

## **BIBLE TRUTH 7, LESSON 1: PLANNER/OVERVIEW**

### **GETTING STARTED: Welcome and Opening Songs** (*introduce unit and get kids moving with these songs*)

**Welcome to Praise Factory:** PFI: Praise Factory Investigators Theme Song *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 1*

**Rules to Help Us Worship God and Love One Another:** WoGoLOA Classroom Rules Song  
*PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 2*

**Big Question Under Investigation:** Big Question 12 Songs *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 3,4*

**Big Question Bible Verse:** Ephesians 5:1-2 Song *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 5*

### **DIGGING DEEP DOWN: Key Concept and Story** (*introduce the Bible Truth and tell the related story*)

**Bible Truth 7:** God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them

**Bible Truth Hymn:** Take My Life and Let It Be, vs.1-3 *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 20-22*

**Bible Verse:** Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8

**Bible Verse Song:** For We Are God's Workmanship *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 23*

**Lesson 1 Old Testament:** The Case of the Barley and the Bitter Woman *Ruth 1-4*

### **TAKING ACTION: Response Activities** (*choose from among these activities*)

**Snack and Discussion Planner:** Ruth's Barley and Bread

**ACTS Prayer:** Prayer Sheet

**Bible Truth Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Help the Blind Man

**Bible Truth Hymn:** Take My Life and Let it Be, v.4 *PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 20-22*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Word Take Away **PFI NIV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Bible Verse Review:** John 14:23-24 Discussion Sheet and Game: Hand Ball

**Bible Verse Song:** For We Are God's Workmanship: Ephesians 2:10; 6:7-8 *PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 23*  
Song, Sign Language and Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice **PFI NIV SONGS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**Story Review:** Discussion Questions and Game: Sticky Pad Search

**Case Replay, Jr: Drama Activity for Youngest Children** (children do same story actions together)

**Case Replay, Sr: Drama Activity for Most Children** (children re-tell story with individual parts)

**Craft:** Naomi, Ruth and the Barley Harvest

**VIPP (Very Important Prayer Person) Prayer Time:** Coloring Sheets (Back of Book) and Game: Mix and Match

### **TAKING IT HOME: Take Home Sheet for Review and Family Devotions**

**PFI Pronto:** Bible Truth 7, Lesson 1 **PFI NIV PRONTOS 12 BOOK or ONLINE**

**The Case of the Barley and the Bitter Woman** Ruth 1-4

by Connie Dever

**Our story is called:****The Case of the Barley and the Bitter Woman.****As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who was the bitter woman? Why?
2. What good works did God plan to do through the barley?

This story takes place during Old Testament times, in the times of the Judges, about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

Naomi with her husband, Elimelech and her two sons, Mahlon and Kilion, stood at the edge of the barley fields taking one last glance at the rows of dead, withered stalks standing lifelessly in the parched soil.

"Look at these crops!" Elimelech exclaimed. "The famine has taken our food for this year. We have no choice but to leave Bethlehem and find better land until the famine ends."

Sadly, the little family said good-bye to their friends and set off across the eastern mountains for the land of Moab. It was risky to leave one's land and people and settle in another country, but with Elimelech and his two sons to work hard for them, surely they would be able to grow all they needed.

They were right. Crops grew well in Moab. Elimelech and his family stayed there for ten years. Elimelech's family enjoyed the good food of Moab, but other troubles struck. Elimelech died; then both of the sons! Poor Naomi was left with nothing but the two Moabite wives of her sons, Orpah and Ruth. What was she to do?! There were no jobs for women to earn money in those days. There were no banks to loan you money. Women relied upon their husbands and sons to provide for their needs. Now Naomi had neither!

But Naomi wasn't all alone. the LORD was with her. He had provided for her all along through her husband and sons. He would go on providing for her. He had even prepared in advance the good work of providing for Naomi. And He would do it in His perfect way and in His perfect timing.

News soon reached Naomi that the famine in Judah had ended. She knew just what to do. "I will go back

home. It will be best for me to be back in my own land with my own people," she decided.

Orpah and Ruth helped Naomi prepare for the long trip home over the mountains. "Go back, to live with your parents. They will provide for you and hopefully you will soon get married again," Naomi told the two women, kissing them goodbye.

"No, We will go back with you to your people," they replied.

But Naomi said, "I have no sons to give you as husbands. Go start a new, good life for yourselves. Don't stay with me. The LORD is against me and my life is bitter," and the three women wept together again.

Naomi was right to be sad. She had lost her husband and her sons. But Naomi was not right to be bitter or hopeless. Was not her God the LORD, the One who ruled over all, who worked out all things according to His marvelous plans? Wasn't she one of His people? Didn't He love her? The LORD was calling Naomi to the good work of joy. She was not be bitter but put her hope in Him. For even though she was acting like all was hopeless, it was not. The LORD had prepared in advance good works for others to do for Naomi so that she would be well taken care of, as He was soon to show her.

Orpah kissed Naomi good-bye and started home, but Ruth wouldn't leave.

"Orpah is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her," Naomi told Ruth.

But Ruth replied, "Don't make me leave. I will go where you go. Your people will be my people, and your God my God. Nothing but death is going to separate you and me."

**Story-telling Tips**

## Ahead of time:

1. Read the Bible verses and story. Pray!
2. Create story cue cards on index cards (or highlight text).
3. Practice telling story dramatically, timing your presentation. Shorten, if necessary to fit your allotted time.
4. Decorate area with story props that help bring your story alive.

## During your presentation:

1. Maintain as much eye contact as possible as you tell the story. Point to/ use props at important points in the story. Include the kids in your story with a few questions about what they think will happen or words/concepts that might be new to them.
2. Watch the kids for signs that their attention span has been reached. Shorten, if necessary.

When Naomi saw that nothing she could say would change Ruth's mind, she and Ruth set off through the mountains of Moab for Bethlehem.

What a wonderful sight for Naomi's eyes were the golden stalks of barley swaying in the fields as they neared Bethlehem! News of Naomi's return spread quickly through the village.

"Can this be Naomi?" the women exclaimed as they looked at her. Naomi had left Bethlehem happy and full of life. Here she was sad and worn out.

"Yes, it is me," Naomi told them. But don't call me Naomi anymore. Naomi means "pleasant." Call me "Mara." It means bitter. "The Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. He has given me these hard times."

Naomi was acting like all was hopeless, but she was wrong. Hadn't the LORD already begun to show her that He had prepared in advance good works for others to do for her so that she would be provided for? Hadn't He given provided her with Ruth who promised to work and care for her all the days of her life? The LORD was calling Naomi to a good work, too. The good work of joy. She was to put her hope in Him.

Ruth set to work, caring for Naomi. Somehow she must get them food. With no money and no crops of their own, Ruth went down to gather up leftover grain in the fields of others. God's law commanded that farmers were to let the poor people do this, but many gave them a hard time. Ruth was not even an Israelite—she was from Moab, an enemy country! She would have to be brave and maybe even suffer to get food for them, but she was willing to do this for Naomi.

