



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Like Ruth, Big Heroes are loyal.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of being loyal to others.

KEY PASSAGE:

Ruth 1. Ruth's Loyalty to Naomi.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Naomi had so little. Her husband and both of her sons had died. She had no money or means to provide for herself. She had no power or clout. And she was in a strange land. But Naomi did have one thing – the loyalty and devotion of her daughter-in-law Ruth. And it was that because of Ruth that Naomi's life was changed for the better. When we are loyal to our family and friends, we can be heroes like Ruth.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for heroes that show us what it means to be loyal. Help us to be loyal to our friends and our family.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

"A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. Let us keep on running the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Divide the room into girls and boys. Have the girls and boys read the verse aloud together, alternating every other word, so girls say the first word, boys say the second word, girls the third, etc.

SMALL GROUP:

Have the kids sit in a circle, then walk around them "Duck, Duck, Goose" style. Kids say the next word in the memory verse as you tap them on the head. (K-2nd)

Have the kids practice saying their memory verse, then see who can say it backwards. (3rd-5th)



SKIT

DAMSEL IN DISTRESS: LOYALTY

ITEMS NEEDED:

Black outfit (for the villain)

Rope

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Damsel

Villain

Potential Hero

Our Damsel is on the railroad tracks tied up with rope. The Villain stands over her.

VILLAIN: I've got you now, Damsel.

DAMSEL: Untie me at once, cruel villain.

VILLAIN: Alright fair Damsel, I will.

DAMSEL: You will?

VILLAIN: Yes. As soon as you give me the information that I want to know. Tell me where the sheriff is planning to-.

DAMSEL: You can stop right there. I'm not going to tell you anything.

VILLAIN: But I will free you right now if you just tell on your friends.

DAMSEL: Never! The sheriff and his deputies are my friends. They are brave men who I would do anything for. They have my friendship and my loyalty.

SKIT

VILLAIN: Even if that loyalty means that you go “SPLAT”?

DAMSEL: Even then.

VILLAIN: Suit yourself. I think I need more rope. I need to get it from my bag. I’ll be right back.

Villain exits.

DAMSEL: Help! Help! Save me! I need a hero!

Potential Hero comes into view.

DAMSEL: Oh, my hero, thank goodness you’re here.

PH: Oh my goodness. What has happened to you?

DAMSEL: This dastardly villain has taken me and tied me to the railroad tracks.

PH: How cruel. Why would anyone do such a thing?

DAMSEL: He is bent on taking over the town. In order to do that he has to stop the sheriff and his deputies.

PH: And where do you come in?

DAMSEL: Those lawmen are my friends. The villain has taken me in the hopes that I will tell him how he can capture the sheriff and his men.

PH: Why don’t you just tell the Villain what he wants to know.

DAMSEL: No. I would never do that.

PH: Why not?

DAMSEL: Because I believe in loyalty.

PH: Loyalty? Is that when you’re a king or something?

DAMSEL: You’re thinking of royalty. Loyalty means being committed to a person through thick and thin. Loyalty is standing by a person if when times are tough and the going gets rough.

SKIT

PH: That sounds like a pretty nice quality to have.

DAMSEL: It's a great virtue. All the big heroes have loyalty.

PH: Uh oh.

DAMSEL: What "uh oh"?

PH: I guess I can't be your hero, then. I don't have much loyalty. My friend Jack asked me to help him fix his barn today and I said I didn't want to. That's why I came out here – to get away from Jack.

DAMSEL: But it's not too late to turn things around. After you help me get free, you can still go to Jack. You can tell him you're sorry, and then help him build that barn. You can still be a loyal man. You can still be a hero.

PH: You really think so?

DAMSEL: I really do.

PH: You're so great. Thank you. (yelling off) You hear that, Jack? Your loyal friend is on his way.

Potential Hero rushes off.

DAMSEL: Wait! You forgot the part where you untie me. Oh, poo. (beat) Help! I need a hero!



