

Missing Out (continued)

Dad put his arm around Mom. "Mom is giving up what she wants in order to care for Grandma," he said to the kids. "That's a great example of the kind of love God shows us all the time. God loves us perfectly, even though it costs Him a great deal."

"Jesus gave Himself as a sacrifice for us on the cross," added Justin.

Dad nodded. "Yes, that was the ultimate act of selfless love."

While his parents discussed more plans, Asher was thinking hard. He knew Mom had to be disappointed, but she didn't look upset. "Maybe it's not always so bad to miss out on something when you can help someone else," Asher thought.

Asher decided he wanted to do something nice for Mom

when he got back from the waterpark. Maybe Erin, Justin, and Drew could help him think of a surprise for Mom.

Asher wasn't sure exactly what to do just yet, but he was sure about one thing: Mom would know how much they loved her! ■

Answer the story questions.

1. Why was Asher worried when his Grandma went to the hospital?
2. What did Asher's mom decide to do?
3. How did Asher's mom show love to both Grandma and the kids?



Ruth's Selfless Love

Ruth 1



An Israelite woman named Naomi and her husband decided to leave their home in the land of Judah. They went to live in the land of Moab. While they were in Moab, Naomi's two sons married women from Moab. One son married Ruth, the other married Orpah.

But then sad, hard things happened to Naomi while they were in Moab. First, Naomi's husband died. Then both of her sons died as well.

Naomi looked at the sad things in her life. She decided to go back to her relatives in Judah.

Ruth and Orpah got ready to go to Judah with Naomi.

Naomi did not know it yet, but this would be God's way of taking care of her.

The three women started traveling down the long road toward Judah. Naomi knew if Ruth and Orpah went to Judah, they would be strangers living in a new place.

Naomi urged Ruth and Orpah to go back to their families in Moab. She didn't want them to have a hard life with her.

But Ruth loved Naomi. Ruth knew that Naomi's God was the one true God. She trusted God.

"I will go with you," Ruth said to Naomi. "Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God." Ruth wanted to stay with Naomi even if it made Ruth's life harder.

Naomi did not see the ways God was showing His love to her. But God worked in Ruth's heart to show selfless love toward Naomi. It was an example of the kind of love God has for all people. ■



Missing Out

By Elizabeth Seagren

Don't forget to bring your swim goggles," Erin called up the stairs.

It was winter break and Asher was in his room packing for the family vacation. In three days Asher and his family were going to an indoor waterpark for an entire week. He could hardly wait to ride the fast water slides, float in the lazy river, and swim in the wave pool.

His sister, Erin, and his two older brothers, Justin and Drew, said they were glad Asher was finally tall enough to ride the big water slides with them.

"No more little kid slides for me," Asher said to himself.

His room was already messy, so it was hard to find the goggles. He was halfway under his bed when he heard Justin's voice behind him.

"Asher, we need to go," Justin's voice was urgent. "Grandma fell and she's at the hospital."

Asher crawled out from under his bed. He felt nervous.

"Is Grandma okay?" he asked.

"I don't know, but Dad's taking us all to the hospital now."

As they drove to the hospital, Asher felt torn. He was worried about Grandma. And he was also worried that they might not get to go to the waterpark now.

"Grandma is more important," Asher silently reminded himself. But he felt guilty. He really wanted to go to the waterpark.

Mom met them in the waiting room at the hospital. "Grandma fell and broke her hip," she said. "She's going to need surgery. It will be weeks before she can walk around without help."

Later the doctor came to talk to them. "Your grandma's surgery will be tomorrow. If everything goes



well, she might go home this weekend."

Asher's stomach dropped. "We're going to have to cancel the trip," he thought. He didn't want to say it out loud though.

Mom and Dad looked serious after the doctor left.

"Does this mean we can't go to the waterpark?" asked Drew.

"Well, we're going to have to figure out what to do," said Dad. "Grandma will need help at home for a while after surgery."

Asher felt like his exciting vacation was slowly slipping away. He sat down on a waiting room chair with a sigh.

"Let's pray about it," said Dad. Everyone closed their eyes as Dad asked God to give them wisdom to know what to do.

After they said, "amen," everyone was quiet for a few minutes.

Finally Mom said, "I think Dad should still take you kids to the waterpark. I'll stay home to help Grandma. I don't want all of you to miss out on the vacation!"

"But, Mom, that's not fair," Erin protested. "You were looking forward to going too!"

Mom smiled. "I would love to go. But I love Grandma, too, and I want to help her. Even if it means missing out on a fun vacation."

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God's Love for Us

Write one letter from the word **SELFLESS** in each space. Write the first letter in the first heart. Then write the second letter in the second heart. When you have written all the letters in the hearts, read the story.



Naomi, **Elimelech**, and their two  ons moved to the country of Moab.



The two sons married  Moabite women: **Orpah** and **Ruth**.



While they lived in Moab, **Elimelech** and the two sons died.

Naomi told her daughters-in-law to go back to their  amilies. **Naomi** would return to live in Bethlehem.



Orpah agreed and  eft **Naomi**. But **Ruth** would not leave.

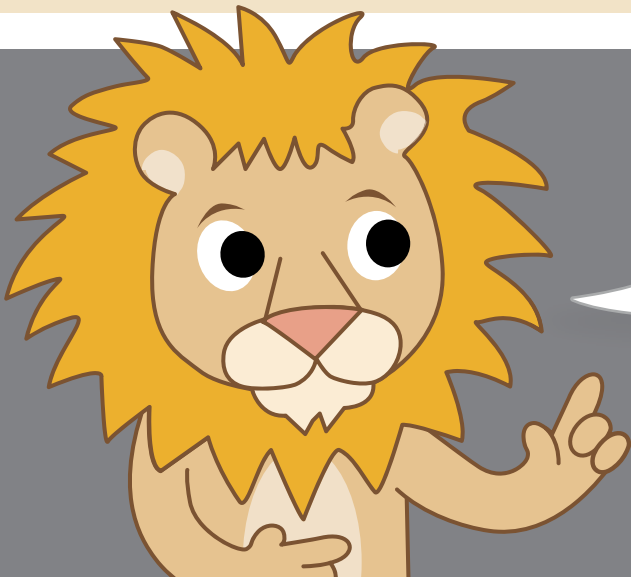
"Wherever you go, I will go," said **Ruth**. She  wanted to worship God the way **Naomi** did.



Ruth's love for **Naomi** was  like **God's** love for us.



God always cares for us  and will take care of us.



MEMORY VERSE

"Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you"
(Jeremiah 31:3).

All about God

Think of words that describe God. The word “love” is there to get you started. Write other words that describe God inside the heart shape. Or, if you’re feeling creative, write a poem about God’s love instead!



Growing at Home

The Primary lesson for this week introduced the concept of selfless love. Your child learned that God loves us selflessly, as exemplified through Ruth’s selfless love for Naomi. For some, this kind of sacrificial kindness may come naturally. But for others, thinking of others’ needs first is a struggle. Guide your child to notice when he or she can be kind to someone else, even if it may be inconvenient.



Measurables

Look for the following indicators that your child understands that God loves us with a selfless love.

1. **My child is motivated to love others because of God’s love.**
2. **My child thoughtfully considers what he or she can do to show kindness to someone else.**
3. **My child recognizes that God loves us perfectly no matter what.**



STRONG
kids at home