

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.

"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  sons 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  families. **Naomi** would return to live in Bethlehem.

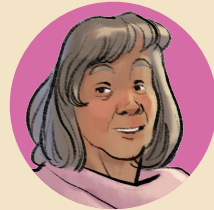


Orpah agreed and  left **Naomi**. But **Ruth** would not leave.

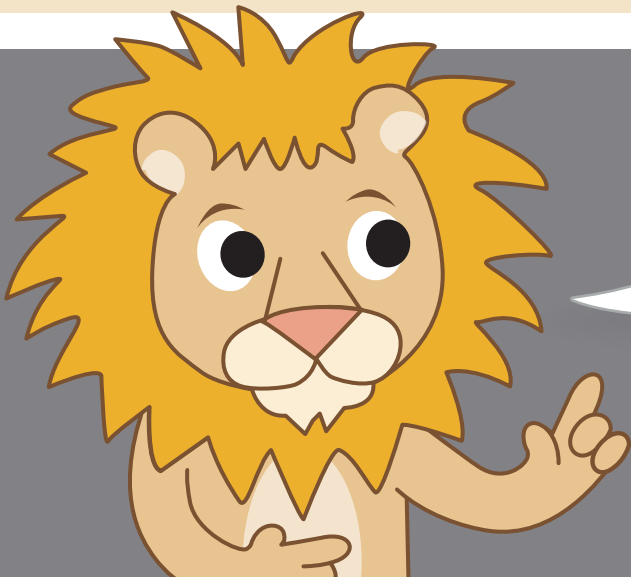
"Wherever you go, I will go," said **Ruth**. She  wanted to worship God the way **Naomi** did.



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

"I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to 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

Less and More (continued)

apart. Then he gave them safe jobs, like measuring boards. Soon three bookcases sat in the garage.

"Let's go for a walk," Julie said to James. When they got to the next block, Julie shouted in surprise. Someone had left a box at the end of a driveway. The box had "FREE" written on it. In the box was three cans of leftover paint.

"Wow!" Julie exclaimed. "One can is yellow!"

James picked up the box and Julie grinned the whole way home.

"Each paint can cost twenty dollars when it was new," Julie told Dad. "Now they are about half full of paint. So that means each can is worth about ten dollars!"

"Let's see," James said, "Three bookcases, free wood, and

three cans of free paint worth 30 dollars total. That means each bookcase cost ten dollars."

"Wrong!" Julie teased. "God supplied. They didn't cost us a penny!" ■

Answer the story questions.

1. What did the preschool need that Julie wanted to help with?
2. How did Julie get the supplies to build the bookcases?
3. Who really supplied Julie's needs so she could build the bookcases?



Ruth Reaped What She Sowed

Ruth 2



God loved Naomi and Ruth. He wasn't far away or too busy to take care of them. He was right there, loving them and providing for them. He had compassion to help them in their sadness and was happy to meet their needs.

Ruth and Naomi did not yet see how God was providing for them. They returned to Bethlehem around the time to harvest the food in the fields.

The two women did not have any fields of their own to harvest. But the people of Judah had a law to help poor people. The law said that the farmers should leave some of

their grain in their fields. That way, people who needed food could harvest some grain and have food.

Ruth decided to work in the fields to help Naomi. She went into a field and started working very hard to gather the leftover grain. After a while the owner of the field came to see the workers. His name was Boaz.

Boaz saw Ruth and asked who she was. He knew about Naomi's troubles and was impressed to see Ruth working hard to help her.

Boaz told his workers to be kind to Ruth. He gave Ruth food and water while she was working in his fields. He also gave her food to share with Naomi.

Ruth went home with a big basket of grain. She told Naomi about kind, caring Boaz.

As Naomi listened, her sad feelings began to change. She saw that God was taking care of her and Ruth. Naomi began to have faith in God's goodness again. ■

