

# Lesson 3

Theme for Unit 22: Rules to Live By

## Rule: Honor Parents!

Today is Father's Day. Some students may not have a father who is present in their lives. Adapt the lesson as needed to fit the various family situations in your class.

### BIBLE BASIS

God commands that parents be honored (Exod. 20:12). Ruth shows her love for her husband's mother, Naomi (Ruth 1–4).

### BIBLE TRUTH

God's rules say that we should honor the adults in our family.

### MEMORY VERSE:

"Honor your father and your mother." Exodus 20:12

### LESSON AIM

That your students will identify ways to honor their parents.

1

### LIFE NEED (5–10 MINUTES)

**Roleplay family situations that require making a choice between obeying and disobeying.**

2

### BIBLE LEARNING (15–20 MINUTES)

**Bible Words:** Meet three Bible-time people and read about something that was important to all of them.

■ Materials: *My Bible Book* p. 11, Bible Overview Chart Teaching Aid, Bibles

**Bible Story:** Hear a story about how Ruth honored her mother-in-law, Naomi.

■ Materials: "Ruth Honors Naomi—Part 1" and "Ruth Honors Naomi—Part 2" Teaching Aids, Bibles

**Bible Review:** Discuss ways Ruth honored her mother-in-law. Then use a word bank to fill in words that are missing from the story.

■ Materials: *My Bible Book* p. 12, pencils

**Optional:** Read a rebus version of the Bible story.

■ Materials: "Ruth Honors Naomi—Part 1" and "Ruth Honors Naomi—Part 2" Teaching Aids (back)

**Memory Work:** Memorize Exodus 20:12

■ Materials: *My Bible Book* p. 12, index cards—prepared before class, markers

3

### BIBLE APPLICATION (5–10 MINUTES)

**Draw in missing objects to show ways children can honor their parents.**



■ Materials: *My Bible Book* p. 13, pencils, "God's Ten Commandments" Teaching Aid, "Parent Shapes" Teaching Aid—make copies before class

4

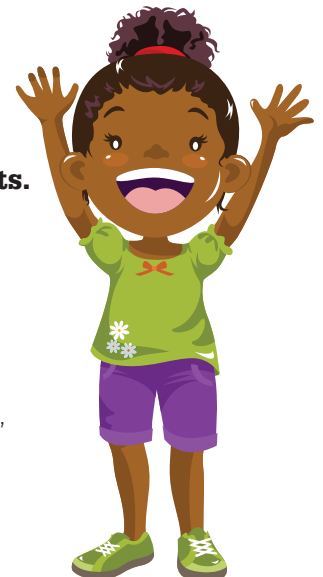
### LIFE RESPONSE (5–10 MINUTES)

**Students will choose ways to honor their parents.**

■ Materials: *My Bible Book* p. 14, *Elementary Kid Crafts* for Lesson 3, glue or tape, *Friends* for Lesson 3



This symbol means extra preparation or supplies are needed.



# Understanding the Bible

**Overview of This Quarter:** We have studied the commandments about loyalty to God and the importance of having a special day to honor God. Now we study the command to honor our parents. Next we'll study God's rules about stealing and lying. Then we'll study God's forgiveness of our sins. Our final unit is about building good relationships.

**This Week's Bible Story:** The story of Ruth and Naomi tells of a woman who left her home and her people to live with and care for her Jewish mother-in-law. Ruth's loyalty was rewarded by God.

The story written in the Book of Ruth happened during Israel's history. During this time there was a famine (hunger) in Israel. Elimelech, Naomi (his wife), and their two sons went to live in Moab. This country was across the Jordan River, east of the Dead Sea. Though Jewish law did not allow Israelites to marry Canaanites, it did not stop them from marrying Moabites (but there were rules [Deut. 23:3]).

Elimelech died after the family arrived in Moab.

Naomi and her two sons settled in Moab, and both sons married women there. After about 10 years, Naomi's sons died. When Naomi heard that the famine in Israel was over, she prepared to go to Bethlehem, her hometown.

Naomi told her daughters-in-law to return to their families in Moab. One of the women (Orpah) returned to her family; the other (Ruth) did not. Read what Ruth said in Ruth 1:16-17. Ruth left her family and committed her heart to Naomi and the God of Israel.

Ruth's faith in the God of Israel and her love for Naomi were richly rewarded. God took care of Ruth and Naomi, and He gave Ruth a very special husband. Their son became the grandfather of Israel's greatest king, David, and an ancestor of the Messiah—Jesus Christ.

Ruth showed the kind of honor God wants us to have for our older family members, whether we are children or adults. We should take care of our parents, share with them our blessings, and respect and honor them.

