Beginner Level, Block 5, Week 1 Aaron and His Sons—Set Apart to Serve God

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who are not ordinary, but special to God.

Reference Reading: Leviticus 8:1-21

Memory Verse: ...It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you

serve." (Luke 4:8b)

Story Sample

Lately we have been hearing some stories about Moses and the children of Israel. Do you remember how they were instructed by God to build a tabernacle? Well, after the tabernacle was finished, God did something He had never done before. Out of the millions of people who had traveled through the wilderness, God separated some to serve Him in a special way. The ones God set apart for this job were Aaron and his sons. They were called priests. They were not ordinary, like everyone else, because they had been chosen to do special tasks in the tabernacle.

After they were made priests, they stayed at the entrance of the tabernacle, God's house. They were washed and dressed in a special way. They were also given things to do, like taking care of everything in the tabernacle and even preparing and bringing offerings to God. This was something that had never been done before! For the first time, God's people brought offerings to God according to God's rules. These people, the priests, were very special, unlike everyone else.

Just like these priests who were special, we are not ordinary people—we are special to God. A lot of people around us behave in a certain way, celebrate certain things, do certain things and talk in a certain way. However, we are not like them. We are not ordinary people. We have been chosen by God to be special.

One time a friend from school invited me to go to a party. I knew that the other children who were going were some of the kids at school who always got in trouble. I had also heard that the party might be on Lord's Day, when I would usually go to the meeting. Part of me really wanted to go. But another part of me knew that I was different and wouldn't want to do the things they would. So I didn't go. I was so glad when I thought of being in the children's meeting with my friends! [Storyteller, insert your own story.]

You are growing up in this world surrounded by a lot of people in God's household, but they are different, not ordinary people. We go to neighborhood children's meetings, group meetings and family summer camps. We open our house to receive others, we consider what we wear, and we can love God. I'm so glad to be special to God, and not ordinary like so many other people!

Beginner Level, Block 5, Week 2 The Levites

<u>Point to Emphasize:</u> We can be those who happily complete the task assigned to us.

Reference Reading: Numbers 8:5-26

Memory Verse: Whatever your hand finds to do, do with all your might... (Ecclesiastes 9:10a)

Story Sample

Last week we learned that God chose Aaron and his sons to be separated from the children of Israel for them to serve God in a special way. They were to serve God as priests—a very special and important job. Because there were so many important things that needed to be taken care of in the tabernacle, God also chose another group of people to help Aaron and his sons in their priesthood. God chose the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons. They would be the ones who would help the priests by caring for the house of God.

How did the Levites help the priests? The Levites were put in charge of the tabernacle and all of its contents. They were assigned to care for the animals used for different things around the tabernacle. Also, when the children of Israel were commanded to move, the Levites were the ones to pack up and carry the tabernacle with all its furnishings. When the people arrived at a new place, the Levites were the ones to set up the tabernacle and everything in it. No one else from the children of Israel could touch those things, but only the Levites.

Did you know that we are like the Levites, too? We all are assigned tasks to do, such as doing our homework, picking up after ourselves, making our bed in the morning, or helping set the table for dinner. There are so many things that need to be done at home, at school, and even around our meeting hall. Taking out the trash or sweeping the floor, are just a few we can name. Who will do all these things? Well, everyone can be assigned tasks to help take care of things. At home our parents give us chores to help around the house. What about at school? Do your teachers assign you things to do? How about at children's meeting? Do your serving ones assign certain ones to help with snacks, or with the chairs, or with cleaning up? Yes. We all are assigned to do things and we all should do our part. It is so good to help out. If no one did the task assigned to them, we would have a very messy home, we won't have any toys because no one put them away when they last played with them, and we won't have any snacks because the person assigned to bring snacks didn't want to do it. [Storyteller, insert a story about a chore you had as a child.]

There might be some tasks that you like and some that you don't like. But we can be those who learn how to do all kind of tasks, and also do them happily and well. And if we don't know how to do it, we can learn. Instead of whining or complaining, "Why me?" or "Again?" or "It's too hard," we can be like the Levites. They did everything they were assigned to do and they did it well.

Every task is important! All tasks are equally needed. We all need to work together to do all our assigned tasks and do them well, just like the Levites. And just like them, we can also be those who are happy to do whatever is assigned to us.

Beginner Level, Block 5, Week 3 Joshua—The Leader

<u>Point to Emphasize:</u> We can be those who are good leaders for others to follow.

