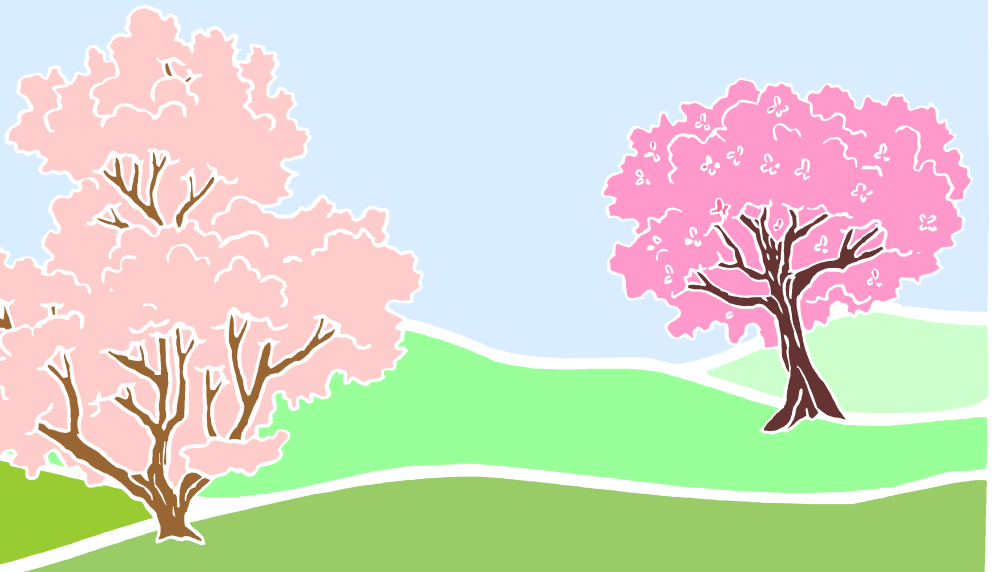




**Primary Sabbath
School Lessons**

SECOND YEAR, FOURTH QUARTER

THE
TIME
OF THE
JUDGES



PRIMARY
SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS

SECOND YEAR, FOURTH QUARTER

THE TIME
OF THE JUDGES

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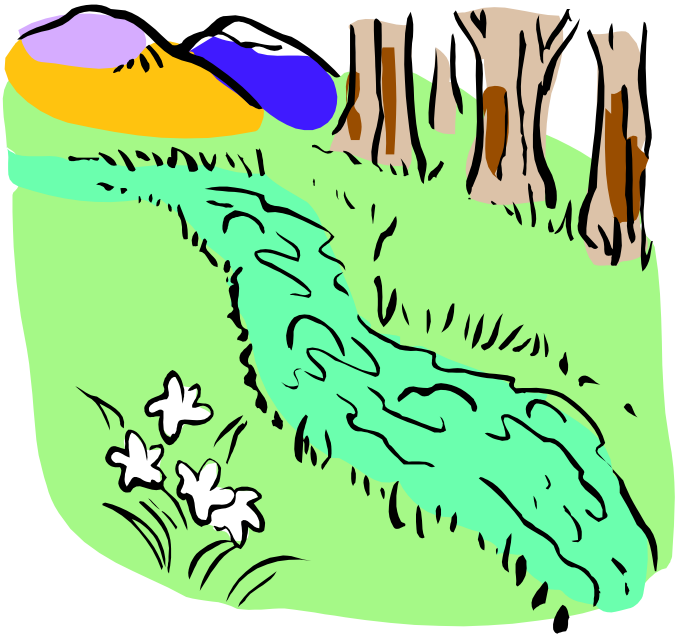
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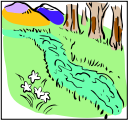
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Lesson 1

SEPARATED FROM GOD

PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 543-545

1. For what purpose had God placed His people—Israel—in Canaan?

"God had placed His people in Canaan as a mighty breastwork to stay the tide of moral evil, that it might not flood the world." —*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 543.

