

Bible Month June 2020 – Family Bible Study

The Book of Ruth

Week 2 – New beginnings and kindness of others

Preparation

When we start something new, it can be an unsettling and anxious time, as we step out of our comfort zones into the unknown. How others react to us makes a big impact on how well we settle and how we feel. We'll have the opportunity to explore these ideas further during this week's session.

To set up in advance

1. Print and cut out the feet templates for the Prayer station and copies of the colouring sheet.
2. Download the story board to have a look at, for under 10s. See the link in the Bible section.
3. Find a Bible suitable for each member of the family, or you can use the one version.
4. Have colouring pencils and pens ready.

Setting the scene

Think about some of the times when you have started something new. Get everyone to write/draw some of these events on a large piece of paper. Talk about what was it like? How did you feel? How did other people react? How have you helped someone when they were new to a situation?

Bible Reading: Ruth chapter 2

This week we see how Ruth gleanes wheat from the fields in order to survive, when she first moved to Bethlehem with Naomi to start a new chapter in their lives. We learn what impact the kindly actions of their distant relative, Boaz, has on their lives.

Choose someone to read the bible passage, or for children, refer to the link below.

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

This link shows slides of the story for younger children. This week, read the slides and look at the pictures, from slide 9-12

What can anyone remember from last week's session?

Ask if anything in particular struck them about this part of 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 Naomi felt when she returned home to Bethlehem.....
2. I wonder how Ruth felt making her home in a strange land.....
3. I wonder what life would have been like for Naomi and Ruth if Boaz hadn't helped them....
4. I wonder why Boaz helped them....

5. I wonder how immigrants feel when they come to make their home in this country....
6. I wonder how you feel about all the new ways of doing things at the moment, when everyday life is very different to normal....

Prayer Space

Give everyone a few pre cut-out feet templates and some coloured pens. Read the New Beginnings Prayer station instructions (see below), checking that younger members have understood the instructions

Give everyone time to complete the space as they wish. Ask if anyone wants to say any other prayers together.

Activities

This week's part of the story encourages us to think about how we may feel when we start something new and how the kind actions of other people can help us in new situations. Different members of your family 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. Kindness jar: sit down together and each write down on strips of coloured paper things you could do to show someone a 'random act of kindness.' Put them all in a jar and every day take it in turns to choose a piece of paper and act upon it. It could be making a card for an elderly neighbour who is self-isolating, offering to do the washing up or to read a story to a younger sibling. Be creative with your ideas.
2. Colour the sheet with the quote 'Be the reason someone smiles today' below
3. Act out the story using soft toys and dolls, or, find some clothes and accessories to dress up in to create your own family dramatisation of the story.
4. Spend some time filling in your journal.

PRAYER SPACE



When we start something new, whether it be starting a new school, a new job, moving house, a new club, we can feel a mix of different emotions,. We may be excited, nervous, not sure what it's going to be like, worried we won't make new friends, concerned we'll miss aspects of what we're currently doing.....

During the past few weeks and months we have all had to adapt to different ways of doing things. Although we may be missing things from our normal lives – friends, family, activities, work etc, there may also have been opportunities to try new activities and discover new interests and skills.

Cut out some footprints using the template (or draw round your own feet), write or draw some of the things that are different in your life at the moment, both good and bad. Then lay down the footprints to make a path. Take it in turns to walk along the path. As you do, consider the following questions.

