Ruth Loves Naomi

Bible Story
Ruth 1:1—2:23

Teacher Challenge
Ruth lost her husband and her home. Yet she was willing to start a whole new life, choosing to go with her widowed mother-in-law, Naomi, to Naomi’s country. Ruth’s love caused her to commit to living her life with Naomi, doing all she could to care for her aging mother-in-law and herself. She patiently gleaned the corners of the field, diligently taking full advantage of the law God had made for people in situations like theirs. Ruth’s kind, diligent actions brought her to Boaz’s attention and kindled Naomi’s hope for Ruth’s future.

What has love driven you to do?

What benefits have you experienced because of someone’s patience?

Commitment driven by love is Jesus’ character. It’s something He develops in you, too. When keeping commitments you’ve made, like teaching little ones, know that God will help you be more like Him. Ask Him to help you diligently show love, even in the most difficult situations.

God’s Word
“Love is patient, love is kind.”
1 Corinthians 13:4

God’s Word and Me
I can show love for others by being kind and patient.

Teacher’s Planning
1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.
Play to Learn

Active Game Center: Food to Share

Collect
Bible, individually-wrapped snack item for each child, large shopping bag, yarn, paper plates.

Prepare
Place snack into the large bag. Place the large bag on floor. Place a yarn line on the opposite side of the playing area from the large bag. Place one paper plate for each child on a table near the playing area. Post a note alerting parents to the use of food in this activity. Also check registration forms for possible food allergies.

Do
1. Children stand behind the yarn line. One at a time children hop across playing area to remove a snack from large bag. Children then hop to table, place snack on a paper plate and return to the line.
2. Repeat until all snacks have been placed on paper plates. Children enjoy snack together.

Talk About

In our Bible story, Ruth was kind. She got food so Naomi had good food to eat. Ruth showed love by being kind. Let's play a game to share good food to eat.

The Bible says, “Love is patient, love is kind.” Kyle, you were patient when you waited quietly for your turn to play the game. Waiting for your turn is a way to show love for others.

Pray briefly, Dear God, help us to show love and be patient.

For Younger Children
Simply put individually-wrapped snack items out around the room. Each child finds one and puts it on his or her plate.

For Older Children
On separate index cards print a variety of ways of moving (hop on one foot, jump with feet together, walk backwards, walk heel-to-toe, tip-toe, etc.). Children select a card and move in manner indicated on card to collect snack and deliver it to table.
Lesson 48
God’s Word
“Love is patient, love is kind.”
1 Corinthians 13:4

God’s Word and Me
I can show love for others by being kind and patient.

Play to Learn
Art Center: Cereal Collages

Collect
Bible, dry cereal in a variety of colors and shapes (no flakes), bowls, paper, marker, glue, construction paper; optional—premoistened towelettes.

Prepare
Place cereal in separate bowls. Post a note alerting parents to the use of food in this activity. Also check registration forms for possible food allergies.

Do
1. Children wash hands. (Optional: Children use premoistened towelettes to clean hands.)

Talk About
- In today’s Bible story, Ruth gathered grain to make food for herself and Naomi. Grains are little seeds used to make foods like breads and cereal. Let’s use cereal to make pictures.
- The Bible says, “Love is patient, love is kind.” We can show love for others by being kind and patient. Being patient means waiting quietly for your turn to do something. It also means not complaining.
- Ava, if you want to use the glue, what do you need to do? You can ask Seth to hand you the glue. Thank you for waiting patiently to use the glue.

For Younger Children
Before class, draw simple shapes on sheets of construction paper. Children choose a shape to outline and/or fill in with cereal.

For Older Children
Children glue cereal pieces in a repeating pattern. For example, children place one square piece and then two round pieces, repeating the pattern as they make their designs.
Play to Learn

Block Center: Block Towers

Collect
Bible, blocks; optional—paper cups.

Do
1. Children take turns adding one block at a time to build towers. (Towers should not be higher than children’s chin level.) (Optional: Children alternate blocks and cups to build towers.)
2. Children may also help each other build structures of their own choosing.

Talk About
- The Bible says, “Love is patient, love is kind.” Let’s practice taking turns and being patient as we build towers.
- We can show love for others by being kind. Alyssa, what are some ways to be kind to your brother when you play a game with him? (Let him take the first turn. Say kind words.)
- We can show love for others by being patient. Being patient means waiting quietly. Jack, you were patient when you waited for your turn to place a block on the tower. That was showing love!
- Pray briefly, Thank You, God, that we can show love by being kind and patient.

For Younger Children
Children take turns collecting blocks, and then build individual designs of their own choosing.

For Older Children
Children build towers in geometric shapes (triangle, square, rectangle, etc.).

God’s Word
“Love is patient, love is kind.”
1 Corinthians 13:4

God’s Word and Me
I can show love for others by being kind and patient.
Play to Learn

Science Center:
Grain Grind

Collect
Bible; grain for grinding (soft wheat, rice, oats, etc.); four disposable pie plates; four clean fist-sized stones; several magnifying glasses.