2. Under God's guidance, how were they supposed to deal with all of the nations in Canaan that were opposed to God and His ways? Exodus 23:23, 24.
3. What was Israel not supposed to do? Exodus 23:32, 33.
4. If the Canaanites were allowed to stay in the land, they would make Israel sin and become a snare to them. What is a snare? Look up the answer in a dictionary.
5. But Israel did not obey God. What did they do after they had been in Canaan for a while? Judges 1:28; 2:12; Psalm 106:34, 35.

"If faithful to Him, God intended that Israel should go on conquering and to conquer. He would give into their hands nations greater and more powerful than the Canaanites...."

"But regardless of their high destiny, they chose the course of ease and self-indulgence; they let slip their opportunities for completing the conquest of the land;..." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 544.

6. Israel began doing what they saw the heathen people around them doing—worshiping idols, holding celebrations, and doing many wicked things. It came to the point where God could not bless them any more, because they did not want Him. What did the nations they were supposed to destroy now do to them? Psalm 106:37-42.

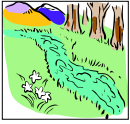
"By their sins the Israelites were separated from God; His strength was removed from them, and they could no longer prevail against their enemies. Thus they were brought into subjection to the very nations that through God they might have subdued." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 354.

7. Was there anyone left who loved God and His goodness?

"Yet He did not utterly forsake His people. There was ever a remnant who were true to Jehovah; and from time to time the Lord raised up faithful and valiant men to put down idolatry and to deliver the Israelites from their enemies." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 545.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- What is a god? See Exodus 20:2, 3.
- Mention some gods that people might have or make for themselves.
- God is the One who gives everyone life, health, and the ability to do things. What should all the blessings everyone receives from Him be used for?



Lesson 2

THE EARLY JUDGES

PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP.545, 546

1. Name three judges whom God used to fight against Israel's enemies. Judges 3:9, 15, 31.

2. After the death of Ehud, a Canaanite king by the name of Jabin attacked Israel again and again, destroying their homes and crops. What was the name of his captain? For how many years did he oppress the children of Israel? Judges 4:2, 3.
3. Whom did God choose as the judge at this time? Judges 4:4, 5.
4. Whom did God choose to fight against Sisera? Judges 4:6, 7.
5. Whom did he want to go with him? Judges 4:8.

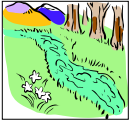
6. God gave Barak the victory against Sisera's army, but what did Sisera do? Judges 4:17.

7. Did a man or a woman kill Sisera? Judges 4:22.

8. Who gave Israel the victory over these strong enemies? Judges 4:23; 5:31.



WRITE A LIST OF HOW THE IDOL-WORSHIPING NATIONS TRIED TO HURT ISRAEL. EXPLAIN WHY GOD ALLOWED THIS.



Lesson 3

GIDEON MEETS AN ANGEL

PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 546-548


1. What was the situation in Israel about 40 years after they crossed over the Jordan River into the land of Canaan? Judges 6:1.
2. What nation did God permit to go against Israel? Where did the people have to hide? Judges 6:2.
3. What did these enemies do to Israel? Judges 6:4-6.
4. How poor did the Israelites become? Judges 6:4-6.
5. To whom did they finally cry for help? Judges 6:6.
6. God sent His Angel to Gideon, the youngest son of Joash. What did He say to him? Judges 6:12.

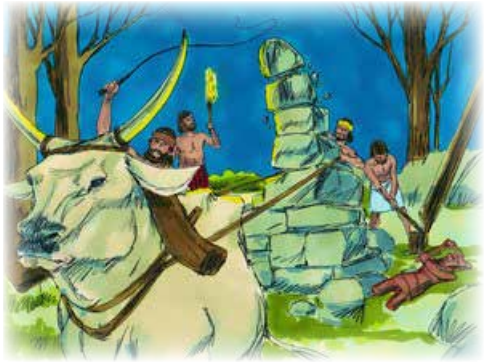
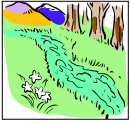
7. The Angel promised Gideon that God would help him fight against the Midianites. What did Gideon ask for so he would know for sure that this was really the Covenant Angel and that His words would come true? Judges 6:17, 18.