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Doggie bowl

Do you know what this is? Who or what would one of these belong to?

This is a food bowl for a pet. It could be for a cat or a dog, I suppose. But this one is meant to be used by a dog.

I love dogs. Does anyone else love dogs? What makes a dog so great?

Give the kids an opportunity to answer.

Dogs have a lot of great qualities. They're energetic. They're affectionate. They're happy. One of the things that dogs are known for is being loyal. They love their owners and stick by them no matter what.

If you're having a good day, your dog is right there to share your joy. If you've had a terrible day, the dog is still right beside you. Whether you're rich, poor, or somewhere in between, your dog doesn't care. He is loyal through thick and thin.

That's an admirable thing: loyalty. It's something we appreciate in our pets and something we admire in other people. And it's a quality that we should seek to possess.

Loyalty: it's the stuff of heroes.



LARGE GROUP GAME

KNOCK OUT

ITEMS NEEDED:

Trash can
Tennis balls

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose three to five kids to play. Have an adult be the leader (try to find a good basketball player for this one) and the kids will be followers.

The adult begins by standing somewhere on the stage and shooting a tennis ball into the trash can. Each kid follows with a shot from the same location. When a kid misses, they are out.

After each kid has shot, the adult picks another spot and shoots again, with kids following as before.

If the adult misses the shot on any turn, then the kids have to miss the shot too. The goal here isn't to always make the basket, but to follow what the leader did. If a kid doesn't match the adult's outcome, he is out.

The last kid following the adult wins!

VARIATION:

For younger kids, allow them two or three attempts to make the shot.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Ruth was loyal to Naomi, willing to follow her anywhere no matter what the outcome.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Like Ruth, Big Heroes are loyal.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of being loyal to others.

KEY PASSAGE:

Ruth 1. Ruth's Loyalty to Naomi.

INTRO

We all have heroes. People that we admire, look up to, want to be like. People who have done amazing things and possess amazing qualities. Those qualities are what we call virtues. Virtues like obedience, humility, and commitment.

Heroes also need to be loyal. No one is going to put his confidence in someone who is there for you one minute and then gone the next. None of us wants friends who run away whenever things get difficult. We want to know that someone is loyal – that they will be there for you through thick and thin.

Naomi was an old woman who didn't have much. Her husband and both of her sons had died. She had no money or means to provide for herself. She had no power or clout. And she was in a strange land.

But Naomi did have one thing – the loyalty and devotion of her daughter-in-law Ruth.

READ Ruth 1.

MAIN POINT

No matter what Naomi did or how much she argued with Ruth, Ruth wasn't going anywhere. Even though Naomi had nothing, Ruth was completely loyal to Naomi.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

As we read on in the story of Ruth, when the two women returned to Israel, Ruth would go into the fields and pick up the grain that had been left behind by the farmers. It was with this grain that Ruth was able to feed herself and Naomi. Naomi was too old to do this work herself – there's no telling how Naomi would have survived if Ruth hadn't been loyal to her mother-in-law.

Eventually Ruth married a man named Boaz. But even then, she remained faithful to Naomi. Ruth and Boaz treated Naomi as if she were their own mother. And when they had a son, named Obed, Naomi held the baby in her arms and cared for it like it was her own grandchild.

Naomi lived out her days happy and contented. And she owed it all to the loyalty of her daughter-in-law, Ruth.

DRIVE IT HOME

Are you a loyal person? When the going gets tough, do you stick around and help, or do you hit the road?

You have friends. And like every person on the planet, your friends are going to go through hard times. The kind of person/friend/hero you are will be determined by what you do when those hard times come.

Your friends need your support and loyalty. If you know someone who is having a hard time understanding math, offer to help her study. (Unless you're bad at math too; then maybe you could both find another person to help.) If you have a friend who seems to be having a rough time in his home life, invite him to hang out at your place when he can. If your friend seems down, invite him to talk to you about their problems. If they need more help than you can give, you can still promise to be there with them every step of the way.

