

# GENEROSITY WEEK: HARVEST

Resources for those leading  
children & young people



## About these resources

A Fika is a Swedish tradition where you take time out of your day to pause, make time for your friends and to share a hot drink normally coffee for adults. It can be changed for hot chocolate or even lemonade and always includes cake! Most importantly it offers a chance to create space to sit and chat.

The following outline for a Fika focusses on the story of Ruth and Boaz to talk with children around the theme of Generosity. The Fika is split into two sections and has accompanying film clips to use alongside each part:

**Section 1** - Focuses on the first part of the story, and considers the issues of scarcity, the experience of famine, the sad experience of Naomi as a migrant, the loyalty of Ruth and choosing to follow God.

**Section 2** - Considers our attitudes to strangers, caring for those in need, the welcome Boaz showed to an outsider, being blessed by strangers, God's blessing on his people and Gods promises to us all.

The "I wonder" questions allow for the group simply to discuss what they feel without needing to have all the right answers. Both of these sessions could be used over two consecutive weeks in a children's group or in a full activity "Fika" session

### Resources Required:

- Copies of the story
- The film clips
- An ear of corn or picture of a corn field
- Some comfy cushions or rugs
- Hot or cold drinks and cake!
- The craft activities (if choosing to use them)



# Children's Resources

# Sunday 1

## Preparation

Prepare a comfy space & begin by sharing a drink & some cakes. Explain that a Fika is a chance to chat with your friends, while enjoying some drinks and snacks.

## Read the Story

Begin by reading the story to the group. Then, show the group an ear of corn or a picture of a corn field, ask;

- What we use this for, what do we make with it?
- And what may happen if we didn't have any available for us to use?

It might mean we have nothing to make bread with, imagine not being able to have sandwiches or toast. But it could be far worse! There are countries where this happens frequently, the crops simply don't grow or there isn't enough water to help them to grow, then people go hungry.

## Discussion: I Wonder .....

- What it might feel like not to have enough food?
- How would it feel to have to leave your home to find food for your family?
- What it feels like to be a "Refugee" travelling to a new country, a place where no one knows you?
- Why did Ruth want to go with Naomi, and how important is it to have friends you can trust and share with?
- In what ways did Ruth show her kindness?
- How can we be kind to others when they are sad?
- How can you show kindness to people and to God?
- What does "Giving" mean to you?
- How can you "Give" to God?

## Broaden the discussion

Following the film clip discuss what it means to be kind and generous, why should we give to others & support others. How is God always generous to us?

**Conclude with a simple short prayer on Generosity.**

## Activity for Session 1

### Items required:

Piece of card, dried macaroni, four flower shapes with words below , pencils , glue sticks.

Either draw four flowers or print them out add the words below:

Flower 1: Where you go I will go

Flower 2: Where you stay I will stay

Flower 3: Your people will be my people

Flower 4: Your God will be my God.

Draw long stems onto the card, glue the macaroni on as the ears of corn & add the flowers with words in each corner.



## Bible Story - Ruth (Part 1)

Our Bible story begins in Bethlehem. The name Bethlehem means the "House of bread" but at the time of our story there simply wasn't any bread! People were going hungry ... there was a famine which means there just wasn't anything to eat at all!

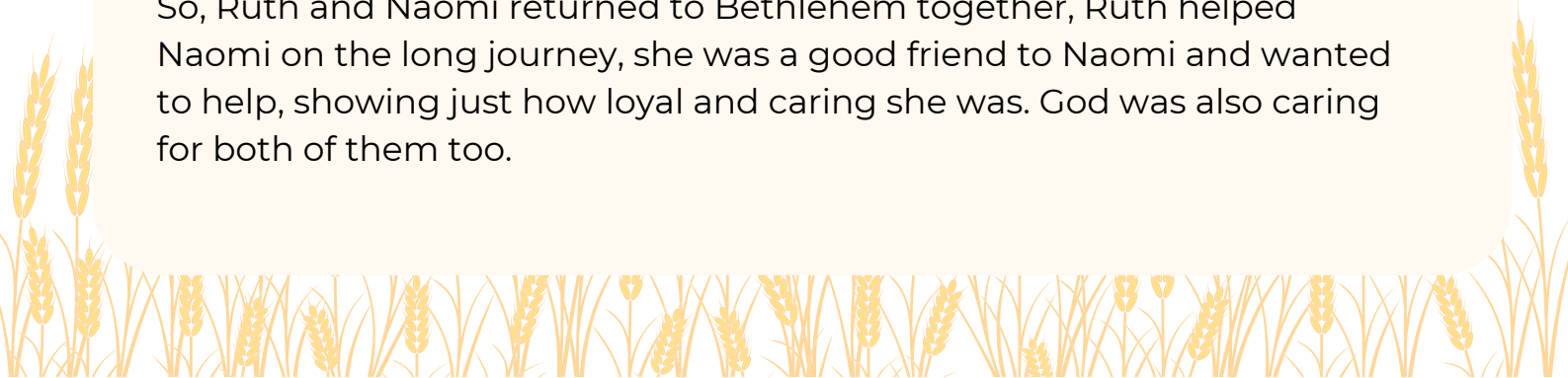
A woman named Naomi and her family decided the only thing they could do was to move to live somewhere else. Imagine how hard it must have been to leave your own home, it meant they were going to be refugees, leaving their home behind to find food. They moved to Moab, where there was plenty of food, which was good but unfortunately things didn't really turn out very well.