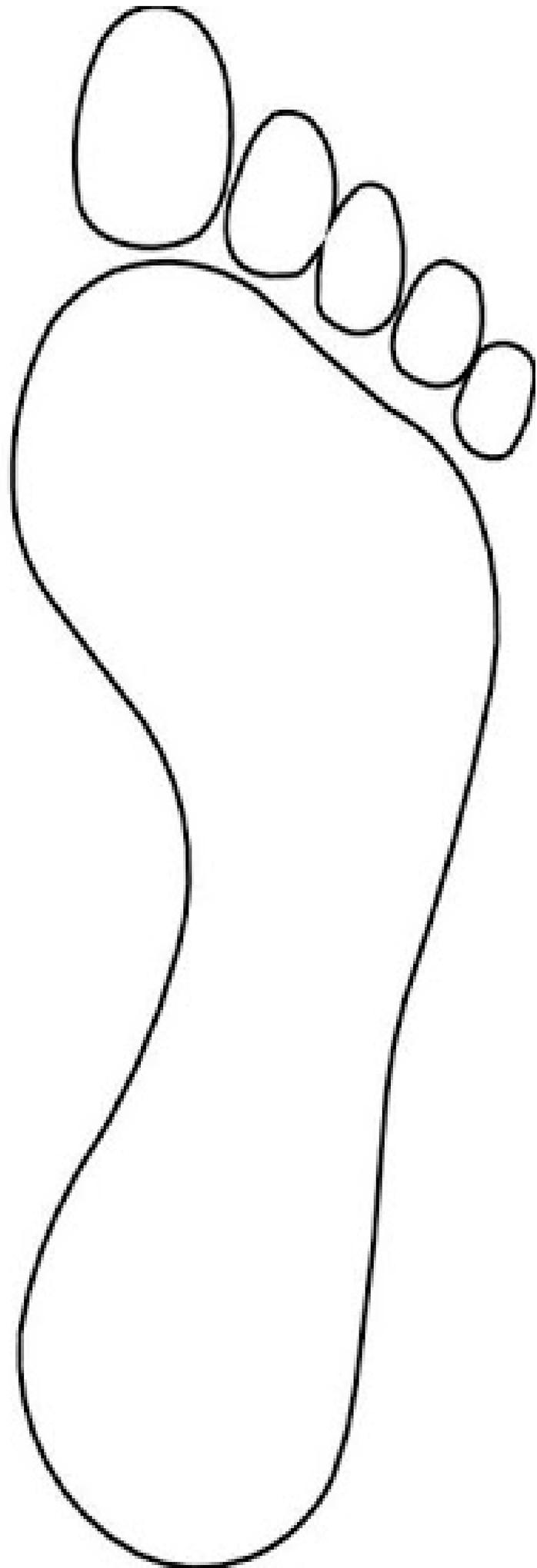
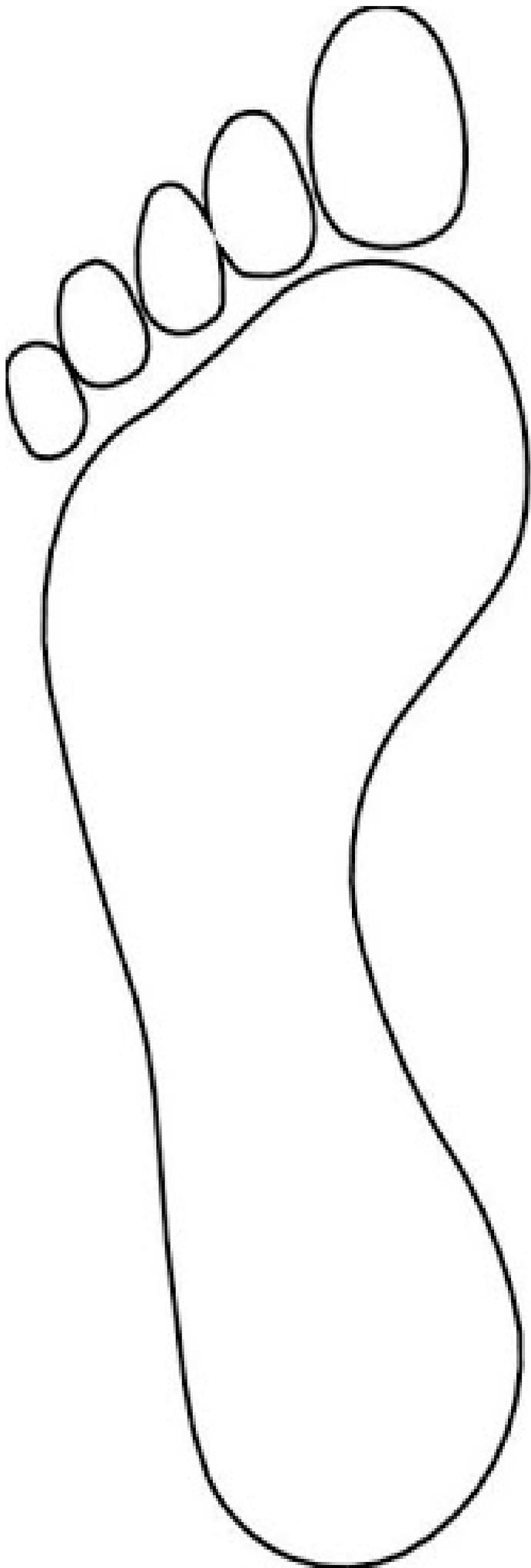
What are you thankful for?

Are there things you feel anxious, cross or frustrated about?

How could you do things differently in the future?

What might you want to say to God?







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