

# LOVING GOD AND OTHERS

The Bible tells us that God is love, and his love is in us. God shows his love for us in many ways, such as by providing for us, protecting us, and guiding us through each day. When we follow God, his love for us starts to flow out of us and into other people through acts of kindness that we do for them.



## CONTENTS:

### BIBLE STORIES

Naomi and Ruth .....	1-2
Sharing God's Word Reading Plan .....	3
Love Passage for Kids .....	4

### DEVOTIONALS

Action Word .....	5
God Is Love .....	6
Love: Just Do It! .....	7

### COLORING PAGE

You Will Be My People .....	8-11
-----------------------------	------

### ACTIVITIES

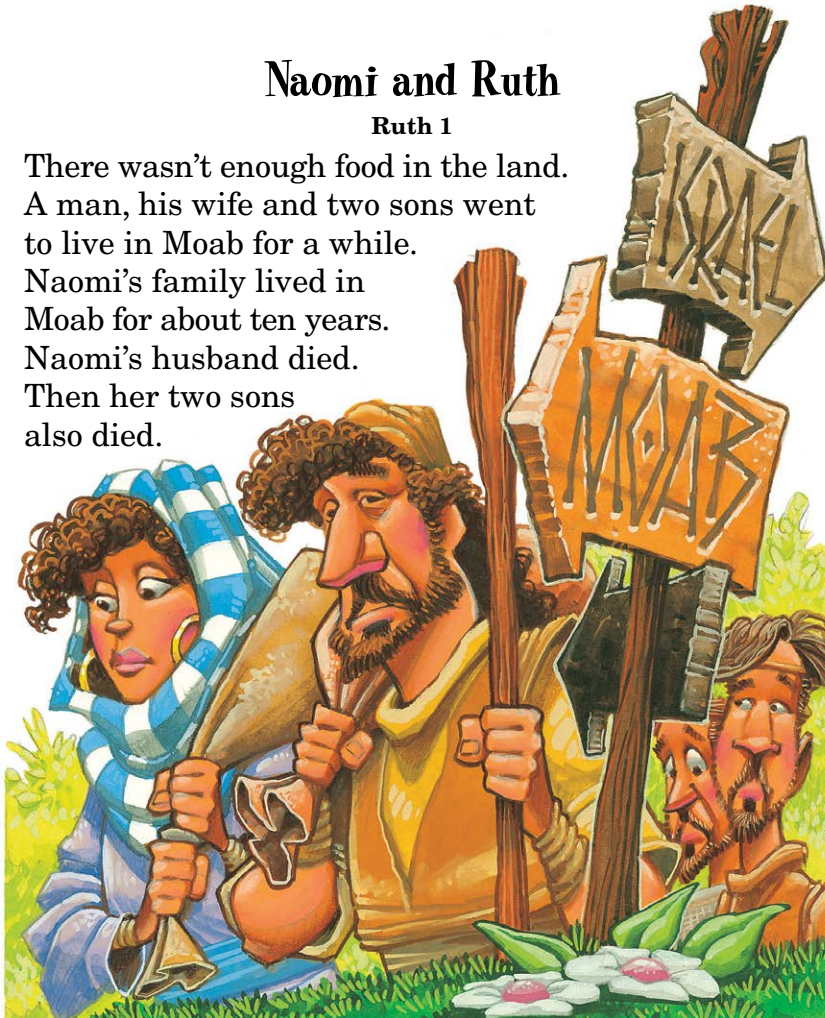
Grain and Straw .....	12
Kindness Charades .....	13
Kindness Counts .....	14

Read this story about how Ruth showed kindness to Naomi.