8. What did the Angel do with the flesh and the unleavened bread that Gideon prepared for Him? Judges 6:21.

9. Now Gideon was afraid because he had seen the Angel of the Lord. But what did God say to him? Judges 6:23.

Gideon was chosen by God to do His work because he was very sad at what had happened to his people and because he would be obedient in following God's commands. After the Angel appeared to him, he was prepared to go forward in God's strength.

 **AFTER GOD GAVE AN AMAZING VICTORY TO ISRAEL, DEBORAH AND BARAK WROTE A SONG TELLING ABOUT THE VICTORIES OF ISRAEL OVER THE AMMONITES. THE SONG IS A STORY THAT APPEARS IN JUDGES 5. CHOOSE ONE VERSE FROM THE SONG, AND DRAW A PICTURE OF IT.**



Lesson 4

A SIGN FROM GOD TO GIDEON

1. What did the Lord tell Gideon to do with the altar that had been built for the honor of Baal? Judges 6:25.
2. What was he to build in its place? Judges 6:26.
3. Gideon took ten trusted men with him to accomplish God's command. Did he do it in the daytime or at night? Judges 6:27.
4. What were the people of the city ready to do to Gideon the next day when they found out what he had done? Judges 6:30.
5. Joash, Gideon's father, was the one who had built the altar to Baal in the first place. But now he had been told about the Angel's visit. How did he defend his son? Judges 6:31.

"If Baal could not defend his own altar, how could he be trusted to protect his worshippers?" –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 548.

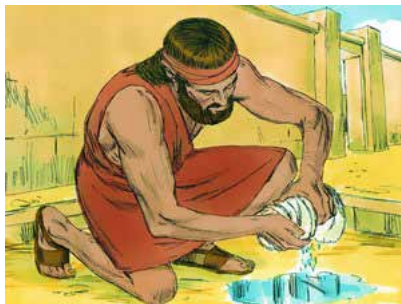
6. Now Gideon sounded the trumpet, calling the men of four tribes to go to war against Midian. But before heading up an army, what sign did he ask from God to show that He would be with him? Judges 6:37, 38. What is a fleece? (Look up the answer in a dictionary.)

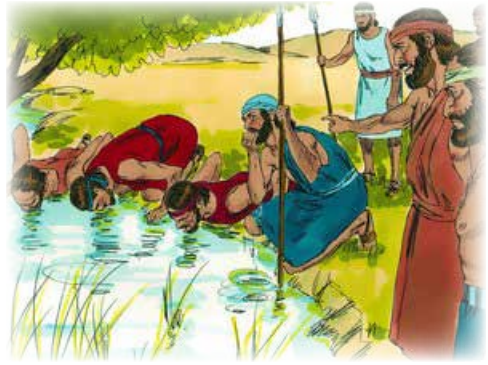
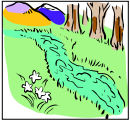
7. Gideon still wanted one more sign from God, and how did God answer his request? Judges 6:39, 40.

"Thus encouraged, Gideon led out his forces to give battle to the invaders." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 548.



DRAW A PICTURE OF A FLEECE.





Lesson 5

A HANDFUL FOR THE BATTLE

1. Gideon now looked at the size of his army; how many men had answered the first call to battle? What did the Lord say about them?

"The entire force under Gideon's command numbered only thirty-two thousand men; but with the vast host of the enemy spread out before him, the word of the Lord came to him: "The people that are with thee are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands,..."
—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 548.