Things went much better than Ruth could have dreamed. For the same God who had prepared Ruth to do the good work of taking care of Naomi, had also prepared someone for good works to take care of Ruth. This someone was a godly, important man from Elimelech's own family. A man named Boaz. So, on the first day when Ruth courageously headed for the barley fields, the LORD led her straight to none other than then barley fields of Boaz.

All day under the hot, dry sun, Ruth looked for little barley grains among the dry stalks. Slowly her basket began to fill up. Ruth could have complained of the

heat and the ache in her back, but instead she was grateful for the food and happy to serve Naomi.

When Boaz came out to inspect the harvesters' work he noticed Ruth. "Who is that?" he asked the foreman.

"She's the Moabite woman who came with Naomi. She asked to gather grain in the field and has worked with hardly a break all day," he replied.

"Come here so I can talk with you," Boaz said to Ruth.

Ruth worried that Boaz was mad that she was gathering barley in his fields, but she was wrong. The LORD had sent Boaz to do the good work of caring for her.

"Stay and gather grain in my fields along with my servant girls. I won't let anyone harm you and when you are thirsty, drink from our water jars," Boaz told Ruth.

Ruth bowed with her face to the ground in thanks. "Why are you being so kind to me," Ruth asked Boaz.

"I've heard what you've done for Naomi. You left everything to serve her here, far away from your own country," Boaz replied. "The LORD bless you for all you have done and for choosing to trust in Him."

At mealtime Boaz gave Ruth bread dipped in wine vinegar and roasted grain to eat. Ruth couldn't believe Boaz's kindness to her!

Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. She threshed the barley she had gathered and carried it home.

Naomi was amazed at how much Ruth had. "Who let you collect all this grain from their field?" she asked.

"It was the field of Boaz," Ruth replied. And for the first time in a very long time, Naomi praised God for His care of her. "The LORD has done this for us! Of all the fields you could have worked in, He led you to work in Boaz', my husband's relative!"

Each day, Ruth went out to work in Boaz' fields. Each night, she brought home all the grain they needed and more. Day after day Boaz made sure that Ruth was taken care of. How good the LORD was to Naomi! He prepared good works for Ruth to do to take care of her. How good He was to Ruth, too. He had prepared good works for Boaz to do to help her, too.

This would be only the first of many good works God prepared for Boaz to do for Naomi and Ruth. Boaz bought back Elimelech's fields with his own money and gave them to Naomi. He married Ruth and took

both her and Naomi into his house to live. He provided for all their needs the rest of their lives. And who should the LORD give Ruth for a child and to Naomi as a grandson? None other than Obed, the very grandfather of King David...and the great, great, great, great, great...etc. grandfather of Jesus. How richly the LORD honored Ruth for her good works in His service! How wonderfully He had provided for Naomi—to even become the great, great, great, etc. grandmother of Jesus, Himself!

### Cracking the Case

**It's time to answer our Case Questions.**

#### Case Questions

**1. Who was the bitter woman? Why?**

Naomi. She was bitter because she lost her husband and sons and thought God had turned against her.

**2. What good works did God plan to do through the barley?**

God planned to provide food for Ruth and Naomi as well as a husband/son-in-law to take care of them. Through this family, Jesus would even come many years later.

### Something for You and Me

#### Our Bible Truth is:

**God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them**

**Our Bible Verse is: Ephesians 2:10, 6:6-8**

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

The LORD had prepared in advance good works for Naomi, Ruth and Boaz to do. Naomi's good work was to trust and rejoice in the LORD even in her sadness. Ruth was to leave behind her family and country and serve Naomi. Boaz' was to graciously care for Ruth and Naomi. Boaz and Ruth did their work well, while Naomi struggled with hers. I wonder if Naomi ever looked back and regretted that she had chosen not to rejoice and trust in the LORD in her sadness? I wonder if she wished she had done better the works the LORD had given her to do?

What about you and me? Like Boaz, Naomi and Ruth, we can become God's people. How? By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior. When we do this, not only will God forgive us our sins and make us His dear people, but He will have good works prepared for us, too. Let's praise God for offering us forgiveness of our sins. Let's praise Him for the good works He has prepared for His people. Let's ask Him to help us to trust in Jesus as our own Savior and give us good works to do that He has especially prepared for us to do in His service. Let's ask Him to help us know what those good works are each day and to help us to do them the best we can.

*Close in prayer.*

### Closing ACTS Prayer

**A** God, we praise You for being the provider for Your people even when it looks impossible.

**C** God, we confess that we, like Naomi, look at difficult situations and do not trust that You will be faithful. Instead, we become bitter or fearful. We all need a Savior!

**T** God, we thank You for Your great patience with Your people and Your great love for them, even when they doubt Your power and goodness.

**S** God, work in our hearts. Help us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Give us good works to do and to help us to take joy in You, even in the hardest times.

### Special Words

**Moab:** A mountainous country that lay on the other side of the Dead Sea from Israel. The Moabites and the Israelites were long-standing enemies.

**Barley:** A grain, like wheat, used to make bread and other food.

**Stalk:** The main, upright stem of a plant, like barley.

**Glean:** To collect something. Ruth gleaned barley from its stalks at harvest time.

# **ACTS PRAYER ACTIVITY**

Use this sheet to write down your ACTS Prayer

## **Instructions:**

Use this sheet to help the children apply the Bible Truth into a prayer. You can use the ACTS provided or even better, have the kids think of their own applications. Also have the children add their personal requests to the prayer, too. Lead the children in the prayer or let them pray sections, with your help. Never force a child to pray! Non-readers can participate by you whispering a section of the prayer into their ear and allowing them to pray it aloud for the group.

## **ADORATION:**

We praise You, God, for being the Planner of Good Works for Your People and the One Who Helps them do them.

God, we praise You for being.....

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Add your own Adorations:

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## **CONFESSION:**

We confess that we have been lazy and haven't done a good job doing the work You have given us, such as obeying our parents, loving and serving others, learning about You and Your world. We need You to save us from our sins!

God, we have sinned against You....

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Add your own Confessions:

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## **THANKSGIVING:**

Thank You, God for giving Your Holy Spirit to Your people to help them do the good works You have prepared for them to do. Thank You, God, for sending Your Son, Jesus, the One who did everything God gave Him to do perfectly, so He could be our Savior.

God, we thank You for...

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Add your own Thanksgivings:

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## **SUPPLICATION:**

Work in our hearts, God. Help us to turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our own Savior. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, who can help us to know and to do the good works You want us to do.

God, we need Your help...

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Add your own Supplication:

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## **SNEAKY SNACK**

Can you figure out how this snack ties in with our case?

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### **Snack: Ruth's Barley and Bread**

Pita or Afghan Bread, similar to what they would have made, with optional wine vinegar for dipping. Also could skillet roast barley or pine nuts (or have them try soup with barley in it.)

This is only a suggestion. Feel free to modify. Be mindful of allergy issues among your children!

Case Tie-in: God prepared many good works for Ruth to do to help Naomi, including collecting barley for them to eat as grains and as bread.

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## **SOUL FOOD**

Food for thought during snack time

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1. What does the snack have to do with the story?

Choose a few questions from the other activity discussion sheets to talk about during this snack time.