Reference Reading: Numbers 13-14

Memory Verse: Have I not commanded you? Be strong and take courage; do not be afraid or

dismayed. For Jehovah your God is with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9)

Story Sample

The children of Israel were on their journey towards the good land. God continued to guide them day after day. Now, let me ask you something. How long do you think it took them to get to the good land? [Let the children answer.] Well, they were wandering in the wilderness for forty years! Are any of you forty years old? No, right! Maybe you are five, six or seven years old. Imagine you are on your way to somewhere and you know you will get there, but it takes you forty years? I just can't imagine being on a trip for so long! Well, the children of Israel were on a LONG journey trying to get to the good land. Many things happened on this journey and as you grow older you will continue to learn of everything the Israelites went through during this time.

Moses freed the children of Israel out of Egypt, but he was not able to get them into the good land. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died. But before he died he presented to the children of Israel a leader who would bring them all into the good land. This leader was Joshua. The Bible says Joshua was full of wisdom.

What are some good quality traits of a leader? [Let the children answer and make a list on the board. After listening to the children, add to the list accordingly.] A leader should be honest. A leader should be able to inspire others. A leader should be creative and able to make decisions and solve problems. We should all aspire to be good leaders! Maybe one day we will be the leader of a school or the leader of a company or the leader of a city or who knows? Maybe some of you may become the leader of a whole country! But even today you might be a leader of two or three of you deciding what you will play when the meeting is over. Also, during opening times, you can be a leader being the first one in your row to pay attention and follow the instructions. You will see that once you start, others will follow. We need more good leaders among us!

I will tell you what happened to me when I was growing up. Every Saturday my mom had tasks for all of us to do. We couldn't go out to play until all tasks were done. Often times I would be the leader making note of all the tasks we had to do and then assign them among my siblings. I would come up with a plan to carry those tasks out so we could finish fast! [Storyteller, insert your own example of you being a good leader to others.]

Joshua was one of the most important leaders among God's people. Two million people marched after him into the land that God had promised them! This story inspired me to be a good leader! Maybe this week you can think of ways to be a good leader for others to follow!

Beginner Level, Block 5, Week 4 Caleb—Strong and Determined Companion

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who are strong and determined, and are companions of

those who follow God.

Reference Reading: Numbers 13—14

Memory Verse: But you be strong and do not let your hands fail, for there is reward for your

labor. (2 Chronicles 15:7)

Story Sample

Last week we learned about Joshua. Who was Joshua? Joshua was the leader who brought all the children of Israel into the land God had promised them. We learned that all of you can be good leaders, just as Joshua was. Who practiced being a good leader this last week?

Today I want to tell you that Joshua did not bring the people into the good land by himself. He had a partner whose name was Caleb. What is a partner? A partner is a friend, a companion, one who works together with someone in the same activity. If you decide to make a big fort with pillows and cushions and blankets, you might want to find yourself a partner instead of working alone. Well, Joshua had the best partner.

The Bible says that Caleb was strong. When Caleb was eighty five years old he was still full of energy and was as strong as when he was in his forties. Wow! Can you imagine that? Usually when you meet someone who is around eighty years old, they look older and frail. But we see that even in his eighties, Caleb was a man full of strength and full of energy. Caleb could still be a warrior in his old age. Who wants to be like Caleb?

Caleb was also a determined person. What do you think to be determined means? It means that you make a firm decision and you do not change that. Someone determined is firm, steadfast, decided and does not give up. Caleb was determined to go with Joshua and to gain the land that belonged to the children of Israel. Caleb did not look at the difficult things in front of them. Caleb was determined to go with Joshua as he was also trusting in God's promises to them.

We can see that Caleb might have not been the leader, but he was the best partner, the best companion to Joshua. In the same way, sometimes we will not be the leader. Someone else will rise up and be the leader and in that case, we want to be those who are the best partner to them. We can't be weak and we can't be undetermined or undecided.

One day when I was a lot younger, there was the need to help with singing time during children's meeting. I knew I was not a good leader for this task. But in my heart I chose to be a good companion to the one who lead the singing. I always paid attention to him. If he would ask the children to clap, I would be the first one clapping. I was a good companion to the leader and between the two of us singing time was very enjoyable! [Storyteller, share a personal story in which you helped a leader accomplish something.]