3

## Understanding Your Students

Roleplaying is natural to elementary age children. They love the "play" in roleplay. The good news is that roleplaying is also an effective teaching tool. It can be used to help students act out everyday situations in a nonthreatening way, to review Bible stories, or to help students practice specific ways to apply Bible truths.

## Classroom Tips

Here are some ideas for turning roleplaying into a creative teaching tool.

- Before you begin a roleplay activity, give your students a clear idea of what you want them to act out.
- Encourage your students' creative ideas; but gently redirect their efforts if they move beyond the focus of the lesson.
- Be willing to take part in the roleplay yourself. Your example may mean more to the children than your verbal instructions.
- Don't insist that shy children participate in a roleplay against their wishes. Let the timid student observe the group for awhile, until he or she is ready to take part.
- Follow up your roleplay with discussion questions, such as: How did you feel when you pretended to obey or disobey? or, Which helpful acts could you do at home this week?

# Pre-session Activities

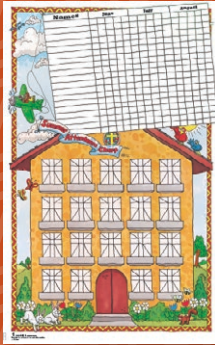
Choose from the following activities for early arrivers.

- Have students mark their attendance.

**Materials:** Summer Attendance Chart

- Put the words "We love our parents because . . ." on the whiteboard. Have the children finish the sentence by writing responses on the board.

**Materials:** whiteboard and markers



"Attendance Chart" Teaching Aid

- Make puzzles of the Ten Commandments. Print them on construction paper. Divide each one into two pieces. Students must find the correct ending. For those that begin with "You shall not," split the phrase in different places or include the first letter of the last word in the first puzzle piece.

**Materials:** construction paper, markers, and scissors

- For Worship Time: Sing "Rules Are His Tools" from the Diskit CD.

**Materials:** CD player, Diskit CD



## 1

## Life Need 5–10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will roleplay family situations where children have to choose to obey or disobey their parents.

This activity will prepare your students for the Bible story of Ruth's example of how to honor a parent.

**Today we're going to play "family." I want two volunteers to pretend to be the parents.**

**And I need other volunteers to pretend to be the children.** Adjust the number and types of adult pretenders based on the family situations of your students.

Have volunteers act out as many of the following situations as time allows. Depending on the size of your class, you could vary the number of "children" in each family. Let each "child" choose to obey or disobey.

1. Your friends stop by and ask if you can come out and play. Knowing you were supposed to clean your room, you get ready to go play anyway. Then your mother calls out to you, "Have you cleaned your room, yet?"

2. Mom has you go next door to borrow some sugar from Mrs. Jenkins. As you leave, she warns, "Now you come right back here when you're finished." But on the way back, you see your friends jumping double-dutch.

3. Your father is in the other room working. You and your little sister are playing rather loudly. Dad comes out and asks, "Would you two play more quietly?"

After each roleplay, invite the rest of the class to talk about what happened. To help students, try directing the conversation with questions like the following:

- Did the child's response honor his parents? Why or why not?**
- Why might it have been hard for the child to obey?** (*He/she wanted to play; he/she was having fun.*)
- Why is it sometimes difficult to honor parents by doing what they ask?**

**In our Bible story today a woman named Ruth has to decide whether or not she will honor her husband's mother.**



# 2

## Bible Learning 15–20 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will learn from Ruth's example of how to honor a parent.



My Bible Book, page 11

■ **What is something we make from grain?** (*Bread, cereal, oatmeal.*)

■ **How many different kinds of grain can you name? If necessary give a clue: How many kinds of bread can you think of?** (*Wheat, rye, ginger, oat.*)

Distribute *My Bible Book* to your students. **Let's turn to page 11 in *My Bible Book*. Read the description of *field of grain*.**

**Take a look at the three people on this page. These are pictures of the people in our Bible story today.** As you point to each picture, read the name aloud, and have students repeat the name after you.



Bible Overview Chart Teaching Aid

Then ask volunteers to read about each person.

Have a volunteer find Exodus on the Bible Overview Chart Teaching Aid. Ask another student to find

Ruth. Talk about what is the same between these two books. (They are both in the Old Testament.)

If you have a Bible with a map in it, show the children Bethlehem (near Jerusalem) and Moab (east of the Dead Sea).

Have the children find the Book of Ruth in their Bibles and bookmark it to use later.

The picture cards "Ruth Honors Naomi" Teaching Aids will be used as you tell the Bible story. Before class, separate the cards and lay them in front of you. As you tell the Bible story, show the picture side of each card.