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Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

### **God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them**

God created all people to be busy at work. He made them with bodies, minds and hearts that are active, like to create and want to be at work. They all have different talents and abilities that they can use. God wants people to use all of these gifts to do good works. That is, to better know, love and obey Him; and, to love and serve others. And, to explore, use and delight in the world He has made, for our good and His glory.

The Bible tells us that ahead of time, God prepared special good works of these kinds for each of His people He wove their good works into His great and glorious plans for the world. God even has work for children to do. He wants them to obey their parents, and love and serve others. He wants them to turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He wants them to take time to know Him through reading His Word, the Bible and through praying. He wants them to learn about Him and the world He has made.

God has prepared special good works for each of His people. No two will do exactly the same things. But, no matter what the work God has prepared for them, He wants them to do it all as if they are doing it for Him.

God promises to reward His people for whatever good they do. God's people know that they cannot do the good works God has prepared for them on their own. They know that God sends the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts and help them do the good works He has planned for them to do.

### **Understanding the Bible Truth**

1. What did God create people to be busy at? *Work.*
2. What did God create our bodies, minds and hearts to do? *To be active, to create and to want to be at work.*
3. Did God create everyone to do the same things? *No. He created everyone with different talents and abilities.*
4. What does God want people to use all of their gifts to do? *To do good works.*
5. What are the good works that God wants us to do? *To better know, love and obey Him; and, to love and serve others. And, to explore, use and delight in the world He has made, for our good and His glory.*
6. What did God plan for each of His people? When did He plan them? *Good works for them to do. He planned them in advance.*
7. What work does God have for children to do? *To obey their parents, love and serve others, learn about God and His world, repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, take time to know God and His Word.*
8. What can God's people do that pleases Him? *Do well the work He has given them.*
9. Who are we also serving when we are at work? *God.*
10. What does God promise to reward? *Whatever good His people do.*
11. Can God's people do the good works God has prepared for them on their own? *No.*
12. Who helps God's people do the good works God has prepared for them to do? *The Holy Spirit working in their hearts.*

### **Story Connection Questions**

1. What good works did the LORD have prepared for Naomi, Ruth and Boaz? *Naomi: to praise and trust Him to provide for her, even though she had lost her husband and sons. Ruth: to serve Naomi and be Boaz' wife. Boaz: to be kind and generous to Ruth and Naomi; to be Ruth's new husband.*

### **Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does our Bible Truth have to do with our **Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8**: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does...?"

*This verse reminds us that God has prepared good works in advance for His people to do. It also tells us that God's people are God's workmanship. That means that He is the one that is at work in them, making them like Jesus and helping them to do the good works God prepared for them to do.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for because of this Bible Truth?

*Praise God for being the Planner of Good Works for His People.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God because of this Bible Truth?

*Confess ways that we have been lazy or not done a good job doing the work God has given us, such as obeying our parents, loving and serving others, learning about God and His world.*

3. What is something we can thank God for because of this Bible Truth?

*Thank God for giving the Holy Spirit to His people to help them do the good works God has prepared for them to do.*

4. What is something we can ask God for because of this Bible Truth?

*Ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to turn away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior. Ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit, helping us to know and to do the good works He wants us to do, the best we can.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that they like to do? *He might have planned for them to use their talents and abilities to serve others.*

2. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that is hard? *Helping someone who is unkind to them. Doing jobs that aren't fun but are really helpful to others, such as taking care of someone who is sick, sharing your things or money with them when you would like to keep them yourself, or even telling someone the good news of Jesus when they may not want to hear that they are sinners who need God's forgiveness. Also, obeying God even when they don't really want to; and trusting and taking joy in Him, even during hard times.*

3. How does it help God's people to know that the LORD will reward them for whatever good they do? *Even if whoever they do the good work for doesn't appreciate what they do, they know that God sees their good work and will not forget it, but reward it one day.*

4. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

**The Gospel**

1. Even the best of our good works will not save us from our sins? Is there hope for us? What is the gospel?

*God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!*



## Game: Help the Blind Man

### Materials

Blindfold

Cane

Bible Truth Questions

Bag/Bowl

### Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Bible Truth Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. Write the Bible Truth questions on small thin strips of paper (or make a photocopy of the Bible Truth Discussion Questions and simply cut them into strips) and put them in the bag/bowl.

### Playing the Game

Children form a circle, with "It", a blind man, in the center. The circle moves slowly to the left or to the right at the Blind Man's command. Then, the Blind Man says, "Halt!" Everyone in the circle stands still. The Blind Man then begins walking out towards the circle of children, GENTLY touching his cane out until he touches someone. When he does, the blind man gets to choose a question from the bag for the teacher to read to the class. When they get a correct answer, the blind man gives up his blindfold to the other child who becomes the blind man, while the former blind man joins the circle.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

### Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to song in large print before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

**Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song**

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the song ties in with the Bible Truth.

**Take My Life and Let It Be**

**Verse 1**

Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love,  
At the impulse of Thy love.

**Verse 2**

Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee;  
Take my voice and let me sing  
Always, only for my King,  
Always, only for my King.

**Verse 3**

Take my silver and my gold;  
Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 12, Tracks 20-22

**Understanding the Song**

1. What does it mean to ask God to take your life and consecrate it to Him? *To consecrate something means to set something apart for a special purpose. Asking God to take your life and consecrating it to Him means to have Him use your life to do something special just for Him.*
2. What does it mean to let your hands move at the impulse of God's love? *To do things that display God's love to others.*
3. What kinds of things could we do with our hands that display God's love? *Love to God: lift our hands in praise of God; write down words that praise God; make beautiful things that reflect His glory, etc. Love to others: serve them and take care of their needs; give them hugs; make them encouraging cards; etc.*
4. What does it mean for God to make our feet swift and beautiful for God? *Swift: To obey quickly whatever God wants us to do; Beautiful: Not have good-looking feet, but to go places and do things that show our love for God and others. In the Bible, people who are willing to go to faraway places to tell others about Jesus are said to have "beautiful feet" because they bring the news of salvation—what people need most of all.*
5. What does it mean to have your voice only sing for the King? *It doesn't just mean only sing Christian songs. It means whatever you sing—or even say—it something that pleases God by how it glorifies Him or is an encouragement to others.*
6. What does silver and gold mean? *Silver and gold means money and all the things that God has given you.*
7. What is a mite and why does the songwriter not want to withhold it from the Lord? *A mite is a very small amount of something. He is saying that he wants God to use all of his money and things to do good works that honor Him and serve others.*
8. What does "ceaseless" mean? *How does one let their moments and days "flow" in ceaseless praise? Ceaseless means never to stop. The songwriter is wanting everything he does with his life to be so pleasing to God with its good works and love for Him that it is like he is always praising God.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. How does this song relate to our Bible Truth: **God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them?** *When we offer our lives, our wills, our voices, our hands, our feet, etc. to God's service, we are seeking for God to help us to do all the good works He has prepared for us.*

**Story Connection Questions**

1. How does this song relate to today's story? *Naomi struggled give her voice, her days to the Lord as a good work of ceaseless praise. But, God in his incredible kindness still prepared many good works of their hands, their lives, and their feet to provide for Naomi.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. How can God's people be affected by this song? *They can praise God for preparing good works for them that they may praise Him with all of their lives. They can ask Him to help them to use every part of their lives to do these good works as best as they can so that they might result in ceaseless praise of Him.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

**Bible Verse Connection Question**

1. What does this hymn have to do with our Bible Verse: **Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8**: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."?