2. What did God explain that the men of Israel would surely say if they prevailed? Judges 7:2, last part.
3. Who were sent home? Judges 7:3.
4. Ten thousand men were left, but still the Lord said they were too many. He told Gideon to take them down to the water. He was to watch how they would drink. How many took water in their hands? Judges 7:6.

5. God was now going to work a great miracle with this small handful of men against the thousands of the enemy. But first Gideon was told to go down into the camp of the Midianites and listen to what they were saying. What did Gideon hear in the enemies' camp? Judges 7:13, 14.
6. Gideon went back to encourage his tiny army to trust in the Lord. Following God's direction, he divided the group into three groups and surrounded the enemy camp. What three things did each man carry? Judges 7:20.



DRAW BELOW THE THREE THINGS, IN ADDITION TO THEIR SWORDS, THAT EVERY MAN IN GIDEON'S ARMY CARRIED INTO BATTLE.

7. When it was pitch dark at night, Gideon gave a signal, and the little army broke their pitchers, held high their torches, and blew their trumpets. What did they shout? Judges 7:20, last part.
8. The Lord frightened the hearts of their enemies. What did the enemy soldiers do in their terror? Judges 7:21, 22.

"Believing themselves at the mercy of an overwhelming force, the Midianites were panic-stricken. With wild cries of alarm they fled for life, and, mistaking their own companions for enemies, they slew one another. As news of the victory spread, thousands of the men of Israel who had been dismissed to their homes returned and joined in pursuit of their fleeing enemies." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 550, 553.

9. Who joined Gideon and his little army in fighting against the enemies? Judges 7:23, 24.

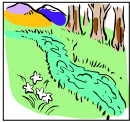
10. Who really won the victory for Israel?

"The simple act of blowing a blast upon the trumpet by the army of Joshua around Jericho, and by Gideon's little band about the hosts of Midian, was made effectual, through the power of God, to overthrow the might of His enemies.... He is just as willing to work with the efforts of His people now and to accomplish great things through weak instrumentalities." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 554.

10. When the men of Israel decided that they wanted Gideon to become their king, what wonderful answer did he give them? Judges 8:22, 23.

11. Sadly, what did Israel do after Gideon died? Judges 8:33, 34.





Lesson 6



JEPHTHAH

1. After the death of Gideon, Abimelech, one of the sons of a man from Shechem, rose up and insisted that the Israelites should make him king. He was a very wicked, cruel man who had 70 brothers. How many of them did he kill? Judges 9:5.
2. God warned Abimelech, and he was killed by a woman who dropped a millstone on his head. Later Israel was governed by two judges for about 45 years. What were their names? Judges 10:1-3.

But again Israel began to go after false gods. Therefore, God allowed the Philistines and Ammonites to oppress them. After eighteen years of suffering, the people called on God for help—the one whom they had left and despised.

3. Whom did He use to answer Israel's cry for help against their enemies? Judges 11:5, 6.

Jephthah was a mighty man, but his mother was not the wife of his father; she was a foreigner. For this reason, his half-brothers forced him to leave home and would not let him be part of the family. But now they called him to come home and help them, and they promised to make him their judge if he won the victory.


4. Jephthah sent a message to the king of Ammon, trying to work

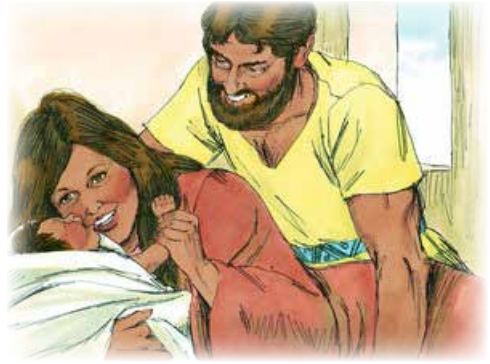
things out in peace, but this was impossible. Israel would have to go to war. What vow did Jephthah make to God? Judges 11:30, 31.

