

Sunday School Family Sheet: The Good Neighbor

Sunday, March 7, 2021

This sheet is for an adult member of the home to use as a guide for discussing the Sunday School Bible lesson with children.

For this lesson:

You will need either:

- 1) a Bible, or
- 2) 365 Bible Stories and Prayers

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(Call the church office 9715-848-7286 for help getting one)

1. **Read and Talk.** Read aloud Ruth 1-4 or pp. 98-101 in 365 Bible Stories and Prayers. Before reading aloud, share the following: “The story of Ruth is a story that starts off with a lot of sadness, but ends with a lot of joy. Ruth loses her husband and Naomi, her mother-in-law, loses both of her sons. But through the mighty, yet hidden, work of God these two women would be blessed. Ruth is the great (times at least 30!) grandmother of Jesus through his adopted father, Joseph.” Then ask the children to keep these questions in mind as you read. *After reading, go over the answers and guide them towards the answers here:*
 - a. What happened in the land of Israel? What is a famine?
(A famine is a time when crops stop growing because of weather or pests and people have less and less to eat.)
 - b. Why did Ruth follow Naomi? *(Through Naomi, Ruth had come to believe in the one true God – ‘your God will be my God!’)*
 - c. How did Boaz help Ruth? *(He let her have wheat from his field. He was a kind and generous man!)*
 - d. How did Naomi help Ruth? *(She sent Ruth to ask for Boaz’s protection. Ruth was a foreigner in Israel. Boaz would take Ruth as his wife and care for Naomi in her old age.)*
2. **Teach.** After you’ve talked a bit, share these or similar thoughts: How are we to care for our neighbors? Ruth and Naomi, after being away for a long time from Israel, came back and were cared for by Boaz. Boaz had compassion, just like Ruth had compassion on Naomi and didn’t leave her alone. To care for others is to have compassion, and that can look like feeding, donating to charity, and simply caring for others in times of need.
2. **Pray.** Have the children cross themselves and say, “In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Also, lead them in this prayer: “Gracious God, You care so much for this world and its people but some still go without. Help us to care for others like Boaz. Help us to listen to the sadness of others like Ruth. Help us to share our daily bread with others. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”