

SACRED STORY

THE STORY OF RUTH

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: THE MOABITE GREAT-GRANDMOTHER OF DAVID, WHO WORKED HARD, LOVED GOD, AND GOD'S PEOPLE (THE BOOK OF RUTH)

- **SACRED STORY**
- **ENRICHMENT PRESENTATION**

THE MATERIAL

- **LOCATION: OLD TESTAMENT SACRED STORY SHELVES, MIDDLE SHELF, UNDER "THE TEN BEST WAYS"**
- **PIECES: MODEL OF BETHLEHEM, PEOPLE OF GOD (9 TOTAL), STALKS OF GRAIN, CROWN, BLUE YARN**
- **UNDERLAY: DARK BROWN FELT, 22" X 36"**

BACKGROUND

The story of Ruth is a connecting story. It connects the wilderness experience of the People of God and living in the promised land, with living in the promised land and King David. Ruth was not one of the People of God. She was a Moabite. She married one of God's people, Boaz, and became the great-grandmother of David the King.

The Hebrew Bible is organized into Torah, Prophets, and Writings. The Book of Ruth is included among the Writings. It presents a peaceful contrast to the political chaos, scarcity and cruelty of the time of the judges.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

Ruth's story sits in a deep wooden or wicker tray (12" x 8" x 3"). The story icon (5" x 2.5") is an image of Ruth gathering wheat. It can be attached to the end or the side of the tray depending on the size of the shelves, the classroom or other considerations. The underlay is a large piece of dark brown felt, 22" x 36". The story calls for the following objects: a long piece of yarn (about 42" long so you can place it on the under-

lay in a squiggly line to represent the Jordan River), a small model of Bethlehem (like the one used in Advent I-IV, nine People of God, stalks of grain and a crown.

SPECIAL NOTES

The core stories about the People of God are placed on the top of the sacred story shelves. The enrichment stories about the key people in the core stories are placed on the lower shelves of the sacred story section in the room, under the core stories they enrich and extend (see diagram below).

When you introduce the story of Ruth, take care to set it in the larger context of the sacred story of which it is a part. You can accomplish this by:

- presenting the top shelf story the week before and then following up with this,
- presenting the top shelf story briefly on the same day you present this, or
- standing by the shelf and reminding the children of the top shelf story before bringing this one to the circle.

Ruth's story does not unroll like a life in the way that the other stories do. The movement of this story is from the Promised Land, specifically the city of Bethlehem, to the land of Moab, and back again.



STORY ICON FOR THE STORY OF RUTH