

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

The Book of Ruth

Week 2 – New beginnings and kindness

To read in advance

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 (if not already printed) to complete over the next few weeks
3. Find a Bible suitable for the group – eg a youth Bible or children's Bible.
4. Ask them to have colouring pencils and pens ready.

Opening Chat

As the young people 'arrive', welcome them and chat about their week. What has gone well, not so well?

Opening Game

Scavenger Hunt. Send the young people off to fetch a variety of everyday items, such as a spatula, a key, a pillow, a book etc. The first person to return with the item scores a point. The winner is the one with the most points after several rounds.

Setting the scene

Think about some of the times when you have started something new. Using the whiteboard function, get everyone to write/draw some of these events. 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.

[https://bibleforchildren.org/PDFs/english/Ruth\\_A\\_Love\\_Story\\_English.pdf](https://bibleforchildren.org/PDFs/english/Ruth_A_Love_Story_English.pdf)

This link shows slides of the story. For week 2, read the slides and look at the pictures, from slides 9 -12.

<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 3 minutes and 10 seconds listen to last week's verses as well. After this read the Bible chapter 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 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 Time

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.

Ask them to take out their journals. Using the page with the feet templates, write or draw something to represent things that have changed in their lives over the last few weeks and months. Spend some time encouraging them to think about the following questions:

What are you thankful for?

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

Who may have helped you? What have they done?

How could you help others facing challenging situations?

What do you want to say to God?

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 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.

1. Kindness jar: 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 select 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. Think what you could do to make someone smile.
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.

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



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