

WEEK 12

Shining in Faraway Places

Big Idea: God is with me. I will let His love show.

Memory Verse

***"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven"* (Matthew 5:16).**

Word of the Week

"Shine" - The moon shines in the night sky. When something shines, it helps us to see the things around us. When we have God's love in our hearts, we will want to show it—we'll shine like bright lights. We can show God's love to others by being kind, happy, and caring.

This week's lesson

is based on **Ruth1** and *Review and Herald*, May 29,1900.

Sunday

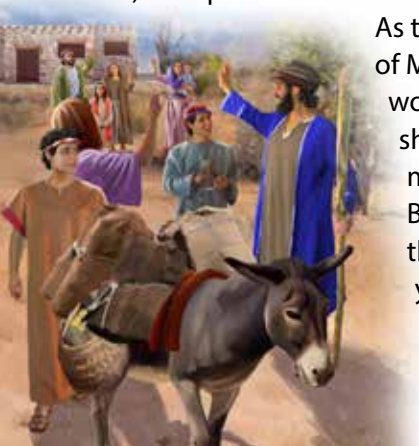
A Big Move

In a little town called Bethlehem, in Canaan, a hungry family busily packed their bags. They rolled up their clothes in blankets. They packed their sacks with their best tools, pots, bowls, and spoons. Then they packed the very last little bit of food they had.

It was many, many years after Joseph's family had moved from Canaan to Egypt. And now there was another time of hunger for God's people in Canaan. The farms were dry. The food was gone. Everyone was hungry!

Just like Jacob's family, this little family decided to move away to find food. What were their names? Read **Ruth1:2**.

With a big wave goodbye to all their neighbors, the family set off. They had heard that there were fields full of food in a faraway country called Moab. It was a long, long walk to get there. But God had promised Jacob, "I am with you, and I will protect you everywhere you go" (Genesis 28:15, ICB). This promise was for them too.



As they walked they thought about the people of Moab. They didn't believe in God, they worshipped idols. Elimelech and Naomi would show their new neighbors God's love—and maybe they would learn to love God too! The Bible says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

I Wonder

» How do you think Mahlon and Chilion felt as they packed their bags and began the long trip to another country?

» Have you ever moved? What was it like?

Prayer Idea

Pray for someone who is moving away or has recently moved to your town.

Do

Plan something kind for someone who is new to the area where you live. Invite them to your house, make them a welcome card, or take them some food.

Monday

A Shining Light

(Sing)
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine!

Challenge

Can you find two things that are "shining" in the darkness, just as God's love shines brightly in our dark, sad times? (Fire, stars.)

Elimelech, Naomi, and their sons had God's love deep in their hearts. It was like a bright light that they carried all the way to Moab. Here they decided to let it shine brightly to everyone.

Each morning they bowed down and prayed together as a family. They may have sung songs too. Then, cheerfully, they began their daily jobs. They worked hard and helped their neighbors. Their loving words and kind actions shone God's goodness.

But one day something happened, what was it? Read **Ruth 1:3**.

Oh, no! How sad! What would they do? Ruth, Mahlon, and Chilion cried and hugged each other tightly. They were thankful they still had each other. They were really, really thankful God was with them too. He had promised, "I am with you . . . I will not leave you" (Genesis 28:15).

God is with you whenever you're sad too. His love is like a warm shining light that can help you feel stronger and better. God says in the Bible, "I am the one who comforts you" (Isaiah 51:12, ICB).
Thank You, God!

I Wonder

» Read your memory verse. How can you bring God's light and joy to someone who is sad or lonely this week?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for always being there for us.

Do

Do you know anyone who is a missionary for Jesus in a faraway place? Write them a letter or send a care package to remind them that God is with them, even when things are hard.

Memory Verse



Tuesday

Show and Tell

Naomi smiled and hummed as she kneaded bread by the fire. She still missed her husband, but she knew God was with her. He had filled her home with laughter again. There were now five happy people sharing her home. Naomi's two sons had married lovely young women. One son married Ruth and the other Orpah.

Ruth pushed the hair from her eyes as she crushed barley on the grinding stone. Orpah was not far away sweeping and shaking the dusty mats. The women smiled as they listened to Naomi singing Scripture songs as she made the bread. Their home was always full of peace and love.

Every day Naomi showed her family God's goodness. Her friendly smiles, her gentle words, and her thoughtful actions showed them that "God is love" (1 John 4:16, ICB).

Naomi told wonderful stories too. True stories! She told stories about Creation, Noah and the Flood, Abraham, Joseph, and Moses. The Bible says we should also tell each other stories of God's love. When should we tell each other? Read **Deuteronomy 11:19**.

Naomi also loved to pray. The women had never heard such peaceful, thankful prayers. This wasn't how the Moabite people prayed to idols. No! Naomi talked to her God as though He was her Best Friend. In this home they found they belonged. How nice it was to be part of this happy family who loved God.

Ruth and Orpah just loved being part of this happy family who let their love shine for God.

I Wonder

» What do you like the most about family worship time?

