

RUTH'S GOODNESS**Ruth 1-4**

Lesson Memory Verse: Psalm 37:3 – “**Trust in the Lord, and do good**; so shall you dwell in the land, and verily you shall be fed.” (Older children should memorize the whole verse; younger ones only need to memorize the **bold** part.)

Lesson Aim: God rewards good things that Christians do, so we should believe God and do good things.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Children need to understand that they cannot do anything good for God until they ask Jesus Christ to be their Savior (Rom. 3:10-12). Things done before receiving Jesus as Savior may seem good to us, but these things are not good to God. So you could begin your lesson by asking, “Can anyone tell me the first good thing that we can do?” (The first good thing that we can do is to receive Jesus as our Savior. Then we can do other good things by His power.)

HE (for Authority): What is the first thing that our memory verse tells us to do. (“Trust in the Lord”.) Then what can we do? (We can “do good.”) The verse goes on to tell us of God’s promise. What does He promise to those who do good? (They shall live in the land and be fed.) The Israelites counted it a great reward to be able to live in their own land and have food to eat. The last part of our memory verse means that we will be rewarded with good things, too, if we trust in the Lord for salvation and do good.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. As you read the book of Ruth, make notes on the thoughts that blessed your own heart. Always teach the Scriptures from a full heart. Also make notes on the thoughts that you believe will be helpful for your class. After you have done this self-study, you are ready to read the notes in the lesson plan to see if they can give any further information to help you in your preparation for teaching. In this lesson we will find the good things that Ruth did and discover how she was rewarded. This should help us to do good.

1. Ruth’s Good Choice (Chapter 1)

Ruth had to make a very important decision after her husband died. She had to choose whether she should return to her mother or go with Naomi, her husband’s mother. She had to choose whether she should stay with her people in Moab or go to Naomi’s people in Israel. She had to choose whether she should hold onto the gods of Moab or take the God of Israel. She chose to go with Naomi and live in Israel with Naomi’s people, but most important, she chose to take Naomi’s God to be her God (1:16, 17). She trusted in the Lord, as our memory verse tells us to do, and she was saved. Before she could do any good works for God, she had to turn away from her other gods and accept Him as her only God.

WE: We, too, must turn from the world and its sinful ways and turn to Jesus Christ to receive Him as our God and Savior (Acts 3:19).

2. Ruth’s Good Work (Chapter 2)

Ruth went to work in the harvest fields to pick up the grain that was missed by the reapers (2:2). This was done to provide food for Naomi and herself. It was hard work, but good work because she was helping her husband’s mother. Not only did God notice her good work, but even Boaz and others knew that she was doing a good work (2:11-12). God rewarded her by sending her to the right field where she would be treated kindly. As a result, she brought home much grain after only one day’s work. It was a pleasant surprise to Naomi, but she knew it was a reward from God (2:17-23).

WE: After we are saved, God wants us to do good works (Eph. 2:10; Ps. 37:3). When we help our parents, we are doing good works for God. When we help our brothers and sisters or help others, we are

doing good works for God (Matt. 5:16). What is the best work that we can do to help others? We can tell them about Jesus Christ, who can save them from going to Hell (Rom. 10:15).

3. Ruth's Good Obedience (Chapter 3)

Naomi knew the law of the kinsman-redeemer and so she told Ruth just what she had to do to obey this law. If she obeyed it, she could be married to Boaz. Some of the things that Naomi told her may have sounded strange to Ruth, but she promised that she would obey all that Naomi told her to do (3:5). Because she obeyed all that Naomi told her to do, she was rewarded. Boaz understood what she was doing and promised to help her. He also gave her some grain to further reward her (3:10-11, 16-18).

WE: Good obedience is full obedience. We must obey ALL that we are told to do, not part. Sometimes it is hard to obey when we do not understand, or we do not agree, but God wants us to obey Him all the way. And He also wants us to obey His leaders all the way, when they follow His Word. Full obedience is a very good work.

4. Ruth's Good Reward (Chapter 4)

Ruth had been rewarded in little ways for her good works, but the big reward was to be married to Boaz and to have a son who was named Obed (4:13, 17). God rewarded her richly for her good works.

WE: God will reward us, too, when we do good works for Him. He has promised to do so as our memory verse says. Little rewards may come to us in this life, but the big reward will be given in Heaven, if we are faithful (I Cor. 3:11-14; II Tim. 4:7, 8).

BE (for Action): God wants to reward you, but first you must be saved. God does not count your good works until you are saved by Jesus Christ. Have you received Him as your Savior? If He is your Savior, are you doing good works for Him? Can you name some good works that you could do for Him this week? (Have the children name several.) Plan to do some good works for Jesus that you will try to do every day of this next week. Now let us pray and ask God to help us do these good works.