## Naomi and Ruth

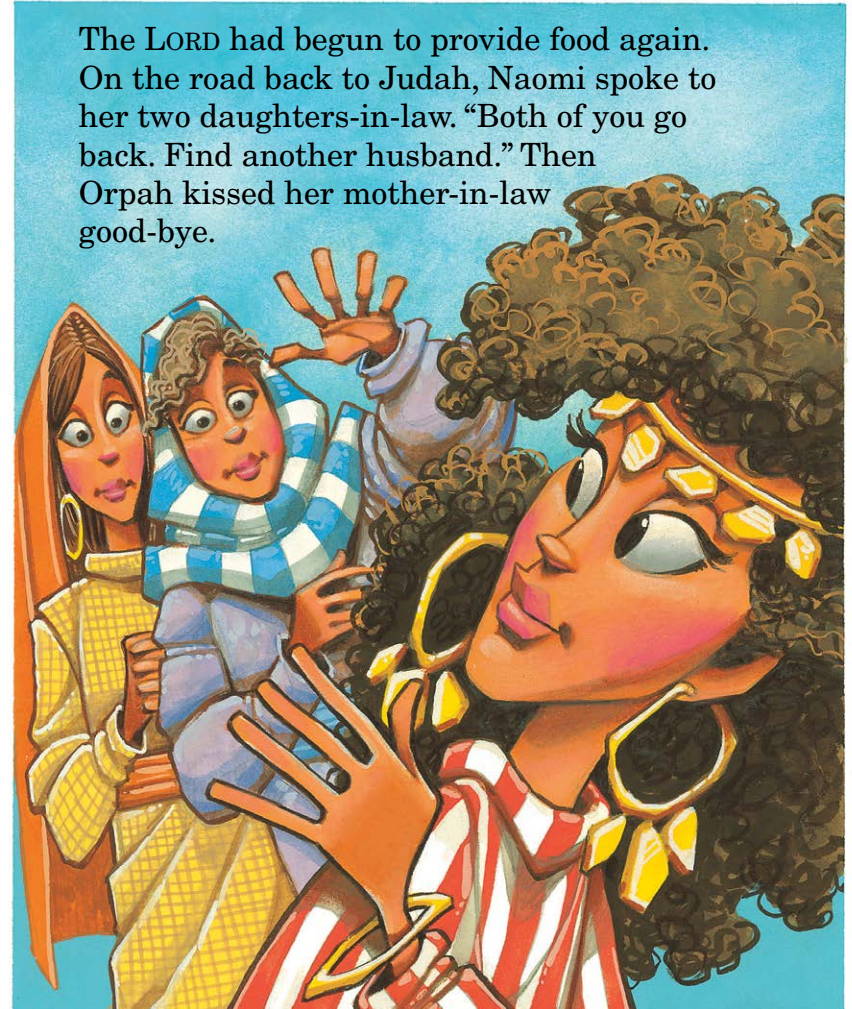
### Ruth 1

There wasn't enough food in the land. A man, his wife and two sons went to live in Moab for a while. Naomi's family lived in Moab for about ten years. Naomi's husband died. Then her two sons also died.



164

The LORD had begun to provide food again. On the road back to Judah, Naomi spoke to her two daughters-in-law. "Both of you go back. Find another husband." Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye.



165

But Ruth held on to her. Ruth said, “Don’t try to make me leave you. Where you go I’ll go. Where you stay I’ll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God.” So Naomi returned from Moab. Ruth, her daughter-in-law, came with her.





One of the best ways to share God's love with others is by telling them about him and his Word.  
This reading plan includes Bible passages that teach us how to do that.

## SHARING GOD'S WORD

---

- DAY 1    1 Peter 3:13-22 **Be Prepared to Give an Answer**
- DAY 2    Matthew 5:1-16 **Let Your Light Shine**
- DAY 3    Luke 24:13-49 **Spreading the News of the Resurrection**
- DAY 4    Acts 2 **Pentecost**
- DAY 5    Acts 8:26-40 **Philip and the Ethiopian**
- DAY 6    Acts 19 **Paul in Ephesus**
- DAY 7    Isaiah 6:1-13 **Here Am I. Send me!**

This passage from 1 Corinthians tells us what it looks like to love others as God loves us.

