

**Bible Story Text**—Ruth 1–4

**Lesson Aims**

1. To lead the students to admire Ruth's bravery in making a hard choice.
2. To point out the kindness Ruth showed to her mother-in-law.
3. To assure the children that choosing God's way brings blessing.

**Memory Verse**

Choose you this day whom ye will serve. Joshua 24:15

**Inspiration for the Teacher**

Kindness is welcome anywhere. It can be practiced anytime. It is an expression of the goodness of God to those around us. Ruth's kindness to those around her resulted in rich blessings to her and her family. The most important reason for showing this "love in little things" is that the Bible commands it.

Love is kind (1 Corinthians 13:4). Loving-kindness has probably been instrumental in converting more sinners than zeal, eloquence, or learning. An old Scottish proverb says "Remember, if you are not very kind, you are not very spiritual."

Much of Christ's life was spent in doing kind things: healing the sick, holding little children; helping the poor, the widows, the bereaved, and the outcasts. Christ's kindness continues today. Although we may fail to show kindness to others and others may fail to show kindness to us, yet our heavenly Father's kindness never fails. He is kind in granting some of our requests. He is kind in withholding others.

**Supplies for Class**

- Colored pencils
- A sharpened pencil with eraser for each child
- Glue and/or clear tape
- Scissors for each child

**Optional Supplies**

- Photocopied Optional Worksheet for each child from page 86 if you decide to use it
- One or two foods from a strange country for Optional Lesson Introduction # 1
- Construction paper with one word of the memory verse on each sheet for the memory verse exercise on page 29

**Praise and Worship God**

Sing the theme song.  
Pray with your students.

**Optional Lesson Introductions**

- 1. Ask the students what country they would like to live in. Australia? Italy? Norway? Discuss positive reasons for their choices. Mention the negative aspects of moving into a strange community and leaving behind friends, familiar places, and favorite foods. Mention specific customs or foods from other cultures that may seem strange to your students. Show them the foods from a foreign country you brought. The person in today's story moved to a strange country. Why? She wanted to please God.

- 2. Discuss the fact that people believe many different things. Ask your students these questions: How can you know what is right? How can you know which way to choose? Who knows everything? Who loves us and wants only good things for us? Tell the students that God and His Word will always lead us to make good choices if we go to Him for wisdom and direction. In today's story, someone chose to follow God, and that choice blessed her whole family.

### Tell or Read the Story



**F**amine came to Israel. Life was hard, so Elimelech and his wife Naomi decided to move away from Israel. They moved to the country of Moab with their two sons. The people in Moab did not worship the true God. They believed in a false god and worshiped idols.

Elimelech and his family lived in Moab for many years. The two sons married Ruth and Orpah, women of Moab. Later Elimelech and his two sons died. Now Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah were widows. What should they do?

Naomi heard the famine was over, so she decided to go back home to Israel where the true God was honored. She started on the fifty-mile journey to her hometown of Bethlehem.

Ruth and Orpah went with her part of the way. Then Naomi thanked them and told them they could go back to their homes. "May God help each of you to find a good husband," Naomi said.

The three women cried at the thought of parting. Orpah kissed Naomi good-bye and started back. But Ruth clung tightly to her mother-in-law. What should she do? Should she go with Naomi to a strange land? Or should she stay with her own

people? Should she worship the false god of Moab, or the true God of Israel?

Ruth made up her mind. "Don't make me turn back," she told Naomi. "Where you go, I will go. Where you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God."

Ruth and Naomi arrived in Bethlehem during the barley harvest. Farmers cut the grain and tied it into bundles. Poor people came and picked up stalks that were left lying on the ground.






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### Discuss the Lesson Themes

Ask your students to tell about some of the problems Ruth had to face when she moved to Bethlehem. (*She was a widow; she was poor; she was a foreigner.*)

Then have them list some of the good choices Ruth made in spite of her troubles. (*She chose to leave the gods of Moab and worship God; she went with Naomi to Bethlehem; she chose to go to work gleaning grain; she married Boaz.*)

-  How do we know if a choice is good or bad?
-  Why do we sometimes make bad choices?
-  Have you ever been rewarded for a good choice?

## Workbook Activities

### Remember This?

Have the children take turns answering the questions and deciding which letters to put in the blanks.

After the exercise is complete, have someone read the message in the box.

Lesson 4

Ruth went to gather grain for Naomi. She worked all day, stopping only for a short rest. The owner of the field, Boaz, came by to talk to his workers. He saw Ruth and asked about her. The workers told him who she was. "Don't go anywhere else to get grain," Boaz told her. "You may always come to my fields. When you're thirsty, you may get a drink from my workers' water pitchers. You may eat with them too."