*We are all sinners. We are unworthy of God's forgiveness. But God is faithful and just...and oh, so, merciful. He sent Jesus to save all who confess their sins to Him, turn away from their sins, and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God's people know that God has forgiven them and not through any easy way, but through the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross. When they think about how Jesus, the very Son of God, died to save them, they wonder at His glorious love and their own unworthiness.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for from this hymn? *Praise God for being the good King over all of heaven and earth.*
2. What are sins we can confess to God from this hymn? *That many times we don't want to use our lips, our hands, our feet, our silver or gold to serve Him but to serve ourselves. We deserve His punishment! We need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for from this hymn? *We can thank God that we do not have to do these good works on our own—that would be impossible anyway! But, that we can ask God to take our lives and work in our hearts and help us to do good works of our lips, hands, feet, silver and gold to His glory.*
4. What is something we can ask God for from this hymn? *That God would work in our hearts that we confess our sins, might turn from our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior. We can ask God to take our lives and make everything we do be a good work to His glory.*

**Gospel Question**

1. What is the best first step God calls all people to take to consecrate their lives to the Lord? Why do they need to take this step? What is the gospel?

*God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!*

## **Song Game: Word Take Away**

### **Materials**

Sign Language Signs and Song

White board and marker

Eraser

### **Preparing the Game**

1. Write the words to the song on a white board.

### **Playing the Game**

1. After children have learned the song and signs well, then tell the children that you are going to leave out words from the song (that you've learned signs for) and just do the sign in its place.
2. Have the children help you choose a word to take out. Erase the word from the board. Review the sign the for erased word.
3. Sing the song, trying to remember to NOT sing the word and do only the sign.
4. Continue to take out words until all of the words (with signs) have been taken out.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.

choose a FEW questions for discussion, then choose the game and/or music activity

**Meditation Version: Ephesians 2:10; 6:6-8**

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does..."

**Alternate Memory/Games Version: Ephesians 2:10**

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

**Understanding the Bible Verse**

1. What does "workmanship" mean? *Something that is made by someone.*
2. Whose workmanship are Christians? *God's.*
3. What does it mean that they are "created in Christ Jesus?" *Everything is created by God, but Christians are called new creations. They've been made into God's special people, with His Holy Spirit living in their hearts. This is because they have received forgiveness for their sins by trusting in Jesus' payment for sins when He died on the cross. It is only because Jesus died in their place that they have been made God's special people. That's why they are said to be created in Christ Jesus.*
4. What were Christians created to do? *Good works which God prepared in advance for them to do.*
5. What is a good work? *Any thoughts, words, actions done that please God and love and serve others.*
6. How are Christians to serve others? *Wholeheartedly, as if they were serving the Lord, Himself.*
7. What does "wholeheartedly" mean? *With your whole heart; in other words, doing your very, very best.*
8. What will the Lord reward His people for? *Whatever good they do.*

**Bible Truth Connection Question**

1. What does this verse have to do with the **Bible Truth: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them?**

*These verses tell us that God has prepared good works in advance for His people to do. It also tells us that God's people are God's workmanship. That means that God is the one that is at work in them, making them like Jesus and helping them to do the good works He prepared for them to do. God's people have so much to rejoice about! Not only has God chosen special things He will do through them, but He will give them the strength and wisdom to do them all. How can they not succeed with God at work in them! We can become God's people when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior!*

**Story Connection Questions**

1. What does the verse have to do with our story? *What good works did the Lord have prepared for Naomi, Ruth and Boaz? Naomi: to not be bitter, but have faith that God would take care of her (to display that faith that others might see God's glory through her faith); Ruth: serve her mother-in-law, even when it required doing hard work and possibly facing insults/harm; also, be cheerful in her work; Boaz: To be kind and generous to Ruth and Naomi; marry Ruth.*

**Life Application Questions**

1. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that they like to do? *He might have planned for them to use their talents and abilities to serve others.*
2. What kind of good work might the Lord have prepared for God's people that is hard? *Helping someone who is unkind to them. Doing jobs that aren't fun but are really helpful to others, such as taking care of someone who is sick, sharing your things or money with them when you would like to keep them yourself, or even telling someone the good news of Jesus when they may not want to hear that they are sinners who need God's forgiveness. Also, obeying God even when they don't really want to; and trusting and taking joy in Him, even during hard times.*
3. How does it help God's people to know that the LORD will reward them for whatever good they do? *Even if whoever they do the good work for doesn't appreciate what they do, they know that God sees their good work and will not forget it, but reward it one day.*
4. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for from this Bible Verse?

*Praise God for being the One who works in His people the good works He has prepared for them. They do not have to do them on their own.*

2. What are sins we can confess to God from this Bible Verse?

*That many times we do not want to do the good works that God calls us to do. We want to serve ourselves, not Him. Or, we might do them, but we don't do them wholeheartedly.*

3. What is something we can thank God for from this Bible Verse?

*We can thank God preparing in advance good works for each of His people. He gives to each of them specific ways to serve Him and gives them the strength to them.*

4. What is something we can ask God for from this Bible Verse?

*We can ask God to work in our hearts that we would want to confess our sins, turn away from disobeying Him and trust in this wonderful Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and help us to know and do wholeheartedly the good works He has prepared..*

**The Gospel**

1. We are sinners who on our own do not want to serve God wholeheartedly as He deserves. How can we receive God's forgiveness? How can we change? What is the gospel? *God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!*

**Game: Hand Ball****Materials**

Bible verse written up in large print so that all can see  
A soft-surfaced, medium sized ball, such as a foam ball

Masking tape

Paper and markers

Helpful, but optional: colored team “pennies” (jerseys) to identify members of each team.

Team A Player	Team B Player	Team A Player	Team B Player	Team A Player
Team B Player	Team A Player	Team B Player	Team A Player	Team B Player

**Preparing the Game**

1. Clearly print out the words to the verse on paper and cut it into 10+ sections. Number each section in sequence. Place each section in Easter eggs of the same color. Print out another copy of the verse, also numbered sequentially on another piece of paper. Repeat for each team.
2. Partition the floor into even sections as shown in the diagram above

**Learning the Verse**

Some or all of your children may be non- or early readers. Teach the verse in sections, having them say it after you. Repeat a few times. Add clapping or other movement as they say it.

**Directions**

1. If desired, lead the children in a discussion of a **FEW** of the most important questions before beginning game.
2. Explain the game to them as follows:  
Divide the children into two teams and have them put on pennies. Give each child a section and alternate players from each team. Explain to them that everyone will say the verse together, then when you say “go,” they are to roll the ball out of their sections each time it rolls in until time is called. The person who has the ball in his section when time is called can win 2 points for his team if he can say the verse by himself. If he asks someone else from his team to help him, then he can earn 1 point. If he does not get it right, then someone from the other team can try to say it for 1 point.