## Love Passage for Kids

Based on 1 Corinthians 13

If I can speak beautifully and sing like an angel but don't love others, I sound like a child banging on a piano or a screeching radio. If I'm very smart—almost a genius—but don't love others, I am nothing.

Love will stand in line and wait its turn.

Love looks for the good in others.

Love doesn't always want what others have, and it doesn't brag about what it does have.

Love is polite, even when the other person is rude.

Love doesn't have to be first.

Love doesn't get angry over small things, and it doesn't remember one reason after another to be hurt.

Love isn't happy when someone else fails but is happy with the truth.

Love will always protect others, especially those who are often picked on or teased.

Love always believes the best about others and is steady and true.

Love never gives up.

*The three most important things to have  
are faith, hope, and love.  
But the greatest of them is love.*

This devotional reminds that love is something we do, and we should actively share God's love with others.

March 4

## Action Word

On the television the children looked so hungry and sick. Abby turned to her dad. "They shouldn't go hungry just because of a war. It isn't their fault. It isn't fair."

Her dad peered over his reading glasses. "What are you going to do about it?"

"Me?" Abby blinked. "Me? I'm just a kid. What can I do?"

"That's not a very good excuse. What do you think you can do?"

Abby thought about it. "I could use some of my babysitting money to help sponsor a family that needs help."

"Tell you what." He put down his book, "If you give half, I'll pay the other half."

"I tell *you* what," Abby stuck her hand out. "I'll sponsor one child all by myself, and you sponsor another child."

"Deal!" They shook hands.

It isn't enough to want to see things get better in the world. You have to become part of what changes the world. That's called *love in action*. Don't just talk about helping others—*Do it*.

### Words to Treasure

Dear children, don't just talk about love. Put your love into action. Then it will truly be love.

1 John 3:18

**Live It!**

Did you know that 400 kids went to the United Nations to talk to world leaders about how to change the world for the better? Think about ways you can get involved to help your community or the world. Adults are waiting to help you make a difference. All you need to do is get involved.



63

What does it mean that God is love? This devotional helps us to understand God's love and what it means for us.

## GOD IS LOVE

The Psalms tell us that God's love is higher than the heavens. His holiness is as great as the height of the highest mountains. He is as honest as the oceans are deep. He cares for people and animals. God's faithful love is priceless, and it will never fail or change. There is nothing in all of creation that is more valuable or precious than God's love for us. Love is who God is. It's not just at the heart of who he is, it IS who he is!

Through all the stories of the Bible and in our own lives, we see God's faithful and forgiving love. And from that love flows all new life and new creation—second chances and new beginnings.



- 70 -

The great story of the Bible tells us who God is, and it also tells us who we are. God made us to be close to him—to love and be loved. That's what we are made for!



Always remember who you are  
and who God truly is.

God is love!

PSALM 89:1-2

LORD, I WILL SING ABOUT YOUR GREAT LOVE FOREVER. FOR ALL  
TIME TO COME, I WILL TELL HOW FAITHFUL YOU ARE. I WILL TELL  
EVERYONE THAT YOUR LOVE STANDS FIRM FOREVER.



- 71 -



Read 1 Corinthians 13:1–7 in your Bible and then read this devotion that helps us understand that love is something we do.

1 CORINTHIANS 14

1423

before should do. They should pray that they can explain what they say. <sup>14</sup> If I pray in another language, my spirit prays. But my mind does not pray. <sup>15</sup> So what should I do? I will pray with my spirit. But I will also pray with my understanding. I will sing with my spirit. But I will also sing with my understanding. <sup>16</sup> Suppose you are praising God in the Spirit. And suppose there are visitors among you who want to know what's going on. How can they say "Amen" when you give thanks? They don't know what you are saying. <sup>17</sup> You are certainly giving thanks. But no one else is being built up.