I hope that you all go home this week and be the best partner for a leader. Maybe you will be the best partner to your mother who is washing dishes. Maybe you can be the best partner to your sibling who is setting up the table. I am sure that you will see many opportunities to be the best companion to others!

Beginner Level, Block 5, Week 5 Judah Helping Simeon

<u>Point to Emphasize:</u> We should help our brothers and sisters; we should not just take care of ourselves.

Reference Reading: Judges 1:2-19; 2:11-20; 4:1-3

<u>Memory Verse:</u> Love one another warmly in brotherly love; <u>take the lead in showing honor one to another.</u> (Romans 12:10)

Story Sample

Week by week we have been discovering together what kind of people were special to God. By seeing who they were we can learn from them and we can choose to be like them. Today we are going to see the way an older brother treated his younger brother. Who in this room has younger siblings? You might not have a younger brother or a younger sister, but maybe you have a younger cousin or a younger neighbor or a younger friend. So, I am very sure that if you listen carefully to this story you will learn something and you will choose to be like these two brothers.

The children of Israel finally arrived to the land God gave them. God told them He had given this land to them, but first Judah needed to go up and fight the enemies who were occupying the land! The people took God's word. They believed His promise. Now, Judah was the strongest tribe among the children of Israel. They could have just taken God's word and do it all by themselves, without any help. But instead of going off to fight the enemy and gain the land by themselves, Judah went and talked with the weakest tribe, the tribe of Simeon. Judah told Simeon, his brother, that if he would come and fight with him, then later he would go with Simeon and join to fight the enemies of Simeon's tribe. Did Judah need Simeon's help? NO! But Judah was looking out for his brother. Judah knew that Simeon would need help.

Here you have two things happening. Judah, the big, strong brother is looking after the weaker brother AND he is doing it in a way that does not make his brother feel less than him. Sometimes when we help our brother or sister out, we let them know that we are helping them out because we are "better" or "older" or "smarter" than they are. Are you happy when someone helps you in that way? I'm not either.

You see, I am the oldest sibling and I remember that one time that one of my sisters was in trouble at school. Without thinking twice, I ran to where my sister was and I tried my best to calm the situation. Sure enough, I got my sister out of trouble! Growing up I knew that one of my responsibilities was to look out for my younger siblings. [Tell a personal story about looking out for your own brother or sister, especially in a way of helping him and not causing him to feel like he owes you a favor.]

What a super brother Judah was! He helped out his brother in such a way that did not make Simeon feel weak. Rather, they were equal partners—each helping the other. Now this week let us practice helping someone, like a younger sibling, cousin or friend, and not just take care of ourselves.

Beginner Level, Block 5, Week 6 Deborah—God Raising Up a Female as a Judge of Israel

<u>Point to Emphasize:</u> We should keep the proper order so that we can bring peace and rest into our families.

Reference Reading: Judges 4

Memory Verse: But all things must be done becomingly and in order. (1 Corinthians 14:40)

Story Sample

I want to talk to you about someone that was extraordinary. Someone who is extraordinary is someone who is beyond ordinary. This person is highly unusual, exceptional or remarkable. You might think an astronaut or a super hero is extraordinary, but if you listen carefully you will see today that each of you can be an extraordinary person. I want to be extraordinary! Let's see how we can be such a person.

In the Bible we find someone who was extraordinary. There was a time in history when things were not going well. All the men of Israel were doing the wrong thing. They were not taking God as their leader. They were not consulting God, but they were all doing whatever they thought was right. That resulted in complete chaos. This is a sad situation, isn't it?

Well, God had to do something extraordinary using an extraordinary person. God raised up a woman to sit as a judge over His people. Her name was Deborah. What? This is remarkable! The children of Israel had never had a female leader before. Deborah was the first female judge! She was very capable, she was full of insight. Deborah was different than all the rest because she was taking God as her leader.

Deborah did not consider herself as a ruler or leader over the people. She did not act like a man or try to be in charge of the men. She sat under a palm tree near her home, not on a throne in a palace. She called herself a mother in Israel, not the Queen or Judge of Israel. Deborah judged the cases that came to her among the children of Israel. When judging, she acknowledged God and obeyed Him. She judged according to God's law.

Later on, God commanded Deborah to send out 10,000 men into battle. What could she do? Wow, Deborah was so extraordinary! She knew that she could not directly carry out this word as a woman. So, Deborah called Barak, a capable military man. He was the right one to lead the army of Israel. All those men were now in an excellent order—no longer were they doing what was right in their own eyes. They won the battle and the whole land had peace for another 40 years!