"Why are you so kind to me, a stranger?" asked Ruth.

"I have heard of your kindness to Naomi," Boaz said, "and how you left your people to come to a strange land. The God of Israel, whom you have come to trust, will reward you."

Boaz told his workers to be kind to Ruth and to leave plenty of grain for her. She and Naomi had plenty to eat.

Boaz loved Ruth, and she became his wife. They took care of Naomi, and Naomi took care of Obed, the baby boy God gave them. God blessed Ruth for the good choices she had made.

### Remember This?

Follow the directions for each sentence below.

C	H	O	O	S	E	G	O	D
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



- Was Elimelech Naomi's husband? If "yes," put **H** above 2. If "no," put **N** above 2.
- Was there a famine in Moab? If "yes," put **F** above 6. If "no," put **E** above 6.
- Did the Moabites worship the true God? If "yes," put **M** above 7. If "no," put **G** above 7.
- Were Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah widows? If "yes," put **S** above 5. If "no," put **R** above 5.
- Did Orpah stay in Moab? If "yes," put **O** above 4 and 8. If "no," put **E** above 4 and 8.
- Did Ruth choose to go with Naomi? If "yes," put **C** above 1. If "no," put **K** above 1.
- Did Ruth continue to worship idols? If "yes," put **Y** above 3. If "no," put **O** above 3.
- Did Naomi take care of Obed? If "yes," put **D** above 9. If "no," put **Z** above 9.




### Learn the Memory Verse

Have the students learn the verse as usual.

For variation, review the verse by writing each word on a separate piece of construction paper. Place the words on the chalkboard ledge or other suitable place in random order. Have the pupils arrange them in order to make a sentence.

Point out what is happening in the picture. The girl has a choice to make. Which way should she go?

When we *serve* someone, do we do things the way *we* want to do them, or the way the other person wants?

 How can you tell if you are serving God?

### Let's Make Something

Have the students go to page 75 in their workbooks and remove the portion for Lesson 4.

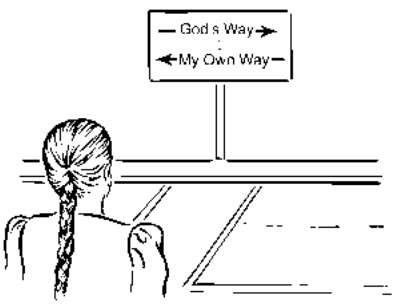
Lesson 4

**Copy the memory verse on the lines.**

**Memory Verse**

Choose you this day whom ye will serve.


Joshua 24:15



Choose    you    this  
day    whom    ye  
will    serve

**Let's Make Something**

**Turn to page 75. Follow the directions to make a fold-out story of Ruth in the space below.**



Ruth chose to follow God.

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### Directions from page 75 for the cut-and-paste activity

1. Cut out the square.
2. Cut the square into four triangles along the dotted lines.
3. Glue the triangle with Ruth kneeling before Naomi to the top glue strip on page 16.
4. Glue the triangle with Boaz talking to Ruth onto the left glue strip.
5. Glue the triangle with Ruth and Naomi walking together onto the right glue strip.
6. Glue the remaining triangle onto the bottom glue strip.
7. Wait a few minutes for the glue to dry.
8. Carefully fold and crease the windows open, then close them again.
9. **Tell the story pictured clockwise on the front cover, and then lift the windows to read about Ruth's good choice.**




## Extra Activity 1

Page 48

### You Have a Choice

When the students have cracked the code, have one of them read the message.

 What is the way of truth?

### To Be a Friend

Use this exercise as a springboard for a discussion on friendship. Don't be afraid to apply this discussion to areas you see where your students could improve in being friendly with their classmates. On the other hand, compliment students if they show kindness and respect to their peers.

Lesson 4, Extra Activity 1

### You Have a Choice

God allows us to choose either right or wrong. In the story, Orpah chose to say good-bye to Naomi and go back to her family and her false gods. Ruth chose to stay with Naomi and worship the true God with God's people.

**A Bible verse about choosing is in code below. Crack the code by writing the letter that comes after each letter that is given.** (Hint: Put an A under each Z.)

H G Z U D B G N R D M S G D V Z X N E S Q T S G. Psalm 119:30

I H A V E C H O S E N T H E W A Y O F T R U T H .

### To Be a Friend

Ruth was a very good friend to Naomi. She did kind things for her.

**On the left are things people might do or need. On the right, finish the words to tell how you can be a good friend.**

You hurt your classmate's feelings. **A** P Q L Q G I Z E to him.

