FAITHFUL Followers

Memory Verse: ***"God chose you to tell about the wonderful things He has done. He called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9b***

Big Idea: ***God calls His people because He loves.***

Bible Story: Ruth's Loving Kindness | Ruth 1-4

Gear Up - Arrival

Greet children as they enter the classroom. Mark them present using your iPad and/or paper roster.

Opening Activities: Engage with the kids in your room as they play and interact with designated games and activities as time allows. Use this opportunity to ask kids about their week, discuss their interests, and encourage them to connect with one another!

Memory Verse Game – Say What?!

What you'll need: No supplies needed

How to Play:
Scouts (K-2): Say the verse out loud together in different voices (robot, animal, whisper, shout) or with different actions (tiptoe, stomp, hop). Repeat in fun ways.

Navigators (3-5): Say the verse out loud together. Then decide which words to emphasize with a different voice, louder or softer volume, or movements. Repeat in fun ways.

Bible Time – Bible Book Catch

What you'll need: a soft ball or throwable object

How to play:
Scouts (K-2): Gather the kids in a circle. Using the Books of the Bible poster in your classroom, a leader will toss a ball or soft object to a kid and choose the New Testament or the Old Testament. The catcher names a book in that testament and then tosses the ball to a different kid, and the catcher names the book of the Bible that follows the first book named. Tossing and catching continues as kids name the books of the Bible in order.

Navigators (3-5): Have kids find the Book of Ruth in the Bible. Ask them questions to encourage their curiosity or reinforce what they have learned from her story today.

Get-To-Know-You Game – Can you make bread with it?

What you'll need: pictures of objects like a stalk of wheat, dirt, grains, a soft drink, bag of flour, oven, dishwasher
How to Play: Ask the kids if they could use the item in the picture to make bread. Repeat until all pictures are used. Talk about the process of how bread is made.

Gear Up - Welcome – 5 minutes

Begin 10 minutes after the service time starts (Ex. 9:40 at the 9:30 experience).

Gather kids together in a space where they can see the TV.

Take a moment to **welcome** the kids to KXP and let them know how glad you are that they are here!

PRAY FIRST! We want to model this for our kids. Take a moment to pray for the time together and for the kids in your room.

Lesson Introduction – 5 minutes

Share the Lesson Intro with the class before starting the **KXP lesson video**. Challenge them to listen and pay attention during the Bible Story.

Say: *"Hey KXP! So glad you're here! Can you believe it's May already?! The end of the school year is right around the corner. Well here, in KXP, we are continuing to learn about the Faithful Followers of God. Today's story is about a woman named Ruth. She also has a book of the Bible named after her. Pretty cool, huh?! The Book of Ruth is a short story with only four chapters, but it's full of big ideas like love, courage, and kindness. Let's jump in."*

Play the KXP lesson video in your classroom.

Bible Story – 10 minutes

Leaders, please read the Bible story below before Sunday to prepare for discussion.

Ruth's Loving Kindness | Ruth 1-4

A woman named Naomi lived in a place called Bethlehem with her husband and two sons. You may remember the name of that place. It's the town where Jesus was born. One year, there was a famine and there wasn't enough food to eat in Bethlehem. So, Naomi's family moved far away to a country called Moab. While living there, Naomi's sons grew up and married two women named Ruth and Orpah. That was exciting news!

But then something very sad happened. Naomi's husband died, and later, both of her sons died too. Naomi was left with Ruth and Orpah, and she felt very lonely. Life became difficult. You see, back then, it was very hard for a woman to earn money so that she could live well. So Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem. She told her daughters-in-law they should go back to their own families. Orpah said goodbye, but Ruth made a brave and loving choice. In Ruth chapter 1, verse 16 Ruth tells Naomi ***"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God."***

So, Ruth stayed with Naomi and traveled with her to Bethlehem. It was harvesting time when farmers collect crops like barley and wheat. Naomi and Ruth were poor and needed food. Ruth went into the fields to pick up leftover grain that workers dropped. This was called "gleaning," and it was a way poor people could gather enough grain to make bread. The field belonged to a kind man named Boaz, who was actually related to Naomi's family.

Boaz noticed Ruth working hard under the hot sun. He had heard how she stayed loyal to Naomi. Boaz told his workers to be extra kind to Ruth and even leave extra grain for her. He also made sure she had water and was safe while working. Ruth brought the food home to Naomi, who was very thankful. Naomi realized that Boaz could help protect Ruth and give her a good future.

In those times, a relative could marry a widow to care for her. Naomi gave Ruth careful instructions. One evening, Ruth went to where Boaz was resting after a long day of work. She quietly asked him to take care of her as a family protector. Boaz was impressed by Ruth's kindness and respect. After talking with town leaders, Boaz married Ruth. Ruth and Boaz had a baby boy named Obed. Naomi helped take care of him and felt happy again after all her sadness. Obed grew up to be the grandfather of King David, a very important king in the Bible. We will hear how David's story begins next week.

Let's recap some important things we can learn from Ruth. Ruth was loyal and stayed with Naomi, her mother-in-law, no matter what. Ruth worked hard and didn't give up when life got tough. There is hope in Ruth's story. Small acts of love and faithfulness can lead to blessings from the Lord. God called Ruth to be kind and courageous and she obeyed.

Lesson Recap –15 minutes

After the video has ended, **share the Lesson Conclusion** with the class.

Say: "*Ruth was a faithful follower! God was working out His Big Plan to save His people, and Ruth was an important person in His plan. Jesus would become part of her family tree! How amazing is that?!?! Thanks for joining us here today. Come on back to KXP next week to hear the story of David. He had a pretty epic life! You don't want to miss it."*

Direct the kids to the **Memory Verse** and **Big Idea** posters in your room. Have your class read them together out loud. Celebrate the kids for paying attention and listening well!

Close in Prayer – 3 to 5 minutes

Ask the kids in your room to share any **prayer requests** they have. Give them a moment to **fill out prayer cards** or **choose a prayer prompt** to take home. Then **pray over them**!

- **P**RAISE - *Open with adoration.*
- **R**EPENT - *Recall and connect the Big Idea from the Bible Story to yourself and the kids.*
- **A**SK - *Petition the Lord on the kids' behalf.*
- **Y**IELD - *Close by giving thanks to God for His perfect plan.*

Live It Out – 5 to 8 minutes | **"Where You Go, I Will Go" Friendship Craft**

What you'll need: strips of colored paper, tape or glue, writing utensils

What to do: Have kids create a friendship bracelet or paper chain. Each link can represent a promise like kindness, helping, or staying loyal—just like Ruth did for Naomi.

- Cut strips of colored paper
- Write kind actions on each strip
- Tape or glue into a chain

Leave No Trace – End of the Hour

- As parents arrive to pick up children, have the **kids work together to clean up** the classroom.
- **Thank them** for coming and **encourage them to invite a friend** and come back next week!
- Children can **finish opening activities** while waiting on their parents.