If desired, you can have less but bigger sections and put 2 team members in each section, that way two children will work together to keep the ball out and recite the verse.

Game continues as time and attention span allow.

**Non-competitive Option**

Don't split the children into teams. Give the children a group target amount of points to earn and challenge them to try to make the target amount in as few turns as possible. Always give two points to the class for getting the verse right, even if they have a partner help them.

**Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions**

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children. Make sure you read the Bible verse aloud before you ask your questions.

Directions:

1. Write words to the song in large print on a white board or some large paper before class.
2. Play the song for the children, helping them follow along on the song sheet.
3. Discuss the song, using a few questions from the discussion sheet. *Don't use them all!*
4. Introduce sign language for key words of your choice from the sign language sheet for your song. Use as few or as many as you think the children can learn.
5. Sing and sign the song. Sign language as well as large format lyrics and sheet music are found in the PFI Unit Songbook or online.
6. If desired, play the Song Game.

**Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Presenting and Singing the Song**

1. Sing and sign the song, encouraging the watching children/parents to join in.
2. Ask the class some of the questions listed below. The Bible Truth Connection Question is particularly good to help them understand how the verse ties in with the Bible Truth.

**For We Are God's Workmanship**

**Refrain**

For we are, For we are,  
For we are God's workmanship.  
Created in Christ Jesus to do good works,  
Which God prepared in advance for us to do.

For we are, For we are,  
For we are God's workmanship.  
Created in Christ Jesus to do good works,  
Ephesians Two, ten; Six, seven and eight.

For we are, for we are,  
For we are God's workmanship,  
Serve wholeheartedly,  
As if you were serving the Lord, not men,  
The Lord will reward ev'ryone for the good he does.

**Listen to it on PFI NIV Songs 12, Track 23**

## Song Game: Big Voice, Little Voice

### Materials

Song  
Sign language signs used in the song printed out onto little cards  
Blindfold

### Preparing the Game

None.

### Playing the Game

1. Practice the song and signs until the children know them well. Then tell them: "Children, we are going to hide a sign language sign and see if one of you can find it... with a little help from the rest of us!"
2. Choose someone to be "It" and blindfold them. Choose another child to hide one of the sign language cards. When it's hidden, "It" can remove the blindfold and begin to look.
3. The rest of the children will sing the song in a louder voice when "It" gets closer to the hidden sign and quieter when "It" gets further from the sign.
4. When "It" finds the hidden clue, another "It" is chosen and play begins again.

Game continues as number of questions, time, and attention span allow.



Directions: Read and discuss Bible Truth, using a FEW of the questions. Play game. Feel free to modify the game to fit your children.

### General Story Questions

1. Why did Elimelech decide to leave Bethlehem and go to Moab? *There was a severe famine and his family had no food. He decided to go there to try to raise crops there instead.*
2. How long did Elimelech plan to stay in Moab? *Only a little while.*
3. Why was Moab a better place to live than Bethlehem at the time? *The famine hadn't hit Moab. Crops could grow well there.*
4. What happened to Naomi in Moab that made her so sad? *Her husband and two sons died, leaving her with no men to care for her.*
5. Why was Naomi so worried about how she would survive? *There were not jobs for women to do to make money like there are today. Women were taken care of by their husbands and sons. With neither, Naomi had no one to provide for her.*
6. Why was it right for Naomi to be sad, but wrong for her to be bitter and hopeless? *It was very sad that she lost her husband and sons, but she should have chosen to do the good work of rejoicing and trusting in the Lord. She knew He could take care of her.*
7. How did the Lord first provide for Naomi? *Through hearing about Ruth's unwillingness to leave her and promise to take care of her all her life.*
8. Why were the people of Bethlehem shocked when they saw Naomi? *Because she had left happy and in plenty, with a husband and two sons. Now she returned sad, worn, empty-handed, and bitter with only her Moabitess daughter-in-law.*
9. Why good work that the Lord had prepared did Naomi chose to NOT do when she told everyone to call her Mara, instead of Naomi? *The chance to glorify God by trusting in Him and taking joy in Him, even though she did not know how she would be taken care of.*
10. What good works did Ruth do for Naomi? *Helped her go back to Bethlehem, promised to always take care of her, helped her set up house, willing to work long and hard in the fields of strangers (and maybe face insults or harm) so that she could have food, gave her a grandson.*
11. What good works did God prepare for Boaz to take care of Ruth? *Treated her kindly and even gave her extra grain from his fields, fed her food and gave her water with his workers, took care of Naomi, married her.*
12. Why was the good work that the Lord gave Naomi so difficult for her? *She had to trust that God really loved her and would take care of her, even though some very sad things had happened to her.*

### Bible Truth Connection Questions

1. What does this story have to do with our Bible Truth: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them? *The LORD gave Naomi, Ruth and Boaz each very different good works to do.*

### Life Application Questions

1. What kinds of good works of the heart, of the mouth, of our hands and feet has God already prepared for His people today? *Answers will vary. Help them think of who God has put around them and circumstances they are in that are opportunities for good works.*
2. How can we become God's people? *By turning away from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior.*

### Bible Verse Connection Question

1. What does the story have to do with our **Bible Verse: Ephesians 2:10; 6:7-8**: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do...do[ing] the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does...?"

*The LORD prepared good works for Naomi, Ruth and Boaz. For Naomi: to not be bitter, but have faith that God would take care of her (to display that faith that others might see God's glory through her faith); For Ruth: serve her mother-in-law, even when it required doing hard work and possibly facing insults/harm; also, be cheerful in her work; For Boaz: To be kind and generous to Ruth and Naomi; marry Ruth.*

**ACTS Questions**

1. What is something we can praise God for being that we learned in our story? *Praise God for being the provider of His people even when it looks impossible.*
2. What is something we can confess as sin that we learned in our story? *Confess that we, like Naomi, look at difficult situations and do not trust that God will be faithful. Instead, we become bitter or fearful. We deserve God's punishment. We all need a Savior!*
3. What is something we can thank God for that we learned in our story? *We can thank God for His great patience with His people and His great love for them, even when they doubt His power and goodness.*
4. What is something we can ask God for that we learned in our story? *We can ask God to work in our hearts, helping us to confess our sins, turn away from them and trust Jesus as our own Savior. We can ask Him to give us good works to do and to help us to take joy in Him, even in the hardest times.*

**The Gospel**

1. God planned for Boaz and Ruth to have a child through whose family would one day come Jesus, the one whom God prepared to do the greatest good work for His people. What did Jesus do? What is the gospel? *God is the good Creator and King of the world. He made people to worship and obey Him. That is the right way to live and the best way to live. Yet all people have chosen to rebel against God. They have chosen to live life their own way. They all deserve God's eternal punishment for their disobedience. Yet God is so rich in mercy and love! He sent His Son Jesus to earth to live a perfect life and offer up His life as the complete and perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever say no to sinning, confess their sins to God and trust in Jesus as their Savior. God raised Jesus up from the dead on the third day, showing that God had accepted Jesus' sacrifice. Now to all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior, God promises to forgive them their sins and make them His very own special people who will know Him and enjoy Him forever. If we do this, then God will forgive us and make us His own special people! He will fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we know Him, love Him and live for Him more and more! And one day, He will bring us to live with Him in heaven, forever happy!*

## Game: Sticky Pad Search

### Materials

Re-stickable scratch pad sheets

Paper and marker

20+ Story Review Questions and other story review questions

### Preparing the Game

1. Choose 20+ questions for your game from the Story Review Discussion Questions, or make up your own.
2. On the sticky pads write various point values, from 1 to 4...with perhaps two 10's thrown in for fun. Make perhaps 50 of these point values. Stick these all over the room, high, low, unusual places. Place the two 10 point sticky pad sheets in the most unusual spots.