Each of you can be an extraordinary person. When some of the ones around might be doing the wrong thing by doing whatever they want and not consulting a leader, you can be the extraordinary one! You can seek the proper order and consult the older ones and leaders around you. Let me give you an example. When I was your age we all wanted to spend time with our friends. Some of my friends would come directly to me to invite me to their house. Then I would go to my mom and tell her that my friend invited me over. When my mom would call my friend's mom, my friend's mom would say that she didn't know anything about it and it was just not possible. Then my friend was in trouble and I was in trouble. All of this would have been avoided by keeping the proper order. My friend should have asked her mom first. Then her mom would have called my mom and they would have let us know if it was possible. [Storyteller insert your

own example of not doing what you thought was best but you consulted your parents or an older one.]

If you look around, you will see that there are many ways that we can be an extraordinary person by keeping the proper order at school and in our family. This will bring peace and rest wherever we are. Let's practice this week. Instead of jumping in to do whatever you think is best (like the superheroes!), let's be like Deborah! Let's be those that follow and obey God and those who can consult with the leaders around us so we can have peace and rest!

Beginner Level, Block 5, Week 7 Gideon—Listening and Obeying God's Word

Point to Emphasize: We can be those who listen and obey and do as we are told.

Reference Reading: Judges 6-8

Memory Verse: ...Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it. (Luke 11:28b)

Story Sample

Last week, we heard about a wonderful judge named Deborah. Well, after Deborah, a very long time passed, and the children of Israel went back to their old ways of doing evil things and not listening to God. So God put them in the hands of their enemy, the Midianites, for seven years. The Midianites treated them so horribly that the Israelites had to hide in caves from them. It got so bad that they finally remembered to call out to God. Whenever they got in trouble, they would remember to call out to Jehovah. And God, being the faithful God, answered their call once again.

So, God sent a prophet to speak to them. This prophet reminded them of all that God had done for them, bringing them out of the land of Egypt to the good land. He also reminded them that they had refused to listen to God. Sometimes we are like this with our parents, aren't we? We don't always WANT TO listen to them and do things their way. So we need to be reminded of all they do for us.

Then God appeared to a man named Gideon. Gideon was a judge who was called and used by God. God had chosen him to lead the Israelites to battle and win against their enemy. Do you know why God chose Gideon? Gideon wasn't a very special young man. Actually, he did not think he could do anything for God. But he was successful because he listened carefully to the word of God and he obeyed God's word and acted on it. He was a marvelous judge because he did not do things according to his own way. He was one who listened to God's word, obeyed God's word, and did as he was told.

One time my daughter had to learn a new music piece at her piano lesson. It had new things on it that she had never played before, and she said it was too hard for her. But step by step, her teacher taught her what she needed to know to play it. Before long, she was able to first play with her right hand by itself, then her left hand, then both hands together. And after practicing every day that week, she was able to learn and play that piece perfectly! She learned how to read the music and how to play the piece properly because she listened to her teacher's instructions and followed them every day as she practiced. [Storyteller, insert your own story of listening and obeying or following instructions.]

God spoke to Gideon many times to let him know what he needed to do in order to go into battle. Gideon listened carefully to God's word, he trusted God in everything, he was sure that God was with him, and then he took action. So Gideon was ready for battle, but he needed warriors to go with him. The Israelites had more than 30,000 men who could be the mighty army. But Jehovah told Gideon that was too many men. In fact, most of them did not believe that Jehovah would win the battle for them. Eventually, God only sent 300 men to go to battle with Gideon. That is not a lot of men at all to win a battle! But Gideon listened carefully to all that God told him and he obeyed, trusting in God's word. God needed a man who would listen to God's word in order to go to battle against the enemy. Because Gideon was such a man and did not do things according to his own way, God made him victorious over the enemy. And they won the battle!

Wouldn't you like to be like Gideon? God was with him and blessed him because he listened to and obeyed God's word. Like Gideon, we can be those who listen and obey and do as we are told, not thinking that our way is better.

Beginner Level, Block 5, Week 8 Samson—Taking the Way of a Nazarite

<u>Point to Emphasize</u>: We can be those who follow our parents' instructions consistently.