<sup>18</sup> I thank God that I speak in other

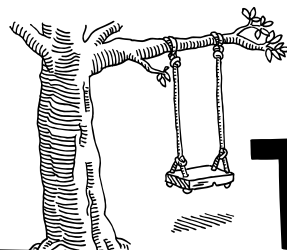
languages more than all of you do. <sup>19</sup> In the church, I wouldn't want to speak 10,000 words in an unfamiliar language. I'd rather speak five words in a language people could understand. Then I would be teaching others.

<sup>20</sup> Brothers and sisters, stop thinking like children. Be like babies as far as evil is concerned. But be grown up in your thinking. <sup>21</sup> In the law it is written,

"With unfamiliar languages  
and through the lips of outsiders  
I will speak to these people.

But even then they will not listen  
to me." (Isaiah 28:11,12)

That is what the Lord says.



# THURSDAY

Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud (1 Corinthians 13:4).

**TODAY'S BIBLE READING:** 1 Corinthians 13:1–7

## LOVE: JUST DO IT!

You have a friend who comes over every day. When she is late, you yell at her. When she gets a new toy, you want one too. But when you get a new toy, you won't share.

Do you love your friend? It sure doesn't seem like it!

Love is not just a warm, fuzzy feeling. Love is *doing*! And sometimes it is hard work. But the more love you give, the more love comes back to you.

If you really love your friend, you will be patient. You will be kind. You will be happy when she has a new toy. And you will not brag about what you have. Learn to love. Just do it!

ASK

YOURSELF

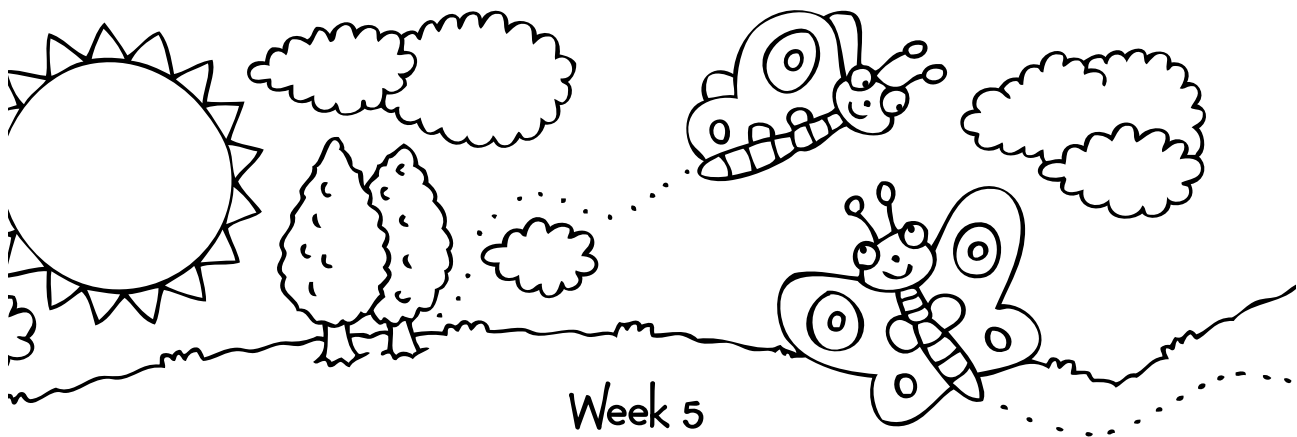
What is love? How can you show love to your friends and family?

☐ I have read this devotion.

For your next reading, turn to page 1426. If you want to read more, see 1 John 3:11–18 on page 1563.



God created us for his pleasure, and he loves us very much. He will always be there to guide, comfort, and strengthen us with his love.



Week 5

## You Will Be My People

The LORD says,

“I will bless Jacob’s people with great success again.

I will show tender love to Israel.

Jerusalem will be rebuilt where it was destroyed.

The palace will stand in its proper place.

From those places the songs of people giving thanks will be heard.

The sound of great joy will come from there.

I will cause there to be more of my people.