5. What is a vow? Look up this word in the dictionary.
6. The Lord helped Jephthah, and the Ammonites were defeated. Who was the first to greet him after his return from the war? Judges 11:34.
7. How did Jephthah feel about this? Judges 11:35.

Before we make a vow to God—which is a special promise to Him—we should think very carefully about it. We should not make any promise that we might be sorry for later. God does not ask us to make unusual promises to Him; but whenever we do promise Him something, He expects us to carry it out.

8. The Lord gave Jephthah the victory, and now he kept the promise that he had made. How did he do that? Judges 11:39, 40.

 **TO FULFILL HER FATHER JEPHTAH'S VOW, HIS DAUGHTER REMAINED UNMARRIED ALL HER LIFE, AND THEREFORE JEPHTAH HAD NO DESCENDANTS. DRAW A PICTURE OF HIS DAUGHTER COMING OUT OF THE HOUSE TO GREET HER VICTORIOUS FATHER.**



Lesson 7

SAMSON'S BIRTH

PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 560-562

1. Write the names of the three judges who ruled Israel after Jephthah. Judges 12:8, 11, 13.

2. Did Israel love and serve God faithfully? Judges 13:1.
3. One day the Angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah's wife, who was not able to have children. What did He tell her? Judges 13:3.
4. What was she told to pay very careful attention to during her pregnancy? Judges 13:4.

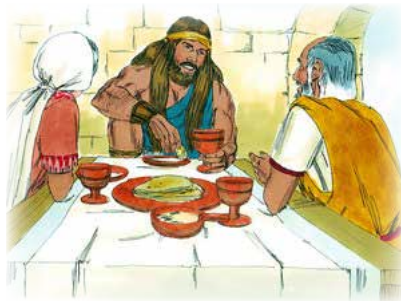
"The child will be affected for good or for evil by the habits of the mother. She must herself be controlled by principle and must practice temperance and self-denial,..." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 561.

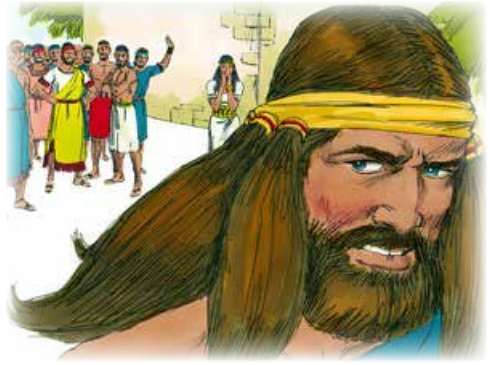
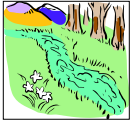
This is what every mother should do when she is pregnant. This is her special task for the entire time she carrying the baby. Through constant prayer and joy in the Lord, she will have a healthy, happy baby. Everything Samson's mother did would affect the child she was carrying, so she was told to eat and drink only healthful things.

5. What other special instruction did Samson's parents receive, and what was the reason for this? Judges 13:5.
6. Manoah prayed to God so that the Angel would return, and he and his wife prepared a special offering. What shows us that this Angel was Jesus? Judges 13:19, 20, 22, 23.
7. What special blessing did God give Samson? Judges 13:24, 25.

"As the boy grew up it became evident that he possessed extraordinary physical strength. This was not, however, as Samson and his parents well knew, dependent upon his well-knit sinews, but upon his condition as a Nazarite, of which his unshorn hair was a symbol." – *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 562.

God's plan was to use Samson and his great strength in a very special way to bless His people. If he had been obedient and had used all of his talents humbly to serve God, he would have been a great blessing to Israel, to himself, and to the Lord.





Lesson 8

SAMSON GOES ASTRAY

PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 562-565

1. As Samson was reaching manhood, what did he do? Judges 14:1-3.

When he reached maturity, he needed to acknowledge what God had called him to be and do. Instead, he socialized with the enemies of Israel and asked his parents to get a particular Philistine woman to be his wife. He did not ask God about this.