### Playing the Game

Divide the children into two teams and have them sit in two lines. At the leaders signal the first child from Team A will get up and have 10 seconds to gather as many point values as he can and get back to his spot. If successful, then that will be the point value for the Story Review question you ask the team. If the team answers the question correctly, they get the point values. If not, then the other team can try to answer it for half the point value. If a player doesn't get back to his spot before time is called, then he loses all his points (they are replaced to their spots) and it is the other team's turn. Play then resumes with the first player from Team B, etc.

Play continues as Story Review cards last, or as time and attention span allow.

### Non-competitive Option

Don't split into teams. Set a target point value for the children to reach together. Tell the children that they are going to work together and see how many turns it takes to reach the target point value. Have the children take turns gathering the point values and everyone together answering the question. If they get it right, then the group keeps the points. If not, then they are returned to their spots. Keep track of how many turns it takes to reach the target point value. Replace all of the sticky pads and play again, seeing if the group can make the target in less turns.

### Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Quiz Questions

Have the children choose a few of the questions from the game to ask the parents/other children during TAKING IT TO OTHERS time. Help pre-readers by whispering the question in their ear and letting them ask it aloud to the parents/other children.

**CASE REPLAY ACTIVITIES**

Use this guide to review the Case Story and act it out for others to enjoy!

**CASE REPLAY, JR: YOUNGEST CHILDREN**

**Description:** The children will act out the story together, everyone doing the same action/sound effect at the same time. This activity is most suitable for kindergarteners.

**Materials**

The Case RePlay, Jr. script for younger children

**Preparation**

1. Read through the script and write in the blanks along the side possible actions/sound effects the children could do to act it out.

**Instructions**

1. Tell the children that they will be re-enacting the story together as you tell it.
2. As you read the script, lead the children in actions/sound effects to do with you.
3. If desired, you can read the script and stop at certain sentences and ask them what a good action/sound effect would be to act out what you just read.
4. Repeat the re-enactment one or two times more.

**CASE REPLAY, SR: OLDER CHILDREN**

**Description:** The children act out the story as a three-scene play. You will narrate it using the Case RePlay, Sr. script and they will act it out (no spoken words, for the most part), with each child assuming a different character's role. This activity is most suitable for first grade and up. You will review the story, then practice it a few times before performing it for others.

**Materials**

The Case RePlay, Sr. script  
White board or other large format paper  
Costumes and props

**Preparation**

1. Prepare for the play by choosing costumes and props for each character in the story. Decorate the area with any scenery props.
2. Write the words "Beginning," "Middle," "End" on a large piece of paper/whiteboard with plenty of space under each heading. You will use this paper to help the children think about the story as a three-scene play, as it is presented in the script.

**Instructions**

1. Tell the children that they will get to act out the story as a three-scene play, with a beginning, middle and end section. Tell them that before they can act it out, they need to think it out. as you narrate it with your script.
2. Take the children's answers as they recount the story, helping them put key incidents in the right order.
3. If desired, when they have filled in their Beginning, Middle, End, read through your whole (real) script, so they hear exactly what you will have them act out.
4. Then tell the children that it's time to practice acting out the story.
5. Assign parts to each child. If you are using costumes, do NOT give them out at this point. They will be a distraction.
6. Have all the children sit on the floor or in chairs on one side of the "stage," then call the characters up in place as their part in the story comes.
7. As you read the script, guide the children in where you want them to move or do to act it out.
8. After going through the whole script once, give out any costumes and props and act out the script once or twice more.

**Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Re-enacting the Story**

Read the script as the children act out together (younger) or assuming different roles (older) as the other children or the parents watch.

**CASE REPLAY, JR--YOUNGER KIDS (KINDERGARTEN) P.2**

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Bitter Woman and the Barley.

Our story takes place in Bethlehem, in Israel and in the nearby country of Moab. It takes places during Old Testament times, in the times of the Judges, about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

And now we present: "The Case of the Bitter Woman and the Barley."

**Scene 1:**

**Actions:**

Elimelech, Naomi and their two sons decide they must leave Bethlehem for Moab because of the famine that has killed all the crops. They say goodbye to friends and promise to return when the famine is over. Moab has no famine and plenty of food, while the famine in Bethlehem continues for 10 years. Elimelech dies and then both of the sons, leaving Naomi with only her sons wives, Orpah and Ruth. Naomi is so sad! She wonders how she will survive with no sons or husband to take care of her. She tells Orpah and Ruth to go back to their parents to be taken care of and to find new husbands. Naomi plans to go back to Bethlehem now that the famine is over. She is sad and bitter about what has happened to her. She had many reasons to be sad, but not bitter. God was giving her the good work of joyfully trusting Him.

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**Scene 2:**

Orpah leaves Naomi, but Ruth clings to her, refusing to leave. She swears that she will take care of Naomi and follow the LORD all of her life. Naomi finally gives in and lets Ruth go with her. After a long journey through the Moab mountains, they come to Bethlehem. The fields are full of barley ready to be harvested. No one can believe that Naomi is the same person who left them 10 years earlier! She is so sad, worn-out and empty-handed. Naomi tells them to call her "Mara" because her life is bitter now. She refuses to see how God has been providing for her through Ruth and be joyful in Him.

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**Scene 3**

Ruth works hard for Naomi. She joyfully goes out to pick up leftover barley grains in the fields, even though she may face unkind words and even harm from the field owners or workers. The LORD takes care of Ruth by guiding her to the fields of Boaz—an important, godly man who is a relative of Elimelech. When Boaz finds out who Ruth is and what she has done for Naomi, he helps her by letting her stay in his fields, giving her extra grain, giving her food. When Naomi hears about Boaz' kindnesses to Ruth, at last she praises God for how He has provided for her in the good works of others. Boaz does even more good things for the two women: He buys Elimelech's field for Naomi, marries Ruth and takes care of them in his house the rest of their lives. Ruth and Boaz' first son is the grandfather of David and great, great, etc. grandfather of Jesus.

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**Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Do Good Works God Prepared for Them.** The LORD gave Naomi, Ruth and Boaz each very good works to do, just like He does for all His people. If we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, we will be His people. He will have good works for each of us to do, too.

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## **CASE REPLAY, SR--OLDER KIDS (1ST GRADE AND UP) P.3**

Welcome to our play! The name of our story is called: The Case of the Bitter Woman and the Barley.

Our story takes place in Bethlehem, in Israel and in the nearby country of Moab. It takes places during Old Testament times, in the times of the Judges, about 1000 years before Jesus lived on earth.

