

Ruth

Activity 1: Sound Story--add sound effects or motions to characters or events in a story.

Read the list of characters in each chapter and the descriptions of what sound or motion is done to represent that character. If it's available, write the name of each character and the sound/motion on a board for quick reference.

Characters in chapter 1:

Elimelech: Man from Bethlehem in Israel who traveled to Moab with his wife and two sons

Naomi: Elimelech's wife

Mahlon: One of Elimelech's and Naomi's sons who dies in Moab

Chilion: One of Elimelech's and Naomi's sons who dies in Moab

Orpah: One of Naomi's daughter-in-laws

Ruth: One of Naomi's daughter-in-laws

As we read chapter one, whenever we read "Elimelech", everyone will chant "Elimelech, Elimelech, Elimelech, Elimelech."

When we read Naomi's name, everyone will blow a kiss.

When we read Mahlon or Chilion's names, everyone will sigh "Ahhhh" sadly.

When we read Orpah's name, everyone will turn around once in their seat.

When we read Ruth's name, everyone will say "Your God, my God."

Read the first chapter and pause at each character's name for the students to have time to respond. If a flannel graph is available, use it to give a visual representation of the events.

After the chapter has been read, have the students describe what happened in their own words. Try to have different ones describe what the different characters said and did. Record their responses to use at a later time.

Characters in chapter 2:

Naomi: Has traveled back to Israel

Elimelech: Has passed away

Boaz: Elimelech's wealthy relative

Ruth: Has traveled with Naomi to Israel

As we read chapter two, whenever we read "Elimelech", everyone will chant "Elimelech, Elimelech, Elimelech, Elimelech."

When we read Naomi's name, everyone will blow a kiss.

When we read Boaz's name, everyone will nod with an "Uh huh!"

When we read Ruth's name, everyone will say, "Your God, my God."

Read the second chapter and pause at each character's name for the students to have time to respond. (Optional--continu. with the flannel graph).

After the chapter has been read, have the students describe what happened in their own words. (Again, record their responses to use at a later time.)

Characters in chapter 3:

Naomi: Directs Ruth as to what she should do

Ruth: Follows Naomi's directions

Boaz: Continues to be kind to Ruth

As we read chapter three, when we read Naomi's name, everyone will blow a kiss.

When we read Boaz's name, everyone will nod with an "Uh huh!"

When we read Ruth's name, everyone will say, "Your God, my God."

Read chapter three, pausing at each character's name for student response. (flannel graph cont.)

After the chapter has been read, again have the students describe what happened in their own words and again record their responses to use at a later time.

Characters in chapter 4:

Boaz: Desires to marry Ruth

Elders of the city: Listen to Boaz's claim

Naomi: Is happy with the events

Ruth: Marries Boaz and has a son

Obed: Boaz and Ruth's baby son (who eventually becomes David's grandfather.)

As we read chapter four, when we read Naomi's name, everyone will blow a kiss.

When we read "Elders of the city", everyone will look thoughtful and say, "hmmmm"

When we read Boaz's name, everyone will nod with an "Uh huh!"

When we read Ruth's name, everyone will say, "Your God, my God."

When we read Obed's name, everyone will make a baby crying sound.

Read chapter four, pausing at each character for student response. Then, have them retell the story in their own words and record it for later use.

Activity 2:

Edit the recordings so that there is a narration that adults can memorize. Videotape the adults acting out the story with costumes and lip syncing the narration the kids provided. Create a movie in "Movie Maker" or "iMovie" for the kids to watch...with their voices as the narration behind adult actors.

(The example for "Ruth" is on our website. Disclaimer--the statements from this movie come from the point of view of children ages 4-10 and do not necessarily directly quote the Bible.)