During the seven-day wedding celebration, Samson gave a riddle that challenged the Philistine young men; if they could guess it, Samson would pay them a reward; if they could not, they would have to pay him. Through threats and intrigue, his wife got the answer from Samson and told the young men. Samson knew what had happened; he was very angry and left. Some days later when he returned to her, her father had given her as a wife to another man.

2. In his anger, what did Samson do? Judges 15:3-5.
3. The Philistines were very cruel. In revenge, what did they do to Samson's wife and her father? Judges 15:6.
4. Then, what did Samson do to the Philistines? Judges 15:7, 8.

5. Samson fled to the mountains. What did the inhabitants of Judah want to do to him in favor of the Philistines? Judges 15:11-13.

6. How did Samson free himself from the hands of the Philistines, and what did he do? Judges 15:14, 15.

"Had the Israelites been ready to unite with Samson and follow up the victory, they might at this time have freed themselves from the power of their oppressors. But they had become dispirited and cowardly. They had neglected the work which God commanded them to perform, in dispossessing the heathen, and had united with them in their degrading practices, tolerating their cruelty, and, so long as it was not directed against themselves, even countenancing their injustice. When themselves brought under the power of the oppressor, they tamely submitted to the degradation which they might have escaped, had they only obeyed God. Even when the Lord raised up a deliverer for them, they would, not infrequently, desert him and unite with their enemies." –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 564.

7. After his great singlehanded victory through being filled with the Spirit of the Lord, the Israelites made Samson their judge. For how long did he judge them? Judges 15:20.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- Samson should not have gone to be with the enemies of God's people. What should you do when you have friends who do not love Jesus?

- When a person wants to do nothing but please himself, is it possible for him to please God? Why or why not?



Lesson 9

SAMSON'S DEATH

PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 565-568

1. Once again, what very dangerous position did Samson place himself in? Judges 16:1.
2. What did the men of Gaza do to try to trap him in the city? Judges 16:2.
3. When he awoke at midnight, he repented for what he had done. When he came to the gate of the city, and he noticed that it was closed, what did he do? Judges 16:3.
4. With what did the Philistines bribe the woman? What did they want to find out? Judges 16:5.

Delilah's whole purpose now was to get the money. When she begged, whined, pleaded, and cried to Samson to tell her the secret of his divine strength, three times he told her things that were not true. And three times, he could see that she and the Philistines were determined to kill him.

5. What did Samson finally tell this wicked woman? Judges 16:15-17.

6. How did he lose his divine strength? Judges 16:19, 20.

“What a change to him who had been the judge and champion of Israel! Now weak, blind, imprisoned, degraded to the most menial service! Little by little he had violated the conditions of his sacred calling. God had borne long with him; but when he had so yielded himself to the power of sin as to betray his secret, the Lord departed from him. There was no virtue in his long hair merely, but it was a token of his loyalty to God; and when the symbol was sacrificed in the indulgence of passion, the blessings of which it was a token were also forfeited.”
–*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 566.

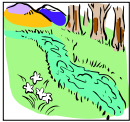
7. What did the Philistines do with the captive Samson? Did this bring him to repentance? Judges 16:21.

“In suffering and humiliation, a sport for the Philistines, Samson learned more of his own weakness than he had ever known before; and his afflictions led him to repentance.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 566.

8. The Philistines claimed it was their gods who gave them the victory over Samson, and they defied the true God. What great feast did they call, and meanwhile what had happened to Samson that they seemed not to be concerned about? Judges 16:22, 23.

9. Having been brought to the hall for sport in honor of the heathen gods, what did Samson do? Judges 16:26-30.

“Physically, Samson was the strongest man upon the earth; but in self-control, integrity, and firmness, he was one of the weakest of men. Many mistake strong passions for a strong character, but the truth is that he who is mastered by his passions is a weak man. The real greatness of the man is measured by the power of the feelings that he controls, not by those that control him.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 567, 568.



