

Hope in the LORD! Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Hope in the LORD!
(Psalm 27:14)

Ruth and Naomi – Book of Ruth

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: COURAGE

In today's Bible story, familiar words are spoken: "Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God" (1:16). These words demonstrate both love and discipline. Ruth is a beautiful and remarkable story about family, inclusion, and redemption. It also is about courage, Ruth's and Naomi's. The story shows how family members have great discipline in taking care of one another. Ruth and Naomi go together and, with courage, not only grow their family but also grow together in love. Both women are powerful witnesses to a life of faith and courage. Through their story, we can learn how to bring people together in God's love.

This story also demonstrates kindness. The Common English Bible notes that kindness brings kindness. Ruth and Naomi demonstrate kindness to each other. Life for Ruth and Naomi is not always easy. They work hard to start a new life, find food, and build a new home and life for themselves. They are then welcomed into a new country, where they are allowed to glean food.

In Bible times, it was customary to let hungry people glean (or gather) crops left in the fields. Boaz showed kindness to Ruth. They later married and had a baby. Sometimes it takes courage to be kind, especially in hard situations. It also takes discipline. God wants us to be courageous and show kindness; and when we do so, kindness spreads.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

How does your family show kindness? Family members are not always kind to one another. We do our best, but family is made up of individuals trying to live together. Today's story demonstrates devotion and commitment to family, no matter what.

With your family or friends, make a list of rules or expectations of how you want to demonstrate kindness to one another. Hang up the list. When there are disagreements, remember the list and remember Ruth and Naomi's commitment to one another, no matter what.

Come Together

Welcome to Wonder

Supplies: *Class Pack—pp. 16 & 17; Leader Guide—pp. 4, 85; Activity Sheets (Session 10); Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD; CD player; stickers or markers; items for Wonder Table (small table, green cloth, and items such as a candle, a plant, a basket, hearts); Wonder Box; grain or wheat; pens; pencils, crayons; markers*

Prepare Ahead: *Display the Attendance Chart (Class Pack). Set up a Wonder Table (see Leader—p. 4). Place the grain or wheat inside the Wonder Box. Set the Wonder Box on the Wonder Table.*

- Play “Celebrate Wonder” (CD) as the children arrive. Lyrics are on page 85 of the Leader Guide.
- Greet each child. Show the children where to mark the Attendance Chart using a sticker or a marker.
- Distribute this week’s Activity Sheet (Session 10). Help the children interact with the activities on each page.

Sing and Celebrate

Supplies: *Leader Guide—p. 88, Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD or Celebrate Wonder DVD, CD player, DVD player, TV*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy “Song Sheet—Unit 3” for each child.*

- Gather the children around the Wonder Table, and hand out the Song Sheets.
- Play “Kind & Brave” (CD or DVD). Invite the children to sing and celebrate.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: *CEB Bible; “Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook” (optional); Class Pack—pp. 4, 10 & 23; Celebrate Wonder DVD; TV; DVD player*

Prepare Ahead: *Obtain the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 23) and the Wonder Story Mat Figures (Class Pack—p. 4). You will use Ruth and Naomi today.*

- Lay the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat on the floor.
- Read from the Bible today’s story in the Book of Ruth. Or read the story from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*.

- Let a child move or place Ruth and Naomi on the basket of wheat on the Wonder Story Mat.
- Watch the Session 10 video on the DVD.

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack—pp. 8 & 25, Wonder Cube (from a previous quarter or from the Digital Pack at CokesburyKids.com), Wonder Box (containing grain or wheat)

Prepare Ahead: Display the Unit 3 Faith Word poster (Class Pack). Locate a Wonder Cube.

- Let a child roll the Wonder Cube. Direct the children to answer the question(s) about the Bible story. You can interact with the Wonder Cube as time allows.
- Then pick up the Wonder Box and place it in front of the children.

SAY: Today's faith word is *Courage*: choosing to act in faith, even when you are afraid.

- Wonder together:
 - Is it hard to show kindness?
 - Who in your family shows courage?
 - What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box and reveal the grain or wheat.

WONDER: How does grain or wheat help you remember today's Bible story?

Experience Wonder

Family Tree (Art)

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 66, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, colored pencils

Prepare Ahead: Make one copy of "Family Tree" (Leader Guide) for each child.

SAY: In our Bible story, Ruth and Naomi made up a special family.

WONDER: Who is in your family?

- Give each child a copy of "Family Tree."
- Invite the children to write on, draw on, and decorate their family tree.
- Invite willing volunteers to share.

WONDER: Are you related to everyone in your family?

Kindness Counts (Team Building)

Supplies: paper, tape, small sticky notes, pens

- Tape a piece of paper on each child's back.
- Ask the children to move around the room.
- Invite each child to write on a sticky note a kind comment about another child and to attach the note to the paper on that child's back.
- Each child should continue writing comments and attaching them to other children's papers until he or she has made a kind comment about every child.
- When the children are done, gather the children together.
- Invite each child to remove his or her paper filled with sticky notes.
- Let the children share their kind comments, if they choose.

SAY: It takes courage to show kindness. Each of you is kind and loving.

Where You Go, I Will Go (Movement)

Supplies: blindfolds or bandannas (one for each pair of children)

Prepare Ahead: Make sure you have plenty of open space.

- Divide the children into pairs.

SAY: Sometimes we have to trust others and to trust God that we are going in the right direction.

- Let the pairs decide who will be the leader and who will be the follower.
- Ask each follower to put on a blindfold.
- Have each leader guide their follower around the room using only verbal directions.
- Ask the children to switch roles.
- After everyone has had a turn leading and following, gather the group together.

WONDER: When you were the follower, was it hard to trust that you were going in the right direction? Why or why not? Does it take courage to trust others? Do you trust your family and friends?

Peaceful Place

Supplies: suggested books: “The Kindness Quilt” by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace and “Be Kind” by Pat Zietlow Miller; quiet toys and items: baskets, grain or wheat, pickup sticks, baby dolls

- Locate the suggested books and quiet items, and place them in the Peaceful Place.
- Allow children who want or need a quieter activity to visit the Peaceful Place.

Tip: You may choose to include other quiet toys, books, or activities.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice—Exploring Courage Through Discipline

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 89, “Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book” (optional), strips of paper, pens, pencils, crayons, markers, basket

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Celebration Chart” (Leader Guide) for children who have not received it yet.

- Gather the children near the Wonder Table.
- Give each child a strip of paper, and provide pens, pencils, crayons, and markers.

SAY: It takes courage to be kind.

WONDER: What is one way you can show kindness this week?

- Have the children draw or write an answer on their strip of paper.
- Invite the children to place their answer in the basket.
- Place the basket on the Wonder Table.

SAY: By placing your kindness in the basket, you are showing courage. There are so many ways to be kind.

PRAY: Dear God, help us be courageous and kind, just like you.

- Send “Celebration Chart” home with children who have not received it yet.
- Encourage the children and their families to use the “Celebration Chart” and to read together the quarterly *Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book* (if purchased).

CELEBRATE WONDER® Family Tree