The characters in our story today are: Elimelech, Naomi, Kilion, Mahlon, Orpah, Naomi, Boaz, and the people of Bethlehem.

And now we present: "The Case of the Bitter Woman and the Barley."

### **Scene 1: (Beginning)**

Elimelech, Naomi and their two sons decide they must leave Bethlehem for Moab because of the famine that has killed all the crops. They say goodbye to friends and promise to return when the famine is over. Moab has no famine and plenty of food, while the famine in Bethlehem continues for 10 years. Elimelech dies and then both of the sons, leaving Naomi with only her sons wives, Orpah and Ruth. Naomi is so sad! She wonders how she will survive with no sons or husband to take care of her. She tells Orpah and Ruth to go back to their parents to be taken care of and to find new husbands. Naomi plans to go back to Bethlehem now that the famine is over. She is sad and bitter about what has happened to her. She had many reasons to be sad, but not bitter. God was giving her the good work of joyfully trusting Him.

### **Scene 2: (Middle)**

Orpah leaves Naomi, but Ruth clings to her, refusing to leave. She swears that she will take care of Naomi and follow the LORD all of her life. Naomi finally gives in and lets Ruth go with her. After a long journey through the Moab mountains, they come to Bethlehem. The fields are full of barley ready to be harvested. No one can believe that Naomi is the same person who left them 10 years earlier! She is so sad, worn-out and empty-handed. Naomi tells them to call her "Mara" because her life is bitter now. She refuses to see how God has been providing for her through Ruth and be joyful in Him.

### **Scene 3: (End)**

Ruth works hard for Naomi. She joyfully goes out to pick up leftover barley grains in the fields, even though she may face unkind words and even harm from the field owners or workers. The LORD takes care of Ruth by guiding her to the fields of Boaz—an important, godly man who is a relative of Elimelech. When Boaz finds out who Ruth is and what she has done for Naomi, he helps her by letting her stay in his fields, giving her extra grain, giving her food. When Naomi hears about Boaz' kindnesses to Ruth, at last she praises God for how He has provided for her in the good works of others. Boaz does even more good things for the two women: He buys Elimelech's field for Naomi, marries Ruth and takes care of them in his house the rest of their lives. Ruth and Boaz' first son is the grandfather of David and great, great, etc. grandfather of Jesus.

### **Bible Truth Tie-In:**

The Bible Truth we are learning is: **God's People Do Good Works God Prepared for Them.** The LORD gave Naomi, Ruth and Boaz each very good works to do, just like He does for all His people. If we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior, we will be His people. He will have good works for each of us to do, too.

## Naomi, Ruth and the Barley Harvest

### Description

The children will use 2 paper plates, yarn and other decorating supplies to make a double-sided head of Ruth and Naomi that opens up and shows barley from the barley harvest.

### Materials

2 paper plates per child, preferably the sturdy “Chinet” like variety  
 Black and gray yarn  
 Hole punch  
 Markers, Crayons or colored pencils  
 Jiggly eyes  
 Scissors  
 Two or three twisty ties per child  
 Barley  
 Craft glue  
 Optional: Glue gun and glue sticks (teacher use only)

### Preparing the Craft

1. Using hole punch, make a series of holes along the top rim of each paper plate. These will be used to tie the hair into. For older children, you may want to make more holes; for younger children, make less. The hair is the funnest part of this craft.
2. Cut yarn into 2' lengths (for hair). You will need as many pieces as you have holes in each plate.
3. Set out other supplies.
4. Make a sample for the children to see.

### Making the Craft

1. Show children your sample.
2. Have the children tie the hair into the holes along the top. Youngest children may just want to thread this through and tie it. Older children may want to do slip knots by folding each piece of yarn in half, pushing the loop through the hole, then threading the ends of the yarn through the loop and pulling tight. One plate will have gray yarn for Naomi's hair and one plate will have black yarn for Ruth's hair.
3. Using the markers, jiggly eyes, etc. have children make Naomi's face on the gray-haired plate and Ruth's face on the black hair plate on the **BACK SIDE OF THE PLATE**. That is, the part of the plate you eat on should be face down!) For Naomi and Ruth's faces, talk to the children about what expression they might have and why. If using jiggly eyes, you may want to wait and attach these as the last step.
4. Now turn the plates right side up. This will be the inside of the craft. Have the children glue barley to one or both of the plates. Or, if desired, you can glue this in place with the glue gun, for a faster and firmer hold.
5. Have the children now set the plates, barley sides together and faces facing outward. Using the twisty ties, twist them around two or three of the hair holes of both plates securely.
6. Children can now tell what happened with their plates like this:  
 “God prepared in advance for Ruth (show the Ruth face) to care for her mother in law, Naomi, (show Naomi face) by picking barley for her food during the barley harvest (open the plates and show the barley).”

### Making a Bible Truth Connection

Once the children have settled into their craft, use the Bible Truth- Craft Connection Sheet to lead discussion about the craft. Note that most of these questions echo the questions on the case board, providing a review of what the children learned earlier.

### Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Craft Presentation

If you are presenting the craft to other children or parents the children can hold up their crafts (or your model craft) and read their Bible Truth Connection answers to explain the importance of the craft.

**CASE CRAFT****Discussion Guide****Instructions:**

As the children are settled into making their craft, ask them these questions to help them understand the craft's significance. Use the answers provided to guide the children's answers.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Where did Ruth and Naomi live?

*In Moab and in Bethlehem.*

2. Who was with Naomi, making sure she would be cared for even after her husband and sons died?

*Ruth; but most of all, God.*

3. What did God use the barley harvest to do?

*To provide for Naomi and Ruth.*

4. What is Bible Truth 7 that we are learning?

*Bible Truth 7 is: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them.*

5. What do Naomi, Ruth and the Barley Harvest have to do with the Bible Truth 7?

*Naomi was bitter about all the sad things that happened to her. But God used the barley harvest to show her that He planned the good works of Ruth at the barley harvest to take care of her.*

6. What can God help us remember through this craft of Naomi, Ruth and the Barley Harvest?

*God prepares good works for His people to do that glorify Him and care for others. He is always at work, even when they don't see it. He is always faithful, working out all this for His glory and their good.*

**TAKING IT TO OTHERS****Craft Presentation****Instructions:**

Have children hold up your model craft/their crafts. Choose five children (or you say) the five sections below to explain the craft's importance.

