as you can and touch it with your hand. Let’s see how fast we can do it. Are you ready?

Everyone, follow God to something “**Green**”
Everyone, follow God to something “**White**”
Now follow God to something “**Red**”

**PRAYER/SNACK:** Begin snack time with prayer, thanking God for how wonderful He is and how much He loves us wherever we go. For today's snack, you may want to give the children a few jellybeans of different colors. As they eat the treats, remind them of how God's world is full of many beautiful colors, countries, and people, and God loves them all.

**What We Learned:** Today, your child learned about the story of Ruth and Naomi. Although Ruth came from a nation where people worshipped idols, she chose to follow her mother-in-law to Bethlehem so she could worship the one true God. Your child also learned how he or she could faithfully follow the Lord. (Scripture used: Ruth 1:1-18)
 **Words to Remember:** "You are my God, and I will praise you." Psalm 118:28a NIV Practice this verse several times with your child during the week. This will not only help your child to remember the verse, but also it will help to reinforce what he or she learned during class.
 **Suggested Parent/Child Activity:** Play a short game of "Mirror, Mirror". Place two chairs facing each other and sit across from your child. The object of the game is for your child to mimic whatever you do, as if he or she is looking at him or herself in the mirror. After a few minutes, switch roles and mimic what your child does. After the game, explain to your child that a role model is someone he or she can look up to, like a mom, a dad, an aunt, an uncle, a cousin, or an older brother or sister. Make a list together of people in both of your lives that are Godly role models and good examples you and your child can follow. Share what both of you like about each person and talk about how God uses such people to help guide you on a holy path. Finally, compare following a good role model with the "Mirror, Mirror" game.
 **Daily Prayer:** Dear Lord, thank You for the plans You have for me. Your plans are good and not evil. Your plans give me hope and a future. Lord, put Godly role models in my life that I can learn from and follow. Amen.