Lesson 10

RUTH CHOOSES GOD


Although there was in that time great evil being done in Israel, there were a few who loved and obeyed God. The Lord knew who and where they were and helped them. The history of Ruth is about the daughter of a pagan family who chose to love and believe in the God of Israel. The story shows that anyone who would leave his or her false gods and worship the true God could become part of His people and receive His blessing.

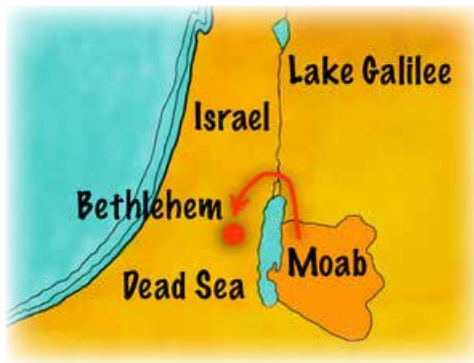
1. What caused Elimelech, Naomi, and their two sons to move from Israel to Moab? Ruth 1:1, 2.
2. Whom did the two young men marry? Ruth 1:4.
3. But what happened to Elimelech and their sons, Mahlon and Chilion? Ruth 1:3, 5.
4. What did Naomi decide to do? Ruth 1:6, 7.

At first, both Orpah and Ruth decided that they wanted to go back to Israel with their mother-in-law. But Naomi did everything she could to persuade them to go back to their own families and their gods.

5. Who accepted Naomi's advice? Ruth 1:14, 15.
6. But Ruth loved her mother-in-law and God very much. What did she tell Naomi? Ruth 1:16, 17.

To Ruth, the most important thing was to take care of her mother-in-law, who had been so good to her and who had helped her to find salvation. She had learned to love God and made up her mind to do what was right and to be faithful. God blessed her greatly for this.

 **BELOW IS A MAP SHOWING HOW FAR NAOMI AND RUTH NEEDED TO WALK WITH THE DONKEY TO RETURN TO BETHLEHEM IN ISRAEL. IT WAS AT LEAST 100 MILES. HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT TOOK THEM TO GO SO FAR?**

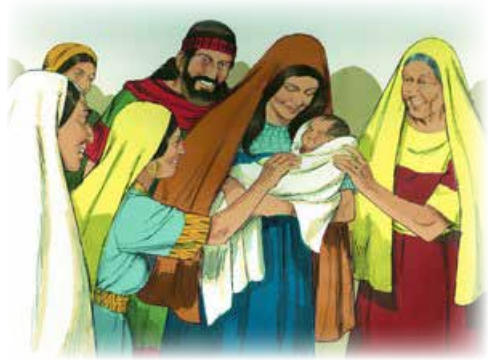




Lesson 11

RUTH, A FAITHFUL DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

1. To what city did Naomi and Ruth return? Ruth 1:19.
2. When Naomi told her friends how she had lost her husband and sons, only whom could she say God had blessed her with? Ruth 1:20-22.
3. To whose field did Ruth go to gather grain? Ruth 2:2, 3.
4. What was special about Boaz? Ruth 2:1.
5. How hard did Ruth work to gather food for her mother-in-law? Ruth 2:7, 17.
6. How kindly did Boaz treat Ruth? Ruth 2:8, 9, 14-17.
7. Why did Boaz say the Lord would bless her? Ruth 2:11, 12.



Lesson 12

BOAZ AND RUTH


1. What did Naomi explain to Ruth concerning the family's relationship to Boaz? Ruth 2:20.
2. At the end of the harvest, what custom did Naomi tell Ruth about? Ruth 3:2-4.
3. What did Ruth tell Naomi that she would do, and where did she go? Ruth 3:5, 6.
4. At midnight, when Boaz awoke and found Ruth lying near his feet, what did he ask her? Ruth 3:8, 9.
5. What was her answer? What did she ask him to do for her? Ruth 3:9.

