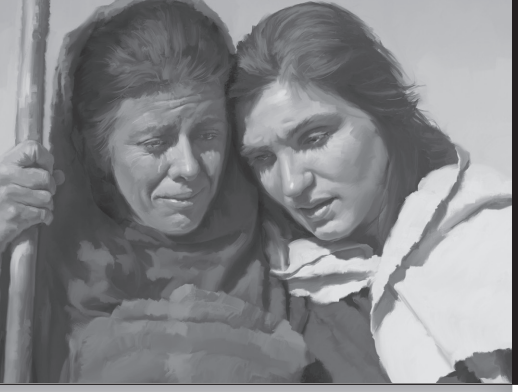


YEAR C | QUARTER 3

13

God's Magnet

Grace in Action
We remain faithful to God when facing difficulties.

POWER TEXT

"But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God'" (Ruth 1:16).

KEY REFERENCES

- Ruth 1:1-18
- *Christ's Object Lessons,* chap. 23, pp. 290, 301
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 3, pp. 137-142
- student story on page 142 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 11, Growing in Christ
- No. 23, Marriage and the Family
- No. 3, The Father

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God is constantly drawing us to Himself.
- **Feel** a desire to follow God.
- **Respond** by choosing to follow God wherever He leads them.

POWERPOINT

God is constantly drawing us to Himself.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Naomi is an Israelite, and Ruth and Orpah, her daughters-in-law, are Moabites. They live in the land of Moab. After the death of Naomi's husband and her two sons, she decides to return to Israel. She urges her two daughters-in-law to stay in Moab and remarry. Ruth refuses to leave her mother-in-law and utters these memorable words: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God" (Ruth 1:16). They both return to Judah, where Ruth eventually marries Boaz and is honored by God in becoming a great-grandmother of Jesus.

This is a lesson about grace in action.

God offered Himself to Ruth through her relationship with Naomi and her family. He included Ruth in the lineage of the Messiah, even though she was not born a member of His chosen people. God offers His grace to all, regardless of ancestry.

Teacher Enrichment

Ruth was a member of the Moabite tribe. The ancestor of the Moabites was Moab—the son of Lot by his daughter (Genesis 19:37). The Moabites had refused the Israelites permission to march through their country on their way from Egypt to Canaan, so the Israelites refused them permission to worship at the Temple.

Contact between the Israelites and the Moabites often led Israel into sin and apostasy (Numbers 25). The relationship between the Israelites and Moabites was often hostile, according to Judges 3:12-30. Israel served under the Moabites for 18 years. Saul fought the Moabites and defeated them (1 Samuel 14:47).

How has God shown His grace to me? What has been my response to God's grace?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Portrait of Influence*	large paper/writing chart, markers, masking tape
		B. Magnetic Personality	paper plates, magnets, small metal objects; or cup, straws
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 137. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, offering plate/basket, world map, pushpins
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	three Bible costumes for females
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Magnetic Love*	art supplies, magnetic strips or masking tape, clear contact paper, paper plates
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:

- ☐ large sheet of paper/ writing chart
- ☐ masking tape
- ☐ markers

Portrait of Influence

Tape a large piece of paper/writing chart to the wall. Ask the students to think about and share the names of people who influenced the world in some way over the past few years. Record their answers on the paper/writing chart.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did the people we listed influence others? Think of someone who has influenced you to follow God. What is this person like?** (Wait for and encourage responses.) **What type of people does God want to draw or attract to Himself?** (Lead the conversation toward a realization that God wants everyone, He has no favorite types, nationalities, etc. The important thing is that God is drawing each and everyone of us.) Say: **Our story today is about Ruth, a Moabite woman who followed her Israelite mother-in-law and chose to believe in the true God. Let's say the power text together:**

"But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God' " (Ruth 1:16).