### BIBLE STORY

Naomi wanted to go home to Bethlehem. Her husband and sons were dead, and she was unhappy and homesick. Naomi told her sons' wives to return to their

families. Let's read what her daughter-in-law Ruth said.

*Have the children read Ruth 1:16. Have the children find the picture card that goes with the verse (Picture 1).*

"Please don't make me leave you! Where you go, I will go. Where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God."

The two women walked for a long time. Finally they reached Bethlehem and found a home.

Naomi and Ruth were very poor. *I must get food for us*, thought Ruth.

*Have the children read aloud Ruth 2:2. Let the children find the strip that corresponds to the story (Picture 2).*

The only way Ruth could get food was to follow the men working in the fields and pick up grain that was dropped. Most farmers tried to leave grain for poor people to pick up. Ruth worked in a field that belonged to a man named Boaz.

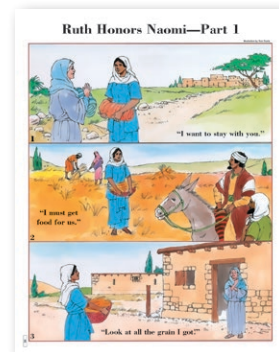
Later, Boaz rode his horse to the field. He saw Ruth. "Who is that young woman?" Boaz asked. The servant told him about Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi.

Boaz told Ruth, "Stay in this field with my servants. There will be plenty of grain for you to pick up. When you are thirsty, you can have a drink from my water jars."

Ruth asked, "Why are you so kind to a stranger?"

"I have heard how you are taking good care of your mother-in-law, Naomi," Boaz said.

Boaz told his workers to leave extra grain for Ruth. By the end of the day, Ruth had a big bushel to take home.



"Ruth Honors Naomi—Part 1" Teaching Aid



"Ruth Honors Naomi—Part 2" Teaching Aid

Have the children read Ruth 2:18, then find the corresponding picture (Picture 3).

"Look at the grain I got!" Ruth told Naomi. "We will have all the food we need."

"Whose field did you work in today?" asked Naomi. "That man was very kind to you."

"The field belongs to Boaz," answered Ruth.

"Boaz!" cried Naomi. "He is in our family. The Lord has been good to us by sending you to the field of Boaz."

Every day Ruth went to the field to pick up grain for Naomi and herself.

Naomi knew that Boaz liked Ruth very much. Naomi told Ruth, "Put on your best clothes tonight and go see Boaz. I think he may want to marry you."

Have the children read Ruth 3:8-9, then find Picture 4. Ruth did as Naomi told her to do. Ruth put on her best clothes and went where Boaz and his workers were harvesting the grain. Since it was night, Boaz was sleeping by the grain to protect it from being stolen. Ruth came to him and said, "I need your help, Boaz."

"May the Lord bless you, Ruth," answered Boaz. "You are a kind person. I want to marry you."

Have the children read Ruth 4:9. Have them find the correct picture (Picture 5). Boaz told the people of the city, "I will marry Ruth."

All the people were happy to hear this news. They asked God to bless Boaz and Ruth.

So Boaz and Ruth were married. Naomi came to live with them. Later, when Boaz and Ruth had a baby boy, they told Naomi, "His name is Obed. Would you help us love and take care of him?"

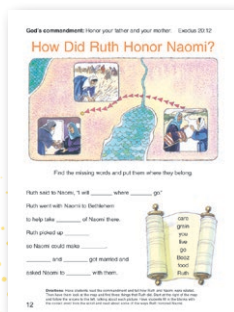
Ask the children to read Ruth 4:17 and add the last picture. Naomi was happy to help take care of the baby, and she was happy that God had given her daughter-in-law Ruth such a fine family.

## BIBLE REVIEW

Have the class turn to page 12 in *My Bible Book*.

■ **If you wanted to honor someone, what could you do?** (*Obey, do nice things for the person, be helpful, say good things about the person.*)

■ **In today's story, who obeyed God's rule by honoring her mother-in-law?** (*Ruth.*)



*My Bible Book, page 12*

**Let's look at the pictures on the map and see if we can find three ways Ruth honored Naomi.**

Starting with the picture on the right and moving counterclockwise, allow students to tell what is happening in each picture. (Ruth is going to Bethlehem with Naomi instead of leaving Naomi alone, Ruth is gathering food for Naomi and herself, Ruth is letting Naomi help care for the baby, Obed.)

Divide students into pairs to complete the Bible story on the bottom of page 12 of *My Bible Book*. Have students work together to choose the correct words from the word bank to fill in the blanks of the story. Read the story aloud together when everyone has completed the page.