Reference Reading: Judges 13:2-24

Memory Verse: I will give careful heed to the perfect way... (Psalm 101:2a)

Story Sample

Today we're going to learn about a boy named Samson. Samson was born in a really special way. He was born to parents who loved Jehovah and who followed Him. The Bible doesn't tell us the name of Samson's mom, but his dad was called Manoah. Before Samson was born, Manoah and his wife didn't have any children. But one day, the Angel of Jehovah appeared to Manoah's wife. The angel told her that she was going to have a son! He was talking about Samson! But the Angel of Jehovah also told her that she needed to follow some instructions while she was pregnant. She couldn't drink certain things, she couldn't eat certain things, and she couldn't cut the boy's hair once he was born.

That sounds kind of strange, doesn't it? But in the Bible, these were the rules given to the Nazarites. The Nazarites were a group of people who really loved Jehovah and who followed Him absolutely. Jehovah was setting Samson apart to be a Nazarite.

Manoah's wife became pregnant just like the Angel of Jehovah had said, and she followed Jehovah's word to her. She only ate the foods she was allowed to eat, and she only drank the things she was allowed to drink. She took care of herself and the baby growing inside of her by following these instructions.

Do you think following those instructions was easy? Sometimes isn't obeying harder than it sounds? When I was little, my mom taught me how to wash my hands. She took me to the sink, turned on the water, gave me some soap, and taught me to rub my hands together until they were clean. She gave me those instructions, but I have to be honest: I didn't follow those instructions every time. Sometimes I would just splash a little water on my hands and say I was done. [Storyteller insert your own story about following your parents' instructions.] It's hard to follow instructions for just one day or one week, but Manoah's wife did it for NINE MONTHS. She was pregnant for nine months, and she followed Jehovah's instructions the whole time! Wow! She really loved Jehovah and treasured His word!

When the baby was born, Manoah and his wife named him Samson, and as he grew up, he followed his mom's pattern. Jehovah had given his mom some instructions, and Samson's parents passed on those instructions to him. He didn't eat certain foods, he didn't drink certain drinks, he didn't do certain things, and he didn't cut his hair. He was a Nazarite. He was not like all his friends, who could do whatever they wanted. He was set apart unto God, and He followed the instructions his parents passed down to him from Jehovah, and Jehovah blessed him!

We can be like Samson when he was a child, too! Our parents love God and want to help us know Him and follow Him, just like Samson's parents did. When they give us instructions, we can practice to follow those, just like Samson followed the instructions his parents gave. Then we will receive God's blessing, too!

Beginner Level, Block 5, Week 9 Ruth—Making a Choice

<u>Point to Emphasize</u>: We can choose to be with the people of God.

Reference Reading: Ruth 1:1-18

Memory Verse: ... For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you dwell, I will dwell; and your

people will be my people, and your God will be my God. (Ruth 1:16b)

Story Sample

As we have gone through the book of Judges, we have heard stories about several people. We have heard about Judah, Deborah, Gideon and even Samson. But today we want to tell you a story about a woman during the time of judges. This woman's name is Ruth and she was not just any woman. She was a very special woman, do you know why? She was the great grandmother of King David, who was the ancestor of Jesus Christ.

First, we need to go back a little. Now, during the time of the judges, many things happened. And one thing that happened was that there was a famine. Can you tell me what a famine is? [Let the children answer.] That's right!

Now, there was a man named Elimelech. He had a wife, Naomi, and two sons. One day, because of the famine, he packed up his family and set out for Moab. The Moabites were not children of God, and they had nothing to do with God, so it was not the best place to go. But they went to the land of Moab and remained there. And then Elimelech died, leaving his wife Naomi and his children in a foreign land without any other family. This was a sad situation!

Eventually, Naomi's sons married women from Moab. One married a woman named Orpah and the other married a woman named Ruth. And they lived there for ten years. But guess what? Another sad situation! Naomi's sons both died! Poor Naomi! Not only had she lost her husband, but now she had lost her sons also. What would she do now?

It was hard to know what she should do next. But Naomi had heard something – she had heard that there was no longer a famine in Israel. God had visited His people in Judah and now they had food. This news had traveled all the way from Judah to Moab. This was a long way for news to travel, but it traveled all the way to Naomi.

When Naomi heard this good news, she rose up to return to her homeland. She desired the best for her daughters-in-law, so she told them to return to the homes they came from, speaking her desire that Jehovah would deal kindly with them and grant them rest in their own homes.

