

Bible Month June 2020 – Zoom Bible Study for Young People.

The Book of Ruth

Week 1 – Grief and Loss

To read in advance

Grief and Loss can come in many guises. The loss of a way of life, not seeing friends and family, finishing primary or high school, leaving a job.... If you are aware of any in your group dealing with particular loss, do read through first and make changes as needed. While we do not wish to cause distress, loss is a part of life and it is important to talk about it openly, but sensitively.

For you to prepare in advance, or to ask the parents to have set up in advance – or ask the young people to get.

1. Download the story board to have a look at, for under 10s or choose a version of the Bible to read. See the link in the Bible section.
2. Ask parents to print out the journal to complete over the next few weeks, one for each member of the family.
3. Find a Bible suitable for the group – eg a youth Bible or children's Bible.
4. Ask them to have have colouring pencils and pens ready.

Opening Chat

As the young people 'arrive', welcome them and chat about their week.

Opening Game

Tough choices. Would you rather game. See the list below and choose about 10 that would work in your group. Depending on how many are in your group, you may only need a few.

Opening Question

Who's ever lost anything? Keys? Favourite toy? Homework that you spent hours on? How did you feel? Have you lost anything that is really special and important to you..?

Today's Bible reading is about someone losing something and someone very dear to them. As a result, they had to make some tough choices.

Bible Reading: Ruth chapter 1 v 1-15

This first week takes us through the famine in Judah, the family leaving their homeland behind, all the way to the marriage of Naomi's sons to local girls and the loss of her husband and sons.

https://bibleforchildren.org/PDFs/english/Ruth_A_Love_Story_English.pdf

This link shows slides of the story. For week 1, read the slides and look at the pictures, up until slide 8.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWjRdjFdiR4> For older group only (there is an image from IT appears briefly at one point). This is Ruth in 5 minutes. It is a great contemporary way of explaining the story and where it is set in the Bible. Go up to 2 minutes and 4 seconds. After this read the Bible verse too.

Ask if anything in particular struck them about the story – if this leads to different discussions and you don't need the wondering questions, go with that. Equally, ask as few or as many of the wondering questions as is

appropriate. Remember that they are deliberately open questions to prompt their own thinking and discussion. Also remember that they may still be wondering even if they are not saying anything. Don't be afraid of silence – give them space to wonder and process their thoughts.

Wondering Questions:

1. I wonder how the family felt when they had to leave their Homeland in Judah?
2. I wonder what they missed most?
3. I wonder what helped them feel better?
4. I wonder whether the decision to go or stay was hard for Ruth and Orpah?
5. I wonder if the people in the story asked where God was?
6. I wonder if you feel like you have lost something or someone important?
7. I wonder if lots of people are feeling like this at the moment? Who or what do you think they are missing?

Prayer Time

Ask them to take out their journals – or just on a bit of paper if they haven't printed it out, go to the first few pages. One looks at a prayer for those who are feeling loss – or perhaps feel lost – at the moment. Write names or draw a picture of them or of something that represents them. It might even be themselves, or someone that they know of or someone they have heard of the news.

Allow a few moments then bring it all together with a prayer.

Activities for after the meeting

Draw their attention to the items that have been sent to their families already.

This week's part of the story of Ruth covers very emotional topics. Different members of your group may respond differently, which is absolutely fine. There are a few options to choose from, or they may wish to go off on their own for a while.

1. See the colouring page below, with the famous "Where you go, I will go" quote on it, suitable for all ages.
2. Have a look through the first couple of pages of the journal to help capture thoughts, or to reflect on the story.
3. Have a look at the maps below to appreciate the distance between Moab and Judah.
4. If you have any playdough or bluetac, this a more tactile way to reflect on the story.

5.

Say your goodbyes to each other. If you notice any member of the group looking affected by anything discussed, give the parents a call.

Best would you rather questions

1. Would you rather the aliens that make first contact be robotic or organic?

Which would be less likely to wipe us off the face of the planet?

2. Would you rather lose the ability to read or lose the ability to speak?

If you strongly swing introvert or extrovert, this might be pretty easy for you.

3. Would you rather have a golden voice or a silver tongue?

To be honest, I just put this one in because I thought it has a nice ring to it. Nothing like some good idioms.

4. Would you rather be covered in fur or covered in scales?

Built in blanket or +2 armor, which one will you choose?

5. Would you rather be in jail for a year or lose a year off your life?

Is a bad year worth living or is better to give up a year of your life?

6. Would you rather always be 10 minutes late or always be 20 minutes early?

Feel rushed or feel bored. Make others wait or have to wait. Have a hard time getting a job or be constantly waiting around looking at your phone. Choose wisely.

7. Would you rather have one real get out of jail free card or a key that opens any door?

One free crime of your choice or a life of limitless theft and/or espionage. Get in touch with your inner criminal.

8. Would you rather know the history of every object you touched or be able to talk to animals?

Basically, the best veterinarian/zooologist on the planet or the most incredible archaeologist ever.

9. Would you rather be married to a 10 with a bad personality or a 6 with an amazing personality?

This answer probably changes quite a bit depending on if you are or have ever been married.