After the long journey Naomi's husband died, and then her two sons who were both married also died. So, for Naomi who had moved away from her home for a better life, it seemed to be only getting worse. Now there was only her two daughters in laws and herself left, she was very sad.

It was now ten years since she had moved from her home in Bethlehem to find food and she had lost so much. But in Bethlem the situation had improved, there was now plenty of food so she made the decision to go back to her own country. She thought it was best to leave her two daughter in-laws Orpah and Ruth behind as there didn't seem to be any need for them to leave with her as this was now their home.

Both Orpah and Ruth really cared about Naomi , and they wanted to go with her. She tried to explain to them that they didn't need to and that they should stay where they were , as she wouldn't be able to find new husbands for them .They both thought about it and finally Orpah decided she would stay, but Ruth cared so much for Naomi that she said "Please do not ask me to stay , I will go with you , I will stay wherever you stay , your people will be my people and I will follow your God."

So, Ruth and Naomi returned to Bethlehem together, Ruth helped Naomi on the long journey, she was a good friend to Naomi and wanted to help, showing just how loyal and caring she was. God was also caring for both of them too.



# Sunday 2

## Discussion: I Wonder...

- Boaz welcomed a stranger from another country, how would you treat a stranger or someone different to yourself?
- In the story the harvesters were \*"Gleaning" this means leaving the excess grain on the ground for others to collect, in other words being kind and providing for others who have very little.
- What ways could you show kindness to others?
- Who did Boaz show kindness to and why was he so kind?
- How was God faithful to Ruth and Naomi?
- Was God always with them?
- As God loves you and is faithful and kind to you, what can you do to show you are grateful?

## Broaden the discussion

- Is it easy to give things away?
- Tell of a time when you gave something away, how did it make you feel?
- Why do you think it might be important to be generous to others?

Conclude with a simple Short Prayer on Kindness (example below)

Dear God,

Thank you for blessing us with the lives we have.

Thank you for our families and the people who look after us.

We pray for the people who are not as fortunate as us, who don't have families to look after them. We pray that you would bring them comfort, peace, and people to journey with them through life. Help us to be generous with what we have been given and to be a comfort to others in difficult times.

*Amen*

## Activity for Session 2

### Activity: A Fika sharing bag

#### Items required:

Paper lunch bag, pictures of wheat or food made from wheat, to cut out and decorate the bag with.

#### Activity

Ask children to decorate the bag, encourage them to add words such as Kindness, sharing, generosity.

Fill the bag with some small cakes or small biscuits & encourage the children to show an act of kindness by giving them away.





## Bible Story - Ruth (Part 2)

When Naomi and Ruth arrived back in Bethlehem it was harvest time. As they were both so poor and Naomi was also old Ruth decided that she must do some work so they were able to eat. So, she went to work in the fields and \*gleaned the extra wheat and barley dropped by the harvesters. The local people were really surprised that a foreigner should be so kind! The owner of the field who was called Boaz noticed what was going on and asked the harvesters to leave some of the good grain on the ground for the poor to collect. He also asked who she was, they told him that she came from Moab with Naomi.

Boaz was so impressed by how kind Ruth was that he asked if she would like to join his other servants getting in the harvest in his fields. This was not something that would normally happen to an outsider, but Boaz was himself a very kind man who believed in God. When Ruth told Naomi about him, Naomi realised that Boaz was related to her husband who had died.

Boaz continued to show kindness to Ruth making sure she was safe and fed. Ruth was quite surprised and asked Boaz why he was being so kind to her, he explained I have seen how good and kind you have been to Naomi, you have left your home and family moved to a place you have never been to , so you could care for her, the Lord will reward you for your kindness.

Ruth continued to work in the fields and Boaz even asked the workers to drop extra barley so she could collect more and take it home to feed Naomi and herself.

At the end of the harvest Boaz asked Ruth to marry him and Naomi also went to live with them. Ruth's kindness and compassion didn't go unnoticed by Naomi, Boaz or by God





# Youth Resources

# Sunday 1

## "Where you go I will go"

### Icebreaker Game

Three legged-race. *You will need: ties and cones.*

Lay out the cones in an obstacle course. Young people are split into pairs with one leg tied together, they have to race each other to complete the course the fastest.

### Bible Study

#### Reading

Ruth 1:1-18 - Invite the young people to read

#### Discussion Questions-

- What did we think about the passage?
- Is there anything we didn't understand?