Your visitor wants to take a nap. **G** L V E him a blanket.

A lady is pushing a stroller toward the door. **O** P E N the door for her.

The widow next door wants a flower garden. **O** F E E R to plant one for her.

Mom forgot to dust the chair legs. **D** U S T them for her.

Your brother broke your model train. **F** O R G L V E him.

You've had your friend's book for a month. **R** E T U R N it to her.

You're planning a party when a new girl joins your class. **I** N V I T E her too.

Mom forgot you hate mustard and put it on your sandwich. **E** A T it anyway.

Everyone is ignoring the slow boy. **N** O T L C E him.

Your sister has a big pile of dishes to do. **D** Q them for her.


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## Extra Activity 2

Page 49

### Ruth's Hard Choices

Making good choices is sometimes hard. Discuss with the students how hard it must have been for Ruth to leave behind her country, her family, and her familiar customs to follow Naomi to a strange land where a different God was worshiped.

 Why is it sometimes hard to choose the right thing even when we know it is right?

The two exercises at the bottom of the page are simply a review of some of the facts of the story of Ruth.

Lesson 4, Extra Activity 2

### Ruth's Hard Choices

Ruth didn't know what lay ahead, but she did what she felt was right even when it wasn't easy. What were some things that may have been hard for her to face?

family  
people  
strange  
Bethlehem  
harvest

Fill in the boxes with the correct answers.

1. It was a long walk from Moab to 2.
2. Israel was a 2 land to her.
3. She left her 2 and friends behind to go with Naomi.
4. She went out alone and worked hard during the barley 2.
5. She chose Naomi's 2 and God as her own.

↓

1.	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M
2.	S	T	R	A	N	G	E		
3.	F	A	M	I	L	Y			
4.	H	A	R	V	E	S	T		
5.	P	E	O	P	L	E			

In the blank below, write the vertical word you see under the arrow.

Ruth was a brave woman. You are brave too, if you make good choices about hard things.

Who  
Am  
I?

- e I am Ruth's mother-in-law.
- d I decided to stay in Moab when my husband's mother left.
- b I was loyal to my mother-in-law.
- a I married a hard-working woman from another country.
- c My parents are Ruth and Boaz.

- a. Boaz
- b. Ruth
- c. Obed
- d. Orpah
- e. Naomi

Name  
the  
Place



- b Land Naomi and her husband left during a famine
- c Land where Naomi's sons got married
- a Town Ruth moved to



- a. Bethlehem
- b. Israel
- c. Moab

## Additional Activities and Ideas for Lesson 4

Read the **Application Story**, which begins on page 107 of this manual.

Do the **Optional Worksheet for Lesson 4**, which you have photocopied from page 86. Find the instructions and answers for the **Optional Worksheet** on page 96.

### Singing

♪ Practice the theme song again.

♪ Use these songs from *Praises We Sing* to clinch some of the themes from this lesson:

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” (Point out the choice this song describes.)

“Be Unto Others Kind and True” (Ruth followed the Golden Rule with others.)

“Little Drops of Water” (Small, right actions prompt big blessings.)

### Map Practice

Give a blank sheet of paper to each pupil. After studying the map at the back of their books, each may draw from memory a rough map of Palestine, showing Moab, Bethlehem, the Dead Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, and any other places you designate.

### Make a scrapbook for a needy person.

Inspire students to be kind, like Ruth. Give each child a sheet of paper. Let them draw pictures, write short poems, copy Bible verses, etc. You may also bring old get-well cards for the children to cut up and paste on their sheet of paper.

### Memory Work Review Game

See suggestions from Appendix D, page 125.

## Suggestions for Daily Review

- **Memory verse practice.** Say the first word of today’s verse or any verse previously learned. Go around the circle with each student saying the next word of the verse. If a student says a wrong word or can’t think what comes next, he is out. See who can stay in the circle the longest.
- **Bible story/character practice.** State today’s memory verse or any memory verse from a previous lesson. Have the students tell you the lesson title or the main characters from that lesson.
- **Bible story/matching memory verse.** State today’s lesson title or any title from a previous lesson. Ask the students to recite the memory verse for that lesson.
- **Play a character guessing game.** One student thinks of a Bible character you’ve studied in this course. He states facts about the character without naming the character. The other students try to guess the character. The hints should be progressively more helpful. Example:

*I’m thinking of a man.*

*He was sometimes afraid.*

*An angel came to talk to him.*

*He had a large army and then a small one.*

*God helped his 300 men defeat the Midianites.*