**October 17th, 2021: Pre-k thru 2nd grade sunday school
THE BOOK OF RUTH lesson 3: ruth follows directions** *by Kristy Thornton*

**AS KIDS ARRIVE: MUSICAL FEET COLORING ACTIVITY/GAME (Materials: white construction paper, crayons, tape, music)**

***Children make colorful drawings of their own feet to use in a game that helps them remember the story of Ruth when she lay down at the feet of Boaz.***

**WHAT YOU WILL DO: Part 1** Give each child a large piece of white construction paper. Help the children trace around both of their feet using a dark crayon or marker. They can do this with their shoes on or off. After tracing, have the children color their feet to show shoes, sandals, toes, toe nails, etc. Then, have each child write his or her name somewhere on the paper. If you are not doing Part Two right away, tape the finished drawings to the wall for everyone to see until ready to play the game.

 **WORSHIP TIME & BIBLE VERSE:
"Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching." Proverbs 1:8 NIV**
Write the memory verse on the board and repeat saying it with the children three times. Explain the meaning of the verse to the class. Then ask the children to raise their hands in answer to the following questions:

1. When your dad tells you how to do something, do you listen to his instructions?
2. When your mom teaches you how to do something, do you follow her teachings?

This scripture tells us how important it is to listen to your parents and God. Whether they are giving you instructions, directions, advice, a list of things to do, or teaching you something, you should always listen and do your best to follow what they say. Today, we will be learning more about Ruth and the time she followed her mother-in-law's instructions.

**BIBLE STORY:** Gather the children around you for story time. After the introduction, read the story about Ruth and Boaz directly from the Bible. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.

**Introduction:** Last time, we learned about how hard work pays off. Ruth worked hard to gather enough grain to feed her mother-in-law, Naomi, and herself. However, Naomi wanted more for her daughter-in-law than just food. She instructed Ruth to go back to Boaz’s house, but instead of gathering grain, this time, she should sit at his feet. This may sound somewhat odd at first. Would Ruth follow her mother-in-law's instructions? Let's read from the Bible to find out what happened.

**Read Ruth 3:1-8, 12-16 (Optional: Read all of Ruth 3)**
Read this passage to the kids with feeling. If possible, use slightly different voices for the characters.

**Discussion Questions:**
1. Who wanted Ruth to find a husband and a home? *(Her mother-in-law, Naomi.)*2. What was the first thing she told Ruth to do? *(Wash and perfume herself then put on her best clothes.)*3. If she did not wash up and smell good, do you think she would have still found favor in Boaz’s eyes? *(Maybe, but maybe not. She might have been too stinky.)*4. What was Ruth told to do before she lay at the feet of Boaz?*(To uncover them.)*
5. Did Ruth follow all of Naomi's instructions? *(Yes.)*6. Did Naomi’s instructions to Ruth work? *(Yes. Naomi wanted a husband for Ruth and now Boaz wants to marry her.)*

The things Naomi told Ruth to do were familiar customs to the people who lived in Judah, but remember, Ruth was not from there. She was born in a different country. Doing these things was new to her, yet she followed all of the instructions Naomi gave her. Because she followed them exactly, God blessed her with a generous man who wanted to be her husband. Boaz found favor in Ruth because she demonstrated that she was a responsible woman and someone who honored God and the religious practices of His people.

**FUN TIME: WHO’S A BIG KID NOW? (Materials: none)**
***In this activity, the children learn how important it is to follow exactly the orders given by adults.***

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** You will give the children a list of tasks for them to act out. They must act them out in the order given. After each round, you will increase the number of tasks on the list until the children are acting out six different tasks in order. Before each round, you will show the children what to do by first demonstrating and acting out all of the tasks on the list.

**WHAT YOU WILL SAY:** Ruth was still a young woman when she came to live with her mother-in-law Naomi. However, Naomi was wise, and knew what was best for Ruth. She gave Ruth some instructions to follow so she could to gain the favor of a man named Boaz. Naomi told Ruth to wash up, put on some perfume, and wear her best clothes. She told Ruth to wait until Boaz was finished eating and drinking, and went to lie down. Then, she told Ruth to uncover the man's feet and lay down next to him.

Ruth showed responsibility because she did exactly what Naomi said to do. Later Boaz showed much kindness to Ruth and decided to marry her. If Ruth forgot a step, like uncovering Boaz's feet before she lay down, or if she forgot to wash up and smell good, do you think Boaz would have still felt the same way about Ruth?