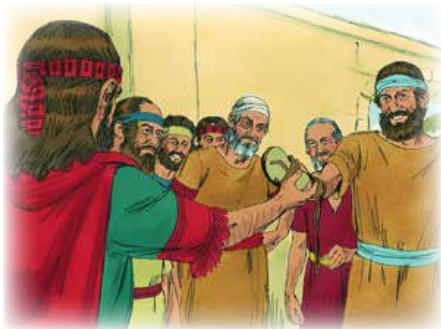
Boaz recognized Ruth as being a very kind young woman, and he was willing to honor her request. But he explained that there was a closer relative who was entitled to buy Naomi's properties and marry Ruth. He promised to speak to the man.

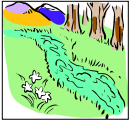
6. How quickly did Boaz want to conclude this matter? Ruth 3:13.

7. With whom did Boaz meet and speak the following morning about purchasing Naomi's land and marrying Ruth? Ruth 4:1, 2.
8. How was the matter settled? Ruth 4:6, 9, 10.
9. With what beautiful words did the people confirm this blessed solution? Ruth 4:11.
10. God blessed Boaz and Ruth with a son, who was named Obed. How happy was Naomi about this? Ruth 4:14-16.
11. This child became the grandfather of a very famous king. What was his name? Ruth 4:17, last part.

Because of her love and faithfulness, God blessed Ruth with a son through whom was born King David and, finally, Jesus, the Saviour of the world. How happy God is when His children are loyal and faithful to Him! He loves to bless, sustain, and protect them!

 **A WONDERFUL PART OF THE STORY OF RUTH IS THE SYMBOLISM BEHIND THE FIRST KINSMAN'S OFFERING HIS SHOE, SHOWN IN RUTH 4:7, 8, TO CONFIRM THE REDEMPTION TRANSACTION. WRITE DOWN WHAT YOU SEE AS THE MEANING OF TAKING OFF ONE'S SHOE IN SUCH A CASE.**





Lesson 13

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER?

Answer as many of the questions below as you can from memory. Then go back and look at the lessons to check your answers. All of the questions are from the lessons you have just studied during this quarter—"The Time of the Judges."

1. God had placed Israel in Canaan and helped them drive out the heathen ...
 - a. so they could get rich
 - b. so they would not have to work
 - c. so they could help to stop evil in the world
 - d. so they could be like the heathen around them
2. Who really give Israel the victory in the time of Gideon?
3. Did God give Gideon the victory over the Midianites with a large or a small number of men? Who was glorified in the victory?
4. Did Jephthah fulfill his vow, even though it was very hard for him?

5. In the following list, what was Manoah's wife not to do before the birth of her son?
 - a. to drink wine.
 - b. to get up late.
 - c. to eat unclean food.
 - d. to get sick.

6. As a Nazarite, what was Samson not supposed to do with his hair?

7. What made Samson so strong?

8. How did he lose his strength?

9. Who was Ruth faithful to, besides her mother-in-law?

10. Does God bless everyone who loves and obeys Him? What does He want to do for you?

"The children of Israel were to occupy all the territory which God appointed them. Those nations that rejected the worship and service of the true God were to be dispossessed. But it was God's purpose that by the revelation of His character through Israel men should be drawn unto Him. To all the world the gospel invitation was to be given. Through the teaching of the sacrificial service Christ was to be uplifted before the nations, and all who would look unto Him should live. All who, like Rahab the Canaanite, and Ruth the Moabitess, turned from idolatry to the worship of the true God, were to unite themselves with His chosen people. As the numbers of Israel increased they were to enlarge their borders, until their kingdom should embrace the world.

"God desired to bring all peoples under His merciful rule. He desired that the earth should be filled with joy and peace. He created man for happiness, and He longs to fill human hearts with the peace of heaven. He desires that the families below shall be a symbol of the great family above." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 290.