That's what loyalty is. Being there every step of the way. When people see that we are loyal they will be drawn to us. People want to know that someone has their back and will never let them down.

We all want to be loyal people. And with God's help, we can be those people. Ask God for the strength and courage to be loyal. Ask him to bring people into your life who will be loyal when you face problems in your life. And turn to him continually, because God is loyal to us. If we follow him, and the example of heroes like Ruth, we can be loyal people.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

*Dear God, Thank you for heroes that show us what it means to be loyal. Help us to be loyal to our friends and our families.
In Jesus' name, Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

Name someone who has been with you when times got tough.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Have the kids sit in a circle, then walk around them “Duck, Duck, Goose” style.

Kids say the next word in the memory verse as you tap them on the head.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have kids make bracelets for themselves and for a friend, as a symbol of their loyalty to each other. These can be as simple as strips of construction paper taped around the wrist, or as elaborate as you have time and materials to create.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Ruth 1.

Why did Naomi and her husband move to Moab?

What instructions did Naomi give to her daughters-in-law?

Why did Ruth refuse to leave Naomi?

Where did Ruth and Naomi go from there?

What does it mean to be loyal?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Help us to be loyal to you and to other people, just like these heroes were.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

Name someone who has been with you when times got tough.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Have the kids practice saying their memory verse, then see who can say it backwards.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Have kids make bracelets for themselves and for a friend, as a symbol of their loyalty to each other. These can be as simple as strips of construction paper taped around the wrist, or as elaborate as you have time and materials to create.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Ruth 1.

Why did Naomi and her husband move to Moab?

What instructions did Naomi give to her daughters-in-law?

Why did Ruth not wish to leave Naomi?

What do you think Naomi's life would have been like if Ruth hadn't been there?

What does it mean to be loyal?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Help us to be loyal to you and to other people, just like these heroes were.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Why did Naomi and her husband move to Moab in the first place?
 - A. Told to in a dream
 - B. There was a famine in Israel*
 - C. They were on vacation

2. What were the names of Naomi's two daughters-in-law?
 - A. Ruth and Orpah*
 - B. Ruth and Mara
 - C. Boaz and Naomi

3. What instructions did Naomi give to Ruth and Orpah?
 - A. "Go with me to Bethlehem."
 - B. "Gather grain for me to eat."
 - C. "Go back to your mother's home." *

4. How did the two women respond to what Naomi said?
 - A. They both went back to their mother's homes
 - B. Orpah left, but Ruth stayed by Naomi's side*
 - C. Neither woman left Naomi

5. Ruth proved throughout her life that she was _____ Naomi.
 - A. Afraid of
 - B. Mad at
 - C. Loyal to*



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Bible Heroes Lesson 8

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: RUTH



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Today we learned that big heroes are loyal. Naomi had so little. Her husband and both of her sons had died. She had no money or means to provide for herself. And she was in a strange land. But Naomi did have one thing – the loyalty and devotion of her daughter-in-law, Ruth. It was because of Ruth that Naomi's life was changed for the better. When we are loyal to our family and friends, we can be heroes like Ruth.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

As you watch television programs or movies this week, talk to your kids about the relationships that are portrayed on screen. Where do they see loyal friendships? How did people show their commitment to one another? What qualities do they see in that character that they would like to emulate?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What had made life so difficult for Naomi?
- How did Ruth prove her loyalty to Naomi?
- What does it mean to be loyal?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