» Which stories from the Bible are your favorite ones?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for all the good things He does for us.

Do

Give your family a "Show and Tell" about God's love. Look for something from nature that He has made or that shows how He loves and looks after you. Tell a story to go with it.

Memory Verse





Wednesday

A Very Sad Day

For 10 years Naomi, Mahlon, Chilion, Ruth, and Orpah lived as a happy family. They worked, ate, laughed, and worshipped God together.

Back in Canaan, life was still very hard. For the whole 10 years that Naomi and her family had been gone, there had been no rain and no food. Can you imagine being hungry for 10 whole years?

But thankfully the land of Moab was very different. Naomi's family had plenty to eat. There was always bread to bake and a big pot of yummy stew to eat.

But one day another very sad thing happened. What was it? Read **Ruth 1:5**.

Naomi had lost her two dear sons. Ruth and Orpah had lost their husbands. They hugged each other and cried. Although they couldn't see Him, God was right there comforting them. He is always "close to the brokenhearted" (Psalm 34:18, ICB).

Good news soon came to sad Naomi. "She heard that the Lord had taken care of his people. He had given food to them in Judah" (Ruth 1:6, ICB). Bethlehem had a good harvest of food coming! In this very sad time God was helping Naomi. He promises, "I am the Lord your God . . . Who leads you by the way you should go" (Isaiah 48:17). It was time to go home.

Fast Fact

People can only last for about three days without water. The Tarigrade—a bit like a mini caterpillar—can live for nearly 30 years without food or water.

I Wonder

» How does God show you His love and care when you are upset?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He can help us in happy and sad times, when our tummies are full or when we are hungry.

Mission Challenge

What's your favorite lesson story so far? Use your lesson pictures to tell it to a neighbor or friend.

Parent Faith Talk

Tell about a time you were sad and God comforted and helped you.

Memory Verse

Thursday

You First!

Naomi woke to a new morning and a new plan. Quickly she set to work cleaning, gathering, and packing. It was time to go home!

Ruth and Orpah loved Naomi too much to let her go alone. They knew she needed them. They decided to leave Moab with her. They bundled up all the things they could carry and set off on the long journey to Bethlehem.

As they walked slowly down the dusty road, Naomi looked at brave Ruth and Orpah. They were so kind to come with her. But it was such a big move for them to leave their home and their country.

Suddenly Naomi turned to Ruth and Orpah and said, "Go back home. Each of you, go to your own mother's house. You have been very kind to me and to my sons who are now dead. I hope the Lord will also be kind to you in the same way. I hope the Lord will give you another home and a new husband" (Ruth 1:8, 9, ICB).

What did Ruth and Orpah say? Read **Ruth 1:10**.

But Naomi had made up her mind. She wanted the best for them.

Putting others first is God's way. The Bible says, "Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others" (Philippians 2:4, ICB). All three women were shining God's love. With God's help, this is something you can do too.

I Wonder

» Can you think of a time someone missed out on something just so you could be happy? Thank them for shining God's love.

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you notice the needs of others today.

Do

With help from a grown-up, gather together three different kinds of lights. Perhaps a flashlight, candle, and lamp. Say your memory verse before turning on/lighting each one.

Memory Verse





Friday

A Wonderful Promise

What would Ruth and Orpah do? They looked at the road in front of them and then behind them. Would they turn around and go back to their families in Moab? Or would they go with Naomi to a new faraway land?

"The women cried together again. Then Orpah kissed Naomi good-bye" (Ruth 1:14, ICB). What did Ruth do? Read the rest of **Ruth 1:14**.

Orpah turned to leave but Ruth still held onto Naomi. "Go back with her," Naomi kindly said to Ruth (Ruth 1:15, ICB). She still wanted the very best for her.

Ruth looked into Naomi's eyes and said, "Every place you go, I will go. Every place you live, I will live. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God" (Ruth 1:16, ICB).

Wow! Ruth had seen God's goodness shining so brightly through Naomi's life that now her heart also glowed with God's love. She wanted to stay close to Naomi and close to God *forever*.

Our memory verse says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Ask Him to help you shine brightly today.

I Wonder

» Have you ever told a friend about Jesus? What did you say?

» What else might you do to shine God's love?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to put His love in your heart so it shines brightly and helps others learn about Him.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Talk together about how God's love was shown in this week's story. Draw a picture of a way that you can show God's love to others this coming week and glue it into your family journal.

For You, Parents

"The divine love glowing in the heart, the Christlike harmony manifested in the life, are as a glimpse of heaven granted to men of the world, that they may appreciate its excellence"
(Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* pp. 41, 42).

A Dangerous Snake



Jume and his mother were new believers in the Adventist church. They had learned all about Jesus and the Sabbath. Jume worked hard growing and selling food from his family's garden.

One day Jume decided to ask for extra work on a tea farm. But the farmer, Mr. McDonald, said that he must work on Saturday. Jume shook his head and said he couldn't. Saturday was the Sabbath, God's day of rest. As Jume quietly walked away, Mr. McDonald yelled out mean words and called him horrible names.