Our power point reminds us that:

God is constantly drawing us to Himself.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ paper plates
- ☐ magnets
- ☐ objects attracted by magnets OR
- ☐ cups
- ☐ straws

Magnetic Personality

Supply paper plates; objects attracted by magnets, such as steel paper clips, pins, needles, scissors; and magnets for as many students as possible. Have students place small objects on top of the paper plate and hold the magnet against the bottom. Have them experiment with moving the magnet around underneath the plate and watching what happens to the items on the top of the plate. (If you are not able to use magnets, adapt this exercise with a cup, a straw, and the "drawing" force of sucking up air or liquid.)

Debriefing

Ask: **How is God's grace like a magnet? God's Word tells us that God is constantly drawing us to Himself. What could be our response to God? Let's say the power text together:**

"But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God' " (Ruth 1:16).

Say: **Like steel to a magnet . . .**

God is constantly drawing us to Himself.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows that they shared with you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"It's About Grace" (see p. 148)
"Father, I Adore You" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 32)
"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 146)
"Into My Heart" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 152)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Say: **Just like Ruth, God draws people from every country and every culture toward Himself.** Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults or another mission report available to you. You may use a map of the world where the students can identify and mark with pushpins the location of the mission story.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **Through His love we are blessed with the things we need. We can thank God for all He has given us by giving to help those who do not know Him.**

Prayer

Before prayer explain to the students that when they feel the call of God, or the prompting of His Holy Spirit, they should respond. Encourage them to do so during a few moments of silence you provide after the main prayer.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask: **Has anyone here ever had to move from one city to another (or from a state to another)? What were some good things about the move? What were some bad things about the move?**

Has anyone ever moved from one country to another? What were some advantages you found in the new country? What were some disadvantages?

Has anyone ever moved to a completely different culture, to live with a completely new group of people, one in which even the major religion was different? (If you know you have children in your group who have experienced this, you might ask them the week before to be ready to share.) **What were some advantages to being in a different culture? What were some of the disadvantages?**

Say: **Today our story is about two people who faced the challenges of changing cultures.**

YOU NEED:

- ☐ costumes for a woman and two girls

Experiencing the Story

Have two older girls and one woman dress in Bible costumes and join you. Ask them ahead of time to read Ruth 1:1-18. Introduce them to your students.

Read Ruth 1:1-18 aloud to the students. Then, starting with Naomi, ask each of the "guests" to tell the story from their point of view, as if you are giving them time on a television news program. (Possible leading questions: How did you feel when . . . ? When did you decide to . . . ? What reaction did you get when you . . . ?)

Debriefing

Say: **It was not an easy decision for Ruth to make when she decided to follow Naomi back to Bethlehem in Judah. What were some possible reasons that Ruth wanted to follow Naomi?** (Guide the discussion. Emphasize the point that Ruth was being drawn by God's love and grace. Emphasize that God can draw people through the example of a loving Christian.)

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

□ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Say: **Let's look at some other people whom God called or drew to Himself.** Have students look up the following texts as you call them out, then ask them to tell you who was called and what they remember about the circumstances:

Genesis 12:1 (Abram)
Exodus 3:10 (Moses)
Judges 6:14 (Gideon)
1 Samuel 3:7, 8 (Samuel)

Say: **God or an angel talked to these people directly. But Ruth was drawn by love for Naomi and by God speaking to her heart. How do we know if God is calling us? Let's look at 1 Corinthians 1:9.** Have a student find and read the text.

Ask: **How do you feel knowing that God is calling you just as He was calling Bible characters?** (Encourage and wait for answers and discussion. If students express feeling scared, or unable, use Exodus 4:1-12; 1 Timothy 4:12.) Say: **Regardless of how weak we feel, we need to remember that:**

God is constantly drawing us to Himself.

Could we commit to God the way Ruth did? Let's say the power text together:

"But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God' " (Ruth 1:16).

