

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

Primary Lesson One Hundred Three: Ruth Turns to God

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Review Questions about Christ's Work
Bible Reading & Discussion: Ruth 1:1-22; Judges 10:6
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about Christ's Work
Learning Objectives: (1) Elimelech and his family moved from Bethlehem to Moab due to a famine in Judah. (2) Elimelech's sons married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. (3) Elimelech and his sons died. (4) As a Moabite, Ruth served other gods. (5) When Ruth vowed to go with Naomi back to Bethlehem, Ruth turned from the Moabite gods to follow the one true God, the Lord, the God of Israel. (6) Naomi felt that the Almighty had dealt bitterly with her. (7) Christ reveals God the Father to us.
- Opening** Get students' attention by using a pre-planned silence signal.
Have students sit in rows or a semi-circle facing you.
Open in prayer asking God's blessing upon the time.
- Bible Facts** Materials: Bean bags
5-10 minutes Strategies: Bean Bag Toss & Stand up/Sit Down
Instructions: Review the Questions about Christ's Work. Students stand in a circle. The leader tosses the bean bag to someone and asks a question. The student that catches the bean bag answers the question. If the answer is correct the student sits down. Play until everyone has answered correctly and is sitting.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use
15 minutes Strategies: Emotion Motions
Scripture: Ruth 1:1-22; Judges 10:6
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. As leader reads aloud, students make motions that portray the emotions depicted in the passage (sadness, kindness, love, bitterness, etc.). Leader guides students by introducing the emotion motions that will be used and by stopping occasionally to discuss the probable emotion and to allow students time to respond.
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Word poster #2; add "prophet"
10 minutes Strategy: Popcorn
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. The leader asks a question and students that want to answer the question "pop" up, share their answer, and then sit down. Set a limit of pops per person.
Questions:
- Where did Elimelech originally live? (Bethlehem of Judah)
 - Why did Elimelech move to the country of Moab with his family? (There was a famine in Judah.)
 - Elimelech died; his two sons married Moabite women. What were their names? (Orpah, Ruth)
 - Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem. Naomi encouraged her daughters-in-law to return to their mothers' homes instead of going to Bethlehem with her. She wanted the Lord to deal kindly with them and give them rest through remarriage to others. Which daughter-in-law returned to her mother's home? (Orpah)
 - Naomi said to Ruth, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her blank..." (gods)
 - Did the people of Moab serve Yahweh, the true God, the God of Israel? (No)
 - When Ruth declared that she would go with Naomi, she said, "Your people shall be my people, and your blank my blank..." (God, God)
 - When Ruth made her vow to go with Naomi, she made it in the name of Yahweh. She said, "May the blank do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." (Lord)

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- The name Naomi means “pleasant.” The name Mara means “bitter.” Why did Naomi tell the people to call her Mara? (She said the Almighty had dealt bitterly with her.)

Transitional Thought: As a Moabite, Ruth served other gods. When she vowed to go with Naomi back to Bethlehem, Ruth turned from these gods to follow the one true God, the Lord, the God of Israel. Hundreds of years later, Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem. Through His perfect life as the God-man, Jesus revealed the God of Israel, the true God, to mankind.

Show students word poster #2 and have them act out the words – Roles of Jesus Christ: High Priest (Move hand as though sprinkling blood), Mediator (Move hand from self toward heaven), Savior (Stretch arms out to the sides), Intercessor = advocate (Clasp hands as though pleading), King (Place hands on head like a crown); Perfect Sacrifice (Fold hands over heart and bow head); Prophet = God revealer (Cup hands around mouth as though calling loudly)

Group Prayer Through prayer, praise God for Who He is and for the work of Jesus Christ.

Bible Memory Strategy: Erase-a-Word

10-15 minutes Materials: White board with markers and eraser

Instructions: Have students sit in a semi-circle or rows facing a white board with the following passage written on it:

Question: How does Christ do the work of a prophet?

Answer: Christ reveals God the Father to his people.

Verse: “...The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.” John 14:10

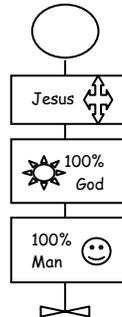
Read in unison. Have students cover their eyes. Erase random words from the board. Ask students to open their eyes and tell you what words were erased. Read again, saying the missing words from memory. Repeat several times until quoting rather than reading.

Bible Craft Materials: Paper, markers, scissors, yarn, glue/tape/stapler, sample project

As time allows Activity: Doorknob hanging

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Have students cut out three shapes. On each shape have students write one of the following: “Jesus” “100% God” “100% Man.” Give each student a length of yarn and assist students to attach their shapes vertically onto the yarn. Leave enough room at the top of the yarn to make a loop that will slip over a doorknob. Encourage students to decorate their hanging. Discuss with students that because Christ Jesus is God the Son, He can reveal God the Father; because Christ Jesus is man, He can assist man to see the Father.

Example



Closing Have students assist with clean-up.

Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.

Close in prayer & dismiss.

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Questions About Christ's Work

Question: What work does Christ do for his people?

Answer: He does the work of a prophet, a priest and a king.

Verse: "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature...After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high." Hebrews 1:3

Question: How does Christ do the work of a priest?

Answer: Christ is the mediator between God and men; Christ offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for his people.

Verse: "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all..." 1 Timothy 2:5-6a