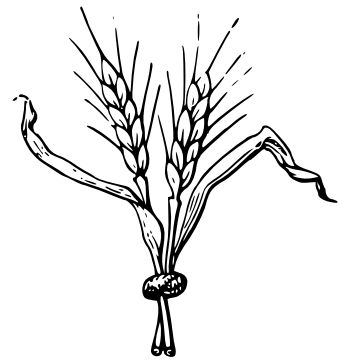


Children's Message

Ruth



Scripture: Ruth 2

Assumptions...

- I tend not to ask kids to respond to questions because you never know what they are going to say and I don't want to put kids in a place where they are going to be embarrassed. So, when I ask questions, I ask kids to think about it without answering. If you want to open it to the kids responding (you know your audience), feel free to do so.

Props - if you can gather some small stalks of barley or artificial barley stalks (if you can't find barley, wheat looks very similar)

Invite & Welcome the children

Script: Our story today is about a woman named Ruth. She lived in a place called Moab. After her husband died, Ruth could have gone back to live with her family, but instead, she chose to stay with her mother-in-law, Naomi. Now, Naomi was from a town called Bethlehem (you might have heard of that town before because that is where Jesus was born later). Naomi wanted to return to her family. So, Ruth and Naomi set off on a long journey back to Bethlehem. When Ruth and Naomi got to Bethlehem they needed to work. Ruth gleaned in a field of a man named Boaz. Gleaning is when a person picks up grain that wasn't picked up by the workers. Think about it this way - you have a room full of Lego (or pick another toy that your kids can relate to) and you pick them up, but you miss a few, so your parent or sibling picks up the rest and they can keep them. Sometimes workers would intentionally not pick all the grain so gleaners could have some. And that is exactly what some of the workers did for Ruth. This way, Ruth and Naomi always had enough grain and enough food to eat. I wonder how it would feel to only get to pick up the leftovers. I wonder how it would feel to know that the leftovers were enough to feed my family. I wonder how you can share what you have with others.

Does anyone have a garden at home? Maybe you grow tomatoes or peppers, or beans. Do you ever have too much produce? One way that you can share what you have is by donating the extra veggies from your garden or sharing it with a neighbor. Talk with your family about other ways that you can share with people who are hungry.

Let's pray... Dear God, thank you for stories in the Bible that teach us about how much you care about each one of us. We know you care about our needs, especially having food to eat. Help us to learn about hunger in our community and how we can take action. Guide us as we share your love and care with others. Amen.