Scenario

Read aloud the following scenario: **Brittany is not too sure about religion. Her parents do not believe in God. Brittany has two close friends at school who are Christians, and she really enjoys being with them. They are happy, peaceful, honest, and kind. They have invited Brittany to go to church with them. She would like to go, but she isn't sure she wants to get involved in any religion.**

Debriefing

Ask: **What is happening in this situation?** (Love and kindness are drawing Brittany toward God.) **How is God drawing Brittany?** (He is letting her see His love in someone else's life.)

Say: **Think about this next question, don't answer it. Do you see yourself as one of the friends who has already been drawn into a relationship with God, or as someone like Brittany, who isn't sure she wants to get involved with religion? Which character is most like you in Ruth's story?**

Ask: **What is the difference between being religious and really knowing Jesus?** (Encourage the students to realize that God is calling them into a friendship with Jesus, not into a set of lifeless rules and regulations, or an occasional visit to church.)

Have the students repeat together: **"God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord"** (see I Corinthians 1:9).

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ art supplies
- ☐ clear contact paper
- ☐ magnetic strips OR masking tape
- ☐ paper plates

Magnetic Love

Write the paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 1:9 (see bottom of page 139) where everyone can see it. Distribute art supplies, clear contact paper, and sticky-backed magnetic strips (or loops of masking tape) available in craft stores. Have each student create an artistic version of the verse, cover it with clear contact paper, and place a magnetic strip on the back.

OR have students decorate a paper plate with the verse and their artwork. Help each student decide with whom they would like to share this message in the coming week. Discuss with them the ways they can show God's "magnetic" love to others this week. For instance, paying attention to someone usually ignored; spending time with an elderly person; being helpful at home without being asked.

Accommodations for students with special needs:
Some students with special needs may need help with this activity. Allow them to work with a partner.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Pray that each student will feel a sense of God's personal call. Thank God for grace toward each one of them. Pray that each one will choose to form a relationship with Him.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www .juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php ?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **God cares for Elijah. We can trust that God will provide for us.**

Notes

Student lesson

God's Magnet

Who is your favorite relative? Why is that person special to you? What common interests do you have? What is your favorite memory of that person?

The high-pitched wailing of the mourners went on and on. Naomi pushed back her black veil and wiped her face. Since she had moved across the Jordan River to Moab with her husband and her two sons, this was the third funeral for her family. She and her husband, Elimelech, had left their hometown of Bethlehem in Judah to escape a terrible famine.

They had come to Moab to start a new life. But instead of life, she had found death. First Elimelech had died. She was left alone with her two sons, Mahlon and Kilion. Her two sons married Ruth and Orpah, the Moabite girls they had chosen. Her daughters-in-law had become part of the family, even though they were from another culture. But now her sons had died too. Naomi pulled her veil back over her face. Her voice again joined the shrill wail of the other mourners.

For a while Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah struggled to survive on their own. Then, little by little, they started to hear news that the famine was over in Judah. Naomi called Ruth and Orpah together for a family council, and they decided to start packing immediately. The two helpful daughters-in-law packed most of their belongings and made most of the arrangements for closing up their home in Moab.

Finally the day arrived. The three women started down the road toward the Jordan River, each with her own set of thoughts.

As Naomi walked, she had time to think about what lay ahead for each of them. For all she knew, she faced a life of emptiness. Maybe she would still need the help of these young women, but was coming with her the best thing for them? She had no right to force her people on them. How would they be accepted? They would be foreigners in a strange land, and she knew how that felt. And besides, they were widows now, the same as she was.

According to some Eastern custom, she could keep them as her virtual slaves. But, she reasoned with herself, they needed to marry again, or at least to be in the home of some male relative who could provide for them. They probably wouldn't marry again in Judah. Israelites looked down on Moabites. And they had no relatives there. No, it would be best for them to go back to their own country, even though she would miss them.

Naomi stopped walking and sat down beside the road to rest. "Ruth and Orpah, we need to talk," she began. "I've been thinking." Naomi started to explain her thoughts to the two young women, who had eagerly put down their burdens and sat beside her, welcoming the rest.