**Presentation:**

1. Our craft is Naomi, Ruth and the Barley Harvest.

2. In Bethlehem, God provided for Naomi through Ruth and the barley harvest.

3. Bible Truth 7 is: God's People Do Good Works God Has Prepared for Them.

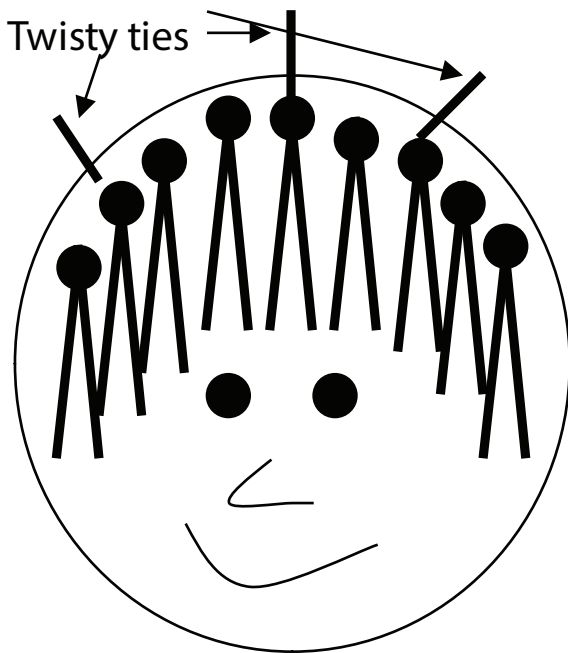
4. Naomi was bitter about all the sad things that happened to her. But God used the barley harvest to show her that He planned the good works of Ruth at the barley harvest to take care of her.

5. Our craft can help us remember that God prepares good works for His people to do that glorify Him and care for others. He is always at work, even when they don't see it. He is always faithful, working out all this for His glory and their good.

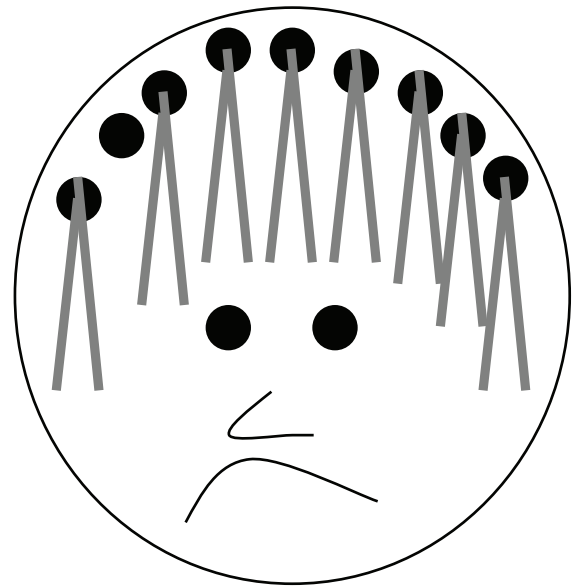
Note: Even non-readers can participate in presenting the craft, if you will whisper what they are to say in their ear and let them say it aloud for the others to hear.



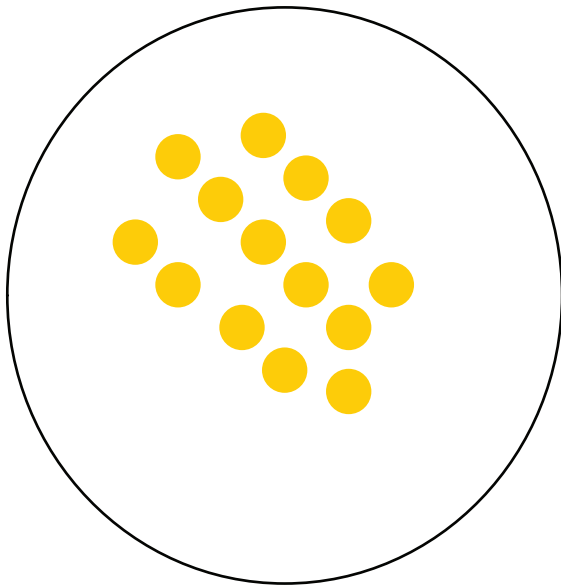
Ruth's face



Naomi's face



Barley glued to the inside of each plate





**BEFORE CLASS:****1. PICK YOUR PERSON**

VIPPs can be anyone in your church! Typically, they fall into 6 categories: Church staff, Elders, Deacons/deaconesses, Special Volunteers (people who aren't paid, but spend a lot of time helping out in particular ways), Supported Workers (aka missionaries), and Church Members.

**2. GATHER YOUR FACTS**

Use the VIPP Information Sheet to write down the facts about your VIPP. The information on this worksheet is used in the VIPP activities, listed in the "Choose an Activity" section below.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:****1. INTRODUCE YOUR VIPP**

Introduce your VIPP to the children, using the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. If desired, you can even have the actual person come into class for the children to meet.

Need help describing what someone does for the church in a kid-friendly way? Check out the list of common VIPPs on the Praise Factory website in the PFI resources. There are lots of kid-friendly descriptions for common VIPP's, such as pastors, elders, deacons and a lot more.

**2. PRAY!**

Lead the children in praying for the VIPP. Ask the children if they would like to pray for one of the VIPPs prayer requests. Even non-readers can pray for the VIPP if you whisper the prayer request in their ear, then let them say it aloud. Never force a child to pray!

**3. CHOOSE AN ACTIVITY**

There are two activities you can use to help the children learn about the VIPP:

**VIPP Clue Cards:** These are nine coloring sheets in which children fill in the nine things they learn about the VIPP from the VIPP Information Sheet. Photocopy a set of each child. Use as few or as many of these Clue Cards as you desire. They are found in the back of this book.

**VIPP Game:** This is a game that uses a set of Clue Cards for one or two VIPPs.

Choose a VIPP and fill in his/her information on the VIPP Information Sheet. Fill in a set of VIPP Clue Cards with the information for your VIPP. Tell the children about the VIPP, having them fill in the VIPP Clue Cards with the key facts as they learn them. Write any words the children need to write on a white-board or other piece of paper so they can see how to spell them. Help younger children write these words on their clue cards. Ideas for how to tell the children about many common VIPPs are listed at [praisefactory.org](http://praisefactory.org) with the resources for this Bible Truth.

**Optional TAKING IT TO OTHERS Activity: Introduce and Pray for the VIPP**

If you are presenting the VIPP to other children or parents you can assign children to hold up the 10 clue cards and say what each card tells about the VIPP. (Or, you can have the children hold them up as you tell what each one means.) Then lead the children in praying for the VIPP.

## Game: Mix and Match

### Materials

Information for two VIPPs

2 Set of Clue Cards

Bag

### Preparing the Game

1. Fill in one set of clue sheets for each of the VIPPs you are using.
2. Put all the Clue Cards in a bag, except for the ones with the names and pictures of the VIPPs.

### Playing the Game

**Reveal:** Tell the children about each VIPP, showing them your filled-in clue cards as you tell about them.

**Review:** Put all the Clue Cards for both VIPPS in the bag. Mix up. Have children take turns pulling clues out and have the class try to remember which clue goes with which VIPP. You can make this a team game by splitting the children into two teams and giving points when their team players correctly put a clue in the right place.

**VIPP INFORMATION SHEET**

**VIPP NAME:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT VIPP LOOKS LIKE**

Man or Woman? \_\_\_\_\_

Hair color? \_\_\_\_\_

Eye color? \_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE ANIMAL**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE FOOD**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAVORITE FREE TIME ACTIVITY**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT VIPP DOES DURING WEEK**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**VIPP GROUP OF SERVICE:**

Church Member

Deacon

Elder

Church Staff

Special Volunteer

Supported Worker  
(Missionary)

**3 WAYS VIPP SERVES CHURCH**

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**3 WAYS TO PRAY FOR THE VIPP**

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