Allow the young people to take the discussion where they are interested. Draw out the key themes of sacrificial love as shown from Ruth to Naomi. Pay attention to the social context; in this time women were extremely vulnerable, especially in a foreign land.

Are there any other stories or bits in the Bible that this reminds you of?

*Invite the young people to offer their own passages. The leader may suggest some:*

- **Romans 8:35-39** - Ruth says that not even death will separate her from Naomi, see how this represents God's love for us that isn't separated by death.

- **Matthew 26:31-35** - Peter claims he will follow Jesus and even die for him, but unlike Ruth who commits to Naomi three times, Peter disowns Jesus three times. Think about Ruth's tremendous faith and commitment to Naomi compared with Peter.

- What might it look like to show love to people the way Ruth loved Naomi? *Focus the discussion on practical generosity.*
- How might we show love, generosity, and commitment to those around us as exemplified by Ruth?

# Prayer

## Prayer Activity

Consider using this contemporary icon of Ruth and Naomi by Kelly Letimore as a visual aid for prayer. Invite the young people to either close their eyes or to focus on the image, and to pray aloud from their discussion.

## Draw (or respond to) your own 'Icon'

You will need paper and pens (or paints) pieces of coloured card, metallic pens may add an extra shine to them.



- Think of a person who has shown you great generosity. Maybe they have been with you through difficult times, given you an amazing gift, supported your family, etc.
- Take a good look at the icon of Ruth and Naomi, notice how they hold each other, showing their love for one-another.
- Draw your own picture of in the 'icon' style, depicting your person as someone who radiates God's generosity to others. You may want to draw the gift.
- for inspiration, look at other icons deigned by Kelly Letimore, at [kellylatimoreicons.com](http://kellylatimoreicons.com)

Or,

- Write a letter, poem or story about a time when you received great generosity from a friend, family member or from God. You may want to share it with others, or keep it as a physical reminder of God's generosity and the hope it brings.

Dear Lord,

Thank you that nothing, not even death, can separate us from your love. Help us to show this love of Christ to those around us. Help us to see the needs of people, especially those who are particularly vulnerable. Show us how we can be generous people of love. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ,

Amen



# Sunday 2

## Gleaning

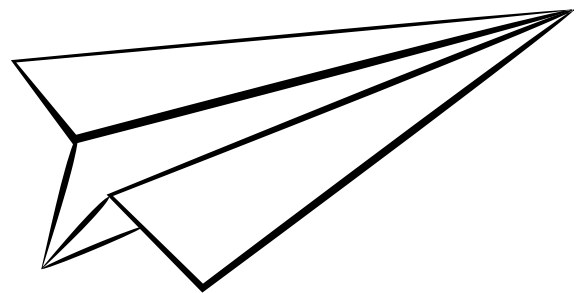
### Icebreaker Games

Glass of Water Challenge: You will need an empty glass, a tap or a jug of water. Young People take turns in pouring water into the glass a little at a time. The aim of the game is to not spill the water over the glass. Each turn young people can keep adding to the glass drip by drip. The person who spills the glass loses. (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvslLtYCWaE> for an example)



Leftover paper-planes: You will need paper, scissors, and pens.

Youth are split into teams, each team has paper, scissors and pens. Teams are first tasked with creating the best paper aeroplane. The planes are thrown and the team that travels the farthest wins the first round. The teams are then told they have to make another plane with the scraps of paper they have left from the first round. Again the planes are thrown and the one that travels the farthest wins. Extra points may be awarded for any decorations on the plane.



## Bible Study

### Reading

Ruth 2:1-18 - Invite the young people to read

### Discussion Questions

- What did we think about the passage?
- Is there anything we didn't understand?
- Allow the young people to take the discussion where they are interested. Laws for gleaning are found in Lev 19:9-10. Draw out key themes about gleaning and overflow. Consider how out of the overflow of our generosity, those at the margins of society are blessed.

Are there any other stories or bits in the Bible that this reminds you of?

*Invite the young people to offer their own passages. The leader may suggest some*

- **Matthew 14:13-21.** In the feeding of the five-thousand and in Ruth 2:14, the hungry eat all they want and have some left over. Consider how God's generosity exemplified in bread and grain, is more than enough.
- **2 Corinthians 9:6-15.** Paul's words on generosity use images of bread and grain as in Ruth. Paul also speaks clearly about how God's generosity and abundance allows us to be generous.

What might it look like to show generosity to people the way Boaz did with Ruth?

*Focus the discussion on practical generosity. Identify in the group where our 'overflow' is, the places in our lives where we have more than enough. Invite the group to think about how they can intentionally give out of their overflowing generosity.*

## Prayers

Suggestion: Use the song 'Jireh' by Elevation Worship either as focus for silent reflection, or to play during group prayer.

Focus prayers not only on our commitment to generosity but thanksgiving to God for his generosity to us. The leader may wish to close the session with the prayer from Ephesians 3:14-21