## Optional Activity

Students can retell the Bible story using the six picture cards. Have students line them up in the correct order and read the rebus version of the Bible story on the back of the cards.



**"Ruth Honors Naomi—Part 1" Teaching Aid (back)**



**"Ruth Honors Naomi—Part 2" Teaching Aid (back)**

## MEMORY WORK

Before class, print each word of the verse on a separate index card. Include the Scripture reference as well. Repeat until you have one card for each child. Mix up the cards.

Have the class turn to page 12 in *My Bible Book* and read aloud together the Bible verse at the top of the page.

**God was glad Ruth obeyed His commandment.**

Give the cards to the children. Lead the class in saying the verse in order, with the students popping up to say only the word that they are holding. Repeat a few times with children trading their cards.

**God's commandment says we should honor our parents, but it's not always easy to obey this rule.**

# 3

## Bible Application 5–10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will think of ways children today can honor their parents.



My Bible Book, page 13

Before class, make copies of the reproducible “Parent Shapes” Teaching Aid. Adjust the shapes to reflect the adults in your students’ lives.

**Now let’s think of some ways children today can obey God by honoring their parents.**

Have students turn to page 13 in *My Bible Book*. **These children want to honor their parents. But they need your help. In the blank area of each picture, draw something to show how the child can honor his or her parent.**

When students have finished their drawings, let volunteers show the class what they’ve drawn. **Giving presents, doing our chores, doing kind things, and obeying are good ways to honor the people who care for you at home.**

Gather around the “God’s Ten Commandments” poster and review the four commandments you’ve

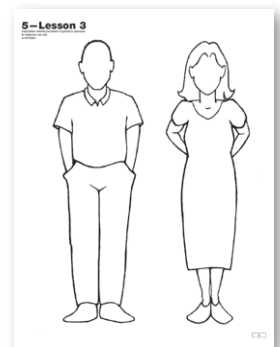


“God’s Ten Commandments” Teaching Aid

**God tells us to honor our parents. This would also include any adult who is in charge of you at home.** Some children may be in family situations where the adult they live with is a stepparent, in a single parent situation, or other family member. Be sure the children understand that just as Ruth honored her mother-in-law (not her actual mother), we also should honor those who fill a mother or father role for us.

■ **What are some ways you could honor your parents?** (*Listen more carefully, don’t talk back, say “please” and “thank you” more, thank them for something they do for me, not complain about chores or helping out, do something to make them happy, etc.*)

Ask the children to each choose one idea to work on this week. When they have chosen their ideas, ask them to also choose a mother or father shape, from the reproduced “Parent Shapes” Teaching Aid, to represent who they will honor. The children can write on the shape the way they chose. Some children may want to do two shapes (for both parents) or four shapes (to include stepparents). When they finish writing on their shapes, let the children cut them out if they would like to. Then they may want to hang up the shapes in their bedroom, at the desk, etc.



“Parent Shapes” Teaching Aid

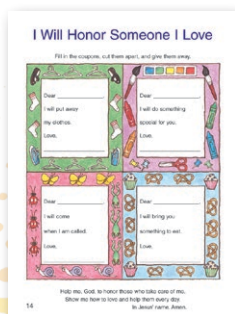




# 4

## Life Response 5-10 minutes

**Objective:** That your students will choose ways to honor their parents.



*My Bible Book, page 14*

Turn to page 14 in *My Bible Book*, and have students read the coupons.

Students should sign their names and then address each coupon to someone who loves and cares for them. If time allows, let students cut out the coupons. You might want to provide paper clips to keep the cut-out coupons together. Encourage students to give away the coupons.

**You can honor a parent by promising to do something with or for your parent and then doing what you promised.** Have the students fill in the promise blank or blanks on the back of the card.

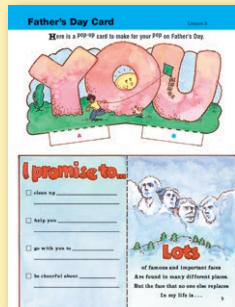
### CLOSING ACTIVITY

Close today's class by having the students read the prayer at the bottom of page 14 in *My Bible Book*. Then sing a song from the DisKit CD found in the Creative Teaching Aids packet.

This week students may take home *My Bible Book*, pages 11-14, the parent shapes, and their Father's Day cards.



■ **Does anyone know what special day it is today?** (*Father's Day.*)



*Elementary Kid Crafts, Lesson 3*

**Our craft project today is a Father's Day card. You can make it for your dad or for someone who is like a dad to you—it might be an uncle or grandpa or someone else who helps take care of you.**

Pass out the project for Lesson 3 from *Elementary Kid Crafts* as well as glue or tape.

Follow the directions on the back of the project.