So now, it is your turn to practice being responsible. This activity will help you learn how to follow directions. I am going to show you how to do three things. When I say, "Go," I want you to do them in exactly the same order. Try not to forget any of the steps. Then I will give you four things, then five, then six. Each round will get harder.

(Before each round, demonstrate the actions the children should perform for each task.)

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| ***Round 1***1. Brush your teeth2. Put on your pajamas3. Say your prayers | ***Round 2***1. Read a book2. Brush your teeth3. Get a drink of water4. Go to bed |
| ***Round 3***1. Clean your room2. Wash your hands3. Go to the bathroom4. Read a book5. Go to bed | ***Round 4***1. Do the dishes2. Clean your room3. Brush your teeth4. Wash your face5. Say your prayers6. Go to bed |

You all did a great job. Did some of you find it hard to complete the tasks as more were given? *(Give time for children to respond.)*

Your parents give you instructions to follow every day. Your parents give you things to do to keep you healthy and safe. It is very important to follow the directions your parents give you. Next time your parents give you a list of things to do, pay attention and ask them to repeat the instructions so you can try to complete all of the tasks successfully.

**PRAYER/SNACK:** Begin snack time with prayer, thanking God for His wisdom and direction. Give each child a small pile of some type of snack mix, such as trail mix or a variety of cereals. Have the children eat the snacks in a particular order. Instruct them as to which items to eat first, second, third, etc. You can have the children sort out their pile into categories first to help them out. See who is able to follow the steps in eating their snacks.

 **CLOSING ACTIVITY: MUSICAL FEET PART 2**

Gather the drawings of feet made by the children in part 1. Have the children stand in a large circle, and separate from each other by a distance of outstretched arms. Place one of the drawings in front of each child. The drawings do not need to match up with the correct child. You can play the game in one of two ways:

*Option 1:* When the music starts, have the children jump inside the circle and dance around to the music. After about 10 seconds, stop the music. The children must quickly find and go to the drawing of their own feet, lie down, and put their head on the drawing. Repeat several times, each time moving the pictures around before stopping the music.

*Option 2:* This is the same as option 1, except when the music stops, the children must quickly go to any drawing, lie down, and place their head on the drawing. Take away one of the drawings before starting the music again, so one child will no longer be able to find a spot to lie down. Continue by taking away one more drawing each time until you have only two children trying to get to the last drawing. The one who succeeds is the winner. Children who are out must come and stand with the teacher until the end of the game.

**WHAT YOU WILL SAY:** The story of Ruth is about a young woman who followed directions given by her mother-in-law to help Ruth find a husband. She told Ruth to lie down at the feet of Boaz, and if she did, Boaz would show her kindness. Because she followed her mother-in-law's instructions, and lay down at the feet of Boaz, the man chose to marry her. This made Ruth very happy.

We are going to play a game like musical chairs, but instead of chairs, we will use the drawings of your feet. (Have the children get into a large circle and then place the drawings on the floor in front of them.) Please leave the drawings on the floor. When you hear music, everyone must jump inside the circle, dance, and boogie. When the music stops, everyone must run to your own drawing of your feet. When you get there, lie down and put your head on the feet, just as Ruth did for Boaz. (If using option 2, explain how the children can run to any drawing of feet, and that you will be removing one drawing each time as in musical chairs.)

**What We Learned:** Today, your child learned how important it is to follow directions from God and those given by his or her parents. Ruth was a great example when her mother-in-law, Naomi, gave her specific instructions in order to please Boaz. Ruth followed the instructions and completed each step in the right order. Because of that, Ruth found favor in the eyes of Boaz. (Scripture used: Ruth 3:1-8, 12-16)

**Words to Remember:** (Bible versions used are selected to help young children learn and understand the meaning of scripture.) "Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.” Proverbs 1:8 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:** Give your child a list of three to four tasks to do before bedtime, and see how well they can follow your instructions and do them in the correct order. Following are some examples of tasks you can give to your child: 1. Brush your teeth 2. Wash your face 3. Clean your room 4. Read a book 5. Say your prayers

**Daily Prayer:** Dear Lord, thank You for providing for my family and me every day. Help me to listen to my father’s instructions and my mother’s teachings. May I find favor in Your sight. Amen.