

Bringing **The Story** Home- Ch. 9- Week of November 20th



The Faith Of A Foreign Woman

"Bringing The Story Home" is a tool for you to use with your family to connect with the weekly lessons taught in "The Story" curriculum. Feel free to use these activities in a way that fits your family life. Do what works with the time you have each week.

Timeless Truth: God rewards unselfish love.

Bible Basis: Ruth 1—4:17

Key Verse: May the Lord reward you for what you have done. May the God of Israel bless you richly.
Ruth 2:12

Parent Tips: Read the key point from the Sunday School lessons that relate to your children. Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table, or wherever, during the week. The Living Faith activity is designed to show your family the benefits of being kind, even when nobody knows about it. The Extra Mile will get your family involved in the life of a child who's having a difficult time.

Get The Point: Since God first loved us, we can love Him in return, and then better love our family.

Table Talk:

- **When Naomi's husband and sons died, why did she want to move to Bethlehem?** (That's where she was from. She had family there and had heard the Lord was helping His people.)
- **Did Naomi want Ruth and Orpah to come with her?** (No, she encouraged them to go back to their parents' homes and marry different men.)
- **Why did Ruth stay?** (She loved Naomi and wanted to serve her and her God.)
- **How did God bless Ruth's actions?** (He provided food for her and Naomi. He allowed her to marry Boaz.)
- **How does God bless us when we are kind and helpful to others?**

Living Faith:

Have a kindness competition. Depending on the ages of your children, you may have to make teams of two. If every family member is old enough, make it an individual competition. The idea behind this game is to show kindness to each other without expecting anything in return. Ruth showed great kindness and love to Naomi, even though she could not give her anything in return. In a similar way, Boaz showed amazing kindness to Ruth. God blessed both Ruth and Boaz for their actions.

Encourage your family to show kindness to each other in tangible ways. Maybe it is a kind word or a back rub. Maybe it is something done in secret. You can tape special notes to the mirror in your children's bathroom. Your daughter can organize the garage. Your son could offer to baby-sit for free or drive a younger sibling somewhere without complaining. A child could clean up the family room or vacuum without being asked. A husband could buy flowers for his wife. The ideas are endless. At the end of the week, reconvene as a family and talk about what meant the most. Discuss what it was like being the giver and what it was like being on the receiving end of the kindness.

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

Extra Mile:

Get together as a family and look at the lives of your neighbors and your children's friends. Chances are you know another family that's going through a difficult time, whether it is a divorce, serious illness, job layoff, or even a death. If you can't think of anyone who's struggling, call your church and ask for the name of a child who needs to feel some love or encouragement. Once you find a child who is going through a hard time, make a plan to show him love and acceptance—just like Boaz showed Ruth love and acceptance. Invite this child (and their family) over for dinner. Offer to pick him or her up and pay for him to join a sport's team or club with your child. Take him to an amusement park with your family. Make him a consistent part of your family during a difficult time in his life. Be "Jesus with skin on" for this child. Boaz changed Ruth's life forever, and your family can do the same thing!

Prayer Time: *Dear Heavenly Father, you are so good and gracious and kind to us. We thank you especially for sending your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Please help us to continually look for ways to show kindness to others as Jesus would have us do. In His Name we pray. Amen.*