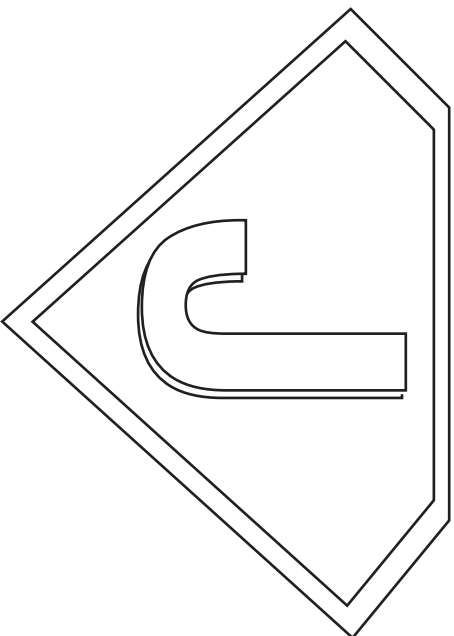
Who do you know that is going through a difficult season? Take some time this week to reconnect with them. Offer to help them in any way that you can. Reassure them of your loyalty to them.



CRAFT PROJECT

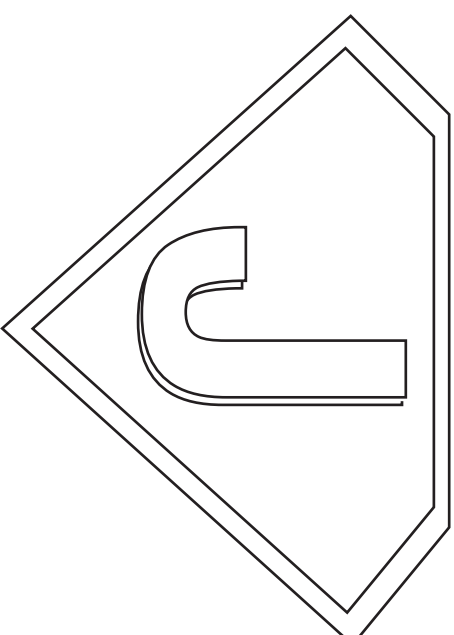
Have kids create an acrostic of the word “Loyal” coming up with words or phrases that help explain the word. The acrostic below serves as an example:

heLp in times of trouble
hOnor
fullY committed
Always
Loving



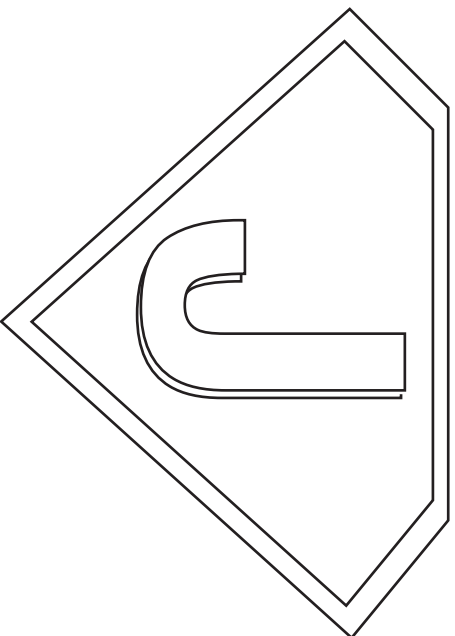
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- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



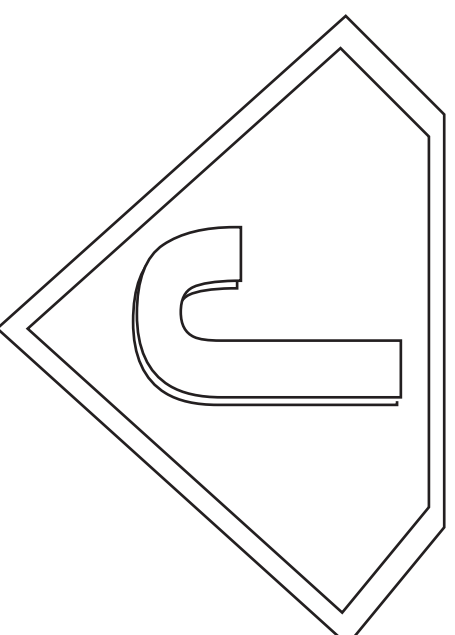
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