Orpah and Ruth wept when they heard this. They wanted to go with Naomi. They must have loved her. And she must have loved them also. Eventually Orpah returned to her parents' home. But Ruth still wanted to go with Naomi. She pleaded with Naomi to not make her leave. She told Naomi, "Wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you dwell, I will dwell; your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Where you die, I will die; and there will I be buried" (Ruth 1:16-17).

Now, doesn't this seem strange? Ruth was willing to leave her family, her friends, and the country she had grown up in just to be with Naomi. What a choice this was! She was willing to walk away from everything she was sure of and comfortable with! And even more than that, she was going to a place where she would probably not even be accepted. Remember, she was a Moabite, and

Moabites were not accepted by the Israelites. But she made a choice. She chose to go to be with the people of God.

Ruth was willing to leave the gods of the Moabites to follow Jehovah! She must have heard a lot about God from her mother-in-law. Naomi probably talked about God and her homeland and God's people even while she was in Moab. Ruth must have believed that He was the true God. I think she made the right choice to go, don't you? She chose God! She made the better choice. And God had something very special planned for Ruth in the Holy Land (Ruth 1:6, footnote 1) also.

Do you know that you are like Ruth even today? You made a choice to come to children's meeting this morning rather than do something else. Every time you go to a neighborhood meeting, or a Bible camp you are making a choice — a better choice. [Storyteller, ask the children for some examples of how they can choose to be with the people of God.]

Beginner Level, Block 5, Week 10 Boaz—Caring for Ruth

<u>Point to Emphasize:</u> It is noble to take care of others by bearing the responsibility for them.

Reference Reading: Ruth 4:1-22

Memory Verse: As for God, His way is perfect... (2 Samuel 22:31a)

Story Sample

When Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem, it was the beginning of the barley harvest. Ruth volunteered to go glean in the fields. Does anyone know what it is to glean? This was an Old Testament regulation that provided for the poor, the travelers, the orphans and the widows. During the harvest of the field the reapers were not allowed to go back in their steps so that there would always be some grain left behind for the poor (Dt. 24:19-21). The poor were then allowed to enter the field after the hired reapers, so that they could gather and keep the gleanings. This was God's way of caring for these people, and it was their right to work in this way. And this was what Ruth was going to do in order to care for herself and her mother-in-law, Naomi.

Now, Naomi had a relative, a relative of her husband Elimelech. His name was Boaz, and he was a man of great wealth, and a man who was for God. And it happened that it was in his field that Ruth was gleaning. Boaz came along beside the field and noticed Ruth gathering in the field. He asked his worker who she was, and the young man told Boaz that it was Ruth, a Moabite, who had come with Naomi from Moab. And then this young man spoke well of Ruth. He told Boaz that she was a very hard worker, and that she had been working hard all day, and had taken very little rest. This man had noticed how diligent she was. So he gave a good report about her.

Most people appreciate a hard worker. Have you ever had this happen at school? Your teacher gives a special word or reward to one of the children because she said they worked so hard on a project or a special assignment. And doesn't it make you feel really good when that child is you?! You feel good because you know you worked hard on that project, and you feel good because you know someone appreciated your hard work. [Storyteller, insert your own experience.]

Boaz appreciated that Ruth was such a hard worker. He appreciated the report he had heard about her, how she had taken such good care of Naomi, and how she had been willing to leave her family and home and come to a strange country. So he made sure she was taken care of as she worked. Ruth was so grateful. She felt unworthy to be treated so kindly.

Boaz knew that she had chosen God by coming to this land, and that Jehovah would surely bless her. Boaz was a very honorable man who responded to the good report about Ruth. He included her in the mealtime with the reapers, making sure that she had enough to eat, and even some extra. Then he instructed his young men to protect her as she worked, even allowing her to glean some of the standing grain. He also had the men break down some bundles that she could glean the best grain. He told them not to reproach her or rebuke her. He did the best he could to provide for this young woman.

Eventually, Boaz married Ruth and God honored this marriage. He blessed it by giving them a baby boy. This was a wonderful birth. The baby's name was Obed. This was the best family, don't you think? We have the grandma Naomi who returned to God's people, and the father Boaz who was an honorable man of God, and the mother Ruth who left all to be with God's people. What a great family for Obed!

And do you know, the story doesn't end here. Obed eventually became the father of Jesse, who was the father of David the king. And did you know that David was the ancestor of Jesus? So God was all along planning the best family to eventually bring in Jesus. God always has the perfect way. The story of Ruth is a wonderful story of God's care!