"You see," she concluded, "although I love you and have depended on you during these tough times, I know that it will be best for you to go back to your country and to your family. There you will have someone to take care of you, and you may even marry again and become the mothers you really want to be."

Orpah spoke up quickly: "But how will you manage without us? You don't even know if you have any relatives left to live with."

"God's grace provided me with your love and friendship," Naomi replied. "Even though I have experienced a lot of bitterness and sorrow, I will trust Him to provide for my future. You have no further obligation to me. You are free to go."

Orpah had tears in her eyes, but she looked carefully at Naomi to be really sure she meant it. Then she quickly gave her a goodbye kiss, picked up her bundle, turned, and headed back the way they had come.

Ruth and Naomi sat silently together beside the road. Naomi finally broke the silence. "Go with her."

"But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God'" (Ruth 1:16).

Ruth paused a moment, choosing her next words very carefully. "Most of all, Mother Naomi, I want your God to be my God. I will not leave you. I will die and be buried with your people."

Naomi looked thoughtfully at the younger woman. She sensed that God was calling Ruth. In spite of all the pain of losing her husband and sons, God was using all of this to draw another precious person to Himself. She wouldn't urge Ruth to go back home anymore. Slowly Naomi picked up her bag and headed for the path. Ruth followed her, and the two made their way together toward Bethlehem, and whatever God had in store for them.

KEY REFERENCES

- Ruth 1:1-18
- *Christ's Object Lessons,* chap. 23, pp. 290, 301
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 3, pp. 137-142
- Our Beliefs, nos. 11, 23, 3

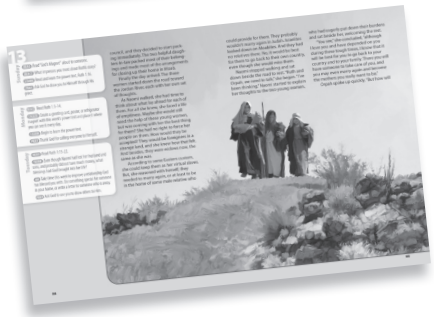
POWER TEXT

"But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God'" (Ruth 1:16).

POWER POINT

God is constantly drawing us to Himself.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 102.

Sunday

READ Read Ruth 1:16 and this week's story, "God's Magnet" aloud to someone.

REACT What impresses you most about Ruth's story?

LEARN Read and learn the power text, Ruth 1:16.

PRAY Ask God to draw you to Himself through His grace.

Monday

READ Read Ruth 1:1-14.

CREATE Create a greeting card, poster, or refrigerator magnet with this week's power text and place it where you can see it every day.

LEARN Learn the power text.

PRAY Thank God for calling everyone to Himself.

Tuesday

READ Read Ruth 1:15-22.

THINK Even though Naomi had lost her husband and sons, and probably did not have much money, what blessings had God brought into her life?

DO Take time this week to improve a relationship God has blessed you with. Do something special for someone in your home, or write a letter to someone who is away.

PRAY Ask God to use you to draw others to Him.

Wednesday

READ Read Ruth 2.

THINK What does this chapter reveal about Ruth's willingness to work and help her mother-in-law?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, make a list of ways you could be of help to your family members. Then make another list with ways you could help others learn about God's grace.

PRAY Ask God to impress you with all the reasons He wants you to belong to Him.

Thursday

READ Read Matthew 1:5, 6.

THINK Remember the story of Rahab and how God chose her to be a part of His people, even one of Jesus' ancestors. Ruth, the daughter of a despised people, was also one of Jesus' great-grandmothers.

DRAW Draw a family tree from Rahab through King David, including Ruth.

PRAY Praise God for drawing you into His family.

Friday

READ Read Ruth 3; 4.

THINK When Naomi and Ruth crossed the Jordan and headed for Naomi's hometown of Bethlehem, they did not know what God had in store for them, but they had both decided to trust Him.

WRITE As though you were Ruth, write a letter to her family in Moab about how God took care of her.

SHARE Share your letter with your family at worship.

PRAY Tell God how grateful you are for His loving care.