

# BRINGING THE STORY HOME

Week of November 12, 2017

**Timeless Truth:** God calls us to express faith through both commitment to and kindness towards one another.

**Bible Basis:** Ruth 1-4

***The Story for Kids Weekly Reading:***

**Chapter 9** The Faith of a Foreign Woman

**Memory Verse:** Boaz replied, "I have been told all about you. I've heard about everything you have done for your mother-in-law since your husband died." Ruth 2:11



## TABLE TALK

NOTE: These questions are designed to help prompt discussion among a wide range of ages. Please adapt them as they best fit YOUR family.

- **How did Ruth show commitment to and kindness toward Naomi?**
- **How did Boaz show commitment to and kindness toward Ruth?**
- **Why does God want us to show kindness to and care for one another?**
- **What are ways you can show love and kindness to others?**

## EXTRA MILE

Have a kindness competition. The idea behind this game is to show kindness to each other without expecting anything in return. Ruth showed great love and kindness toward Naomi, even though she couldn't give her anything in return. In a similar way, Boaz showed amazing kindness toward Ruth. God blessed both Ruth and Boaz for their actions. Encourage your family to show kindness to each other in tangible ways. Maybe it's a kind word or a back rub. Maybe it's something done in secret (Ninja's of Nice). You can surprise your child by planning something out of the ordinary to do together, or you can slip special notes into their lunch or tape them on their bathroom mirror. Spend individual time with siblings helping them think of things to do for their siblings or other parent. On a strip of paper write down when something kind is done for or said to you. Encourage your kids to do the same or to tell you privately so you can write it for them. At the end of the week, pull out the slips of paper and read about each kindness. Talk about how both receiving and giving kindness made you feel. Talk about which kindnesses meant the most to you (pay attention and you may learn about each other's love languages).

- Did being kind to each other change any family dynamics?
- What was the best part?
- How can we try to show kindness and unconditional love to each other all the time?
- How does intentionally showing kindness improve our family relationships?
- Read Ephesians 4:32. What does it teach about kindness and how we should treat each other?

## PRAYER TIME

Dear God, thank you for loving us unconditionally. Help us to love and care for others the way you love and care for us. Help us to do these things without expecting anything in return, in a way that glorifies you. Thank you for those in our lives who love, care for, and show kindness to us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



# The Story for Kids 3x Week Reading Plan

## DAY 1

**Reading:** *Total Commitment*, pg 62 through break on pg 64 (blue—pg 76 through break on pg 78) (4 mins)

This reading covers: Ruth 1

**Summary:** Ruth shows what total commitment looks like.

**Do together:** For Chapter 9 your family will act out the book of Ruth each day. Below are the characters that you will need, but you can always add some people like in Naomi's husband and sons who die in the first scene. You can either pass the book from one person to another or read the story and then act it out from memory. Be sure everyone is listening for their character.

**Roles:** Narrator, Naomi, Ruth, Orpah, Boaz

**Think about:** How did Naomi feel when there was a famine, she had to move, her husband died, then her two sons died? Why did Ruth stick with her mother-in-law and not move back home? What did this show about Ruth?

Also Read: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

**Prayer:** Lord, help us when we feel like nothing is going right. Help us to be like Ruth and help others when they are in the same situation. Thank you for those who act like Ruth and help our family. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## DAY 2

**Reading:** *Family Care*, break on page 64 – break on pg 67 (blue- break on pg 78 – break on pg 81) (6 mins)

This reading covers: Ruth 2-4

**Summary:** Boaz shows what it means to truly care for your family.

**Do together:** Continue with your play from the night before. Now enters the character Boaz and you start to see God's plan unfolding. Make sure you stop this act with "And she lived with her mother-in-law" so that you leave the cliff-hanger of what happens between Ruth and Boaz.

**Think about:** What kind of a man is Boaz? Name some of his characteristics or traits. What do you think is going to happen between Ruth and Boaz?

Also read: Colossians 1:9-12

**Prayer:** Lord, make us like this man Boaz who has integrity and cares for others. May we lead our lives in a way that is pleasing to you, so that we can see your story as it unfolds in our lives. Thank you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## DAY 3

**Reading:** *God's Story* –pg 67 - end (blue- break on pg 81- end) (1 mins)

This reading covers: Ruth 4

**Summary:** At the end of Ruth's story we see that God's story is still unfolding.

**Do together:** Finish out your play starting with the narrator's italicized text at the bottom of page 67 (81). You get to hold a wedding ceremony and show the new baby boy, Obed. You may want to celebrate the finale of Act 3 by serving ice cream.

**Think about:** Why did God bless Naomi, Ruth and Boaz with this baby boy? How does God bless us when we persevere through hard times? Who do you think is the ultimate hero of the story and why? Be sure to make it known that the little baby, Obed, is the grandfather of a man named David and an ancestor of Jesus.

Also read: James 1:2-5

**Prayer:** Lord, thank you for keeping us and providing friends and family when we go through tough times. Also, thank you for your blessing when we come out of those tough times. Make us a hero in your story. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.