

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we celebrate Mother's Day this Sunday we are going to look at the story of Naomi and Ruth. Ruth and Naomi had a special relationship as mother and daughter in law. Ruth loved Naomi very much and honoured her as a mother. Ruth becomes a mother as well and God uses both of them in his great plan. Firstly, through Naomi he brought Ruth to the land where she marries Boaz. Secondly, Ruth and Boaz's child Obed, is part of the genealogy of King David and Jesus.

I wish all the mothers a very happy Mother's Day. I know that many of you in celebration of today will be contacting extended family and spending special time with your children. The craft at the end of the session this week is optional, if you and your children would like to make a Mother's Day craft.

If you have children in more than one age group, can I please encourage you to pick one program that you feel works best for all your children's ages and complete that together as a family.

Blessings,
Jess

Supplies

- Children's Bible
- Baby Doll or soft toy
- Suitcase or Backpack
- A few possessions
- Arts and Craft Supplies

Time of Worship

Below are a few suggestions of worship songs that you can sing with your children:

- Our God is a Great Big God https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-424MpB_pd0
- Happy Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIWPGWflwU>

Story Time

Today we are looking at the story of Naomi and Ruth.

There once was a woman named Naomi she had a husband and two sons. They lived in Bethlehem, but there wasn't enough food for them there so they moved to a new land.

Children rub their tummies like their hungry. Pack their possessions in their bag and move to a new land. This could be the kitchen table or a bedroom or even outside. Children unpack their bag.

In the new land Naomi's two sons got married, one to Orpah and the other to Ruth. But a very sad thing happened. Naomi's husband and two sons died. But Naomi knew that God was still with her. Naomi told Orpah and Ruth to go back to the homes they had before they got married, but Ruth didn't want to leave Naomi because she loved her very much.

Children can give their mums a really big hug.

Naomi heard that there was lots of food again where she used to live. So, she and Ruth packed up what they had and travelled home.

Children can pack their bags again and you walk back to where you began the story.

When they arrived, back Ruth met a man called Boaz, and he loved her very much. They got married and had a little baby boy. They named the baby Obed.

Give your children the baby doll or soft toy to treat as baby Obed.

Ruth was very happy to be a mum and Naomi was very happy to be a grandmother. They were so happy that God had given them a baby to love.

Children show their best excited and happy reaction.

Mum's are really important to God, he loves them very much. There are lots of stories of mums in the Bible. We love our mums a lot as well. Just like how Ruth loved Naomi.

Time of Prayer

Come together with your child and ask them what they would like to tell God. Help them to put this into a simple prayer.

Have your children repeat the following prayer after you:

Dear God, thank you for giving Naomi a family. Thank you for our families too.

Amen

Craft

To celebrate Mother's Day below are a few suggestions for craft activities to do with your children. Please pick one depending on the resources you have and your child's interests.

Salt Dough Mother's Day Ornaments

The following link provides a recipe for salt dough ornaments. This can be used to make precious hand prints or patterns for mums to keep for years to come.

<https://thehappyhousewife.com/home-management/mothers-day-salt-dough-ornaments/>

Mother's Day Card

Taking some paper fold in half. Help your children decorate the card for their mum. Help your children stick, draw, and trace to create a masterpiece. It is always nice to include a Bible verse on the card.

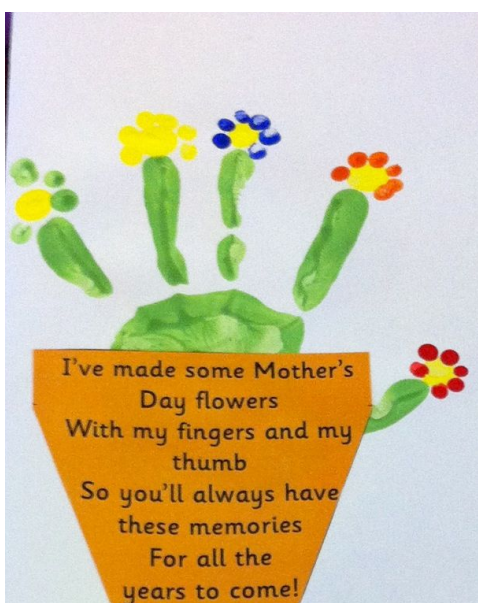
Play Doh Creation

If you have playdough, help your child, using cookie cutters to create something beautiful for their mum. They might like to cut out some love hearts or make a model of their mum.

Cupcake Liner Flower Bouquet

The below link shows how to create a bouquet using cupcake liners and disposable spoons. If you don't have all the materials listed on the website, they can be substituted for similar items or have the children colour in portions of the creation.

<https://iheartcraftythings.com/mothers-day-flower-bouquet-gift.html>



Hand Print Flower Pot

On a blank piece of paper have your child create a green handprint. This could be achieved using paint or by tracing their hand with a green marker. The children can then draw flowers at the end of each finger.

On a separate piece of paper draw a pot outline and have your children decorate it. Cut this out and stick it at the bottom of the hand print.

You may like to write a nice Bible verse on the flower pot or 'Happy Mother's Day 2020.'