Do
1. Pour grain into each pie plate. Show children how to use stones to grind grain into small pieces.
2. Children look at the pieces of ground-up grain with magnifying glasses and compare with unground grain.

Talk About
- In today’s Bible story, Ruth was kind to Naomi. She gathered grain. Let’s look at some grains.
- Grains are the seeds of plants. Grains are used to make cereals and breads. Grains can be eaten whole, but whole grains take longer to cook. So when they are broken up or ground, the smaller pieces cook faster.
- The Bible says, “Love is patient, love is kind.” Being patient means not being bossy or complaining. It means being quiet when you have to wait. Ansley, you were patient when you waited for a turn to grind the grain. Ethan, when is another time you might have to wait for a turn?

For Younger Children
Provide only one or two types of grain, placing them in separate large containers or bowls. Children play with the grains using a variety of spoons (measuring spoons, teaspoons, serving spoons, slotted spoons, ladles, etc.).

For Older Children
After grain is ground as fine as possible, dump all pie tins of grain together into a large bowl. Invite children to sprinkle a little salt over the mixture. Add a little oil to some water and let children mix into a soft dough. With adult help, children take turns to make balls of dough, flatten them and then cook small flatbreads in electric skillet. (Add flour to the grain dough if needed.)
Listen to Learn
Ruth 1:1—2:23

Collect
Bible, Bible Story 9 pictures from God’s Story for Me Poster Pack #1, Preschool Music #1 CD and player, stickers in a variety of colors, index cards, marker.

Greet Each Other
Give each child a sticker to put onto his or her shirt. Find a friend who has the same color sticker as you do. Each child looks for a child with a matching color sticker. Children with matching stickers sit beside each other. The Bible tells us that love is kind. You can be kind to your friends.

Tell the Story
Open your Bible to Ruth 1. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 9 pictures.

What do you do when you feel hungry? Listen to our Bible story to find out what a hungry woman did.

Our Bible tells about two women who loved and obeyed God. Their names were Ruth and Naomi. Ruth and Naomi did not have any money to buy food. They were hungry, so Ruth went to find some food.

Ruth went to a field where workers were cutting grain. The grain was used to make bread. The workers tied the grain into bundles. Some of the grain fell on the ground. The workers left the grain on the ground to be picked up by people who did not have enough food to eat. Ruth asked one of the workers if she could pick up some of the grain from the ground. He said, “Yes.” So Ruth picked up the grain and put it into her basket. She worked and worked.

A man named Boaz owned the field. He saw Ruth working hard. Boaz told Ruth, “From now on you may pick up all the leftover grain you can find in my field. And when you are thirsty, you may drink from our water jars.” Boaz was kind to Ruth.

Later that day, Boaz brought some food to Ruth. She was hungry, but she didn’t eat it all. She saved some food to take home to Naomi. Then Ruth went back to work. She picked up all the grain she could carry in her basket. At night, she went home.

Naomi was surprised that Ruth brought home so much grain. There was enough to make many loaves of bread. Ruth gave Naomi the food she had saved for her. Naomi was glad that Ruth was kind to her. She was glad that Boaz was kind, too.
Talk About the Story
How did Ruth help Naomi? (Gave her food she had saved. Gathered grain for food.) Ruth loved Naomi and that’s why she was kind to her. Ruth was patient because she did not complain about the hard work she had to do. We can show love to others by being kind and patient, too. Being patient means not being bossy or complaining. How can you show patience when waiting for a turn to swing on the swings? (Don’t whine or complain. Stand and wait quietly.)

Sing to God
Let’s sing a song that tells us what love is like. Lead children in singing “Love Is” (track 13 on CD). It isn’t always easy to be patient and kind. We can pray to God and ask for His help.

Hear and Say God’s Word
Holding your Bible open to 1 Corinthians 13:4, say verse aloud. When we’re patient, it means we wait for our turn. We show love for others when we are kind and patient. Children sit in a large circle. Lead children in repeating the verse several times. When saying the words “Love is patient,” children stand. When saying “Love is kind,” children sit down.

Pray to God
We can ask God to help us show love and be kind to others. Volunteers complete the following sentence prayer by adding the name of someone they know: Dear God, help me be kind to __________. Close prayer by asking for God’s help to show patience.

Praise to God
For each child write a “1” or “2” on an index card. Lay cards facedown on the floor in an open area. Children walk around the area while you play “Kind to Everyone” (track 7 on CD). When music stops, each child picks up the nearest card and identifies the numeral. Several volunteers then tell either one or two ways to be kind to their families during the week. (Optional: Print children’s responses on a large sheet of paper. Display paper where parents will see it when they pick up their children.)
Talk to Learn

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect
A copy of Activity 9 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, scissors, paper fasteners, crayons or markers; optional—uncooked oatmeal, glue.

Do
Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children glue uncooked oatmeal to grain.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect
Copies of Puzzles 95 and 96 (p. 197 and p. 199 from *The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles*) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

Do
Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

Read-Aloud Story Center

Collect
A copy of Story Picture 48 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do
Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.