A few days later Jume stopped at the farm to sell Mrs. McDonald some vegetables on his way to market. She bought everything he had! As he happily left the farm he walked past Mr. McDonald's office. Suddenly he stood still. His eyes opened wide in horror. A deadly snake slithered through the open door into the room!

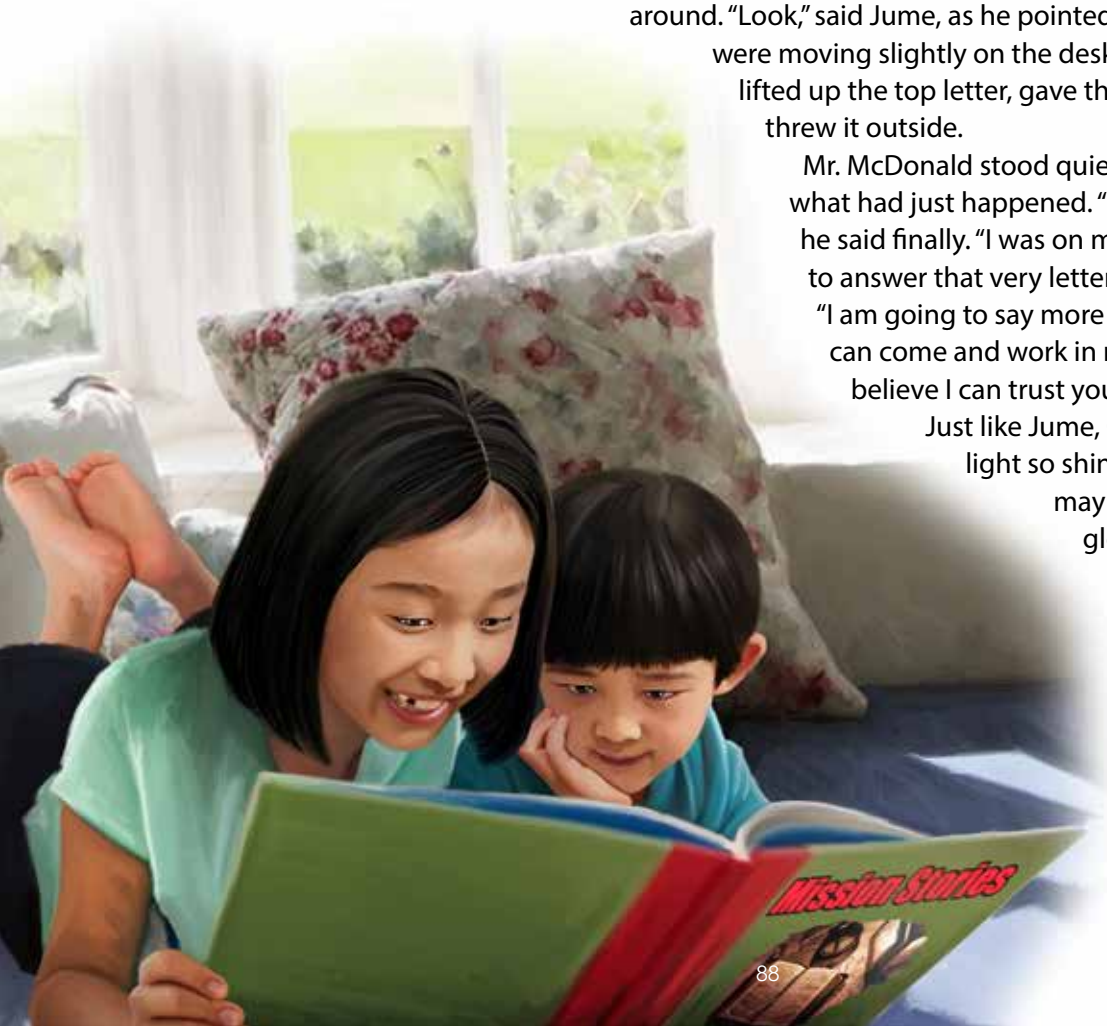
Jume saw Mr. McDonald outside and ran over to him. As soon as Mr. McDonald saw Jume he began shouting at him again. "I remember you! You are the one who will not work on Saturday. I do not want you on my farm!"

Calmly and kindly Jume replied, "I came to tell you that a dangerous snake just crawled into your office. I was afraid you might get bitten."

Together the two walked carefully into the office and began looking around. "Look," said Jume, as he pointed to a basket of letters that were moving slightly on the desk. Jume took a stick, slowly lifted up the top letter, gave the snake a whack, and threw it outside.

Mr. McDonald stood quietly. He was shocked at what had just happened. "I might have been killed," he said finally. "I was on my way back to this office to answer that very letter." After a pause he added, "I am going to say more than thank you. You can come and work in my office tomorrow. . . . I believe I can trust you."

Just like Jume, God wants you to "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).



This story is adapted from "Jume" by Josephine Cunnington Edwards, *Guide's Greatest Mission Stories,* copyright © 2013 published by the Review & Herald® Publishing Association. Used and adapted by permission.