10. Would you rather be able to talk to land animals, animals that fly, or animals that live under the water?

The most important question is, what would the conversations be like?

11. Would you rather have all traffic lights you approach be green or never have to stand in line again?

Look at you, big shot, the World making way for you!

12. Would you rather spend the rest of your life with a sailboat as your home or an RV as your home?

The waves, the sun, the smell of salty air. The open road before you, also the sun, the smell of the pines. Either one sounds pretty good about right now.

13. Would you rather give up all drinks except for water or give up eating anything that was cooked in an oven?

Food choice, or beverage choice, tough pick.

14. Would you rather be able to see 10 minutes into your own future or 10 minutes into the future of anyone but yourself?

Both would be pretty cool. Either one would make a great superpower.

15. Would you rather have an easy job working for someone else or work for yourself but work incredibly hard?

This is a great question to help you decide how well you would do as an entrepreneur.

16. Would you rather be the first person to explore a planet or be the inventor of a drug that cures a deadly disease?

Explorer or humanitarian, you'll go down in history books either way, but which way do you want to be remembered?

17. Would you rather go back to age 5 with everything you know now or know now everything your future self will learn?

Either way, you will definitely have a leg up. You would be the smartest 5-year-old on the playground but man, it would be rough going through puberty again.

18. Would you rather be able to control animals (but not humans) with your mind or control electronics with your mind?

You feeling that druid vibe or more of a cyberpunk vibe?

19. Would you rather have unlimited international first-class tickets or never have to pay for food at restaurants?

Choosing between food and travel. I don't know about you, but it's probably the hardest choice on this list for me.

20. Would you rather see what was behind every closed door or be able to guess the combination of every safe on the first try?

So, will you be a super thief or a super snoop? Will you use your powers for good or evil?

21. Would you rather be an average person in the present or a king of a large country 2500 years ago?

Being king pro: You get to tell everyone what to do. Living in the past con: Dentistry. Or the lack thereof.

22. Would you rather be able to dodge anything no matter how fast it's moving or be able to ask any three questions and have them answered accurately?

How about it, you Neo or a second-rate Aladdin? Information is power, but dodging bullets is pretty cool. A lot of cardio though.

23. Would you rather be forced to dance every time you heard music or be forced to sing along to any song you heard?

Sure, people will look at you funny, but either one you choose, own it.

24. Would you rather have all your clothes fit perfectly or have the most comfortable pillow, blankets, and sheets in existence?

You want to be comfy in the streets or comfy in the sheets?

25. Would you rather 5% of the population have telepathy, or 5% of the population have telekinesis? You are not part of the 5% that has telepathy or telekinesis.

Well not everyone gets lucky. But you know if everyone is a superhero then no one is.

26. Would you rather be an unimportant character in the last movie you saw or an unimportant character in the last book you read?

Just remember that all the supporting characters in your life are the main character in their own. Not sure why you need to remember it, but it sounds pseudo-profound right?

27. Would you rather move to a new city or town every week or never be able to leave the city or town you were born in?

“Lord, I was born a rambling man...” Or do you prefer... “Our house, in the middle our street...”

28. Would you rather be completely insane and know that you are insane or completely insane and believe you are sane?

Sure, being plain old sane might be the preferred choice, but that's not an option!

29. Would you rather travel the world for a year on a shoestring budget or stay in only one country for a year but live in luxury?

Do you prefer the high life or the wandering life? Both have their benefits. But more than likely you instantly know which is right for you.

30. Would you rather suddenly be elected a senator or suddenly become a CEO of a major company? (You won't have any more knowledge about how to do either job than you do right now.)

Is it just me or would this make a good comedy movie/TV show?

31. Would you rather live in virtual reality where you are all powerful or live in the real world and be able to go anywhere but not be able to interact with anyone or anything?

A god in the machine or a ghost in the real world.

32. Would you rather have whatever you are thinking to appear above your head for everyone to see or have absolutely everything you do live streamed for anyone to see?

Privacy for your thoughts, or privacy for you, which do you value more?

33. Would you rather be only able to watch the few movies with a Rotten Tomatoes score of 95-100% or only be able to watch the majority of movies with a Rotten Tomatoes score of 94% and lower?

Quality is great, but does it outweigh quantity? I leave that up to you to decide.

34. Would you rather wake up as a new random person every year and have full control of them for the whole year or once a week spend a day inside a stranger without having any control of them?

No matter which you choose that would be one crazy life to live.

35. Would you rather know how above or below average you are at everything or know how above or below average people are at one skill/talent just by looking at them?

It's amazing how many uses these two would have once you start thinking about them and how they would play out in real life.

36. Would you rather live until you are 200 but look like you are 200 the whole time even though you are healthy or look like you are 25 all the way until you die at age 65?

You can't judge a book by its cover. But people still do.

Where you
go I will go,
and where
you stay I
will stay.
Your people
will be my
people and
your
God my God.

Ruth 1:16

Bacie B.
DESIGNS

The Journey from Moab to Bethlehem is Difficult

The trip from Moab to Bethlehem takes 7-10 days. It requires travelers to cross the river Jordan and to climb over 2000 feet in elevation to reach Bethlehem.



“Your people will be my people and your God my God.” Ruth 1:16