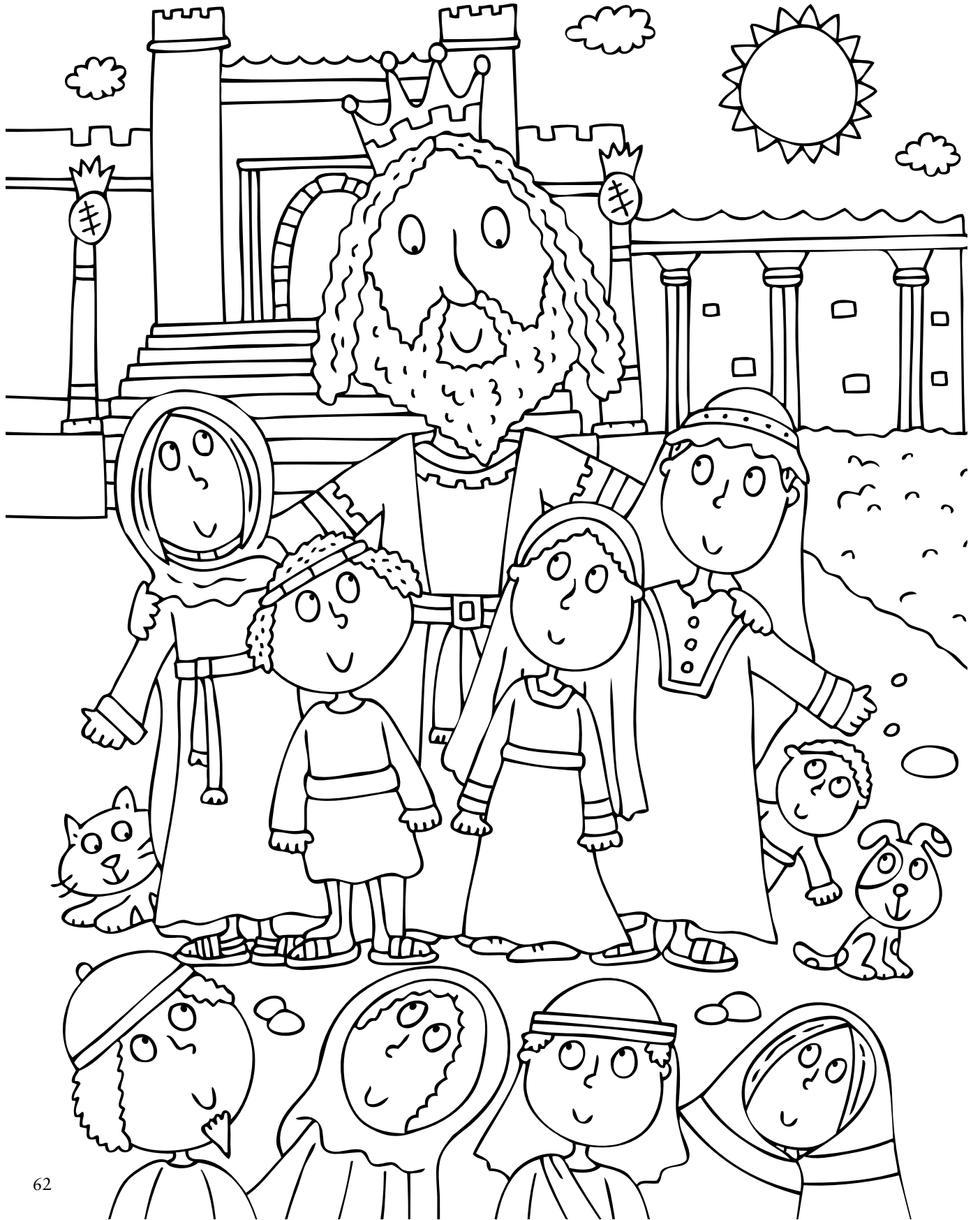
There will not be fewer of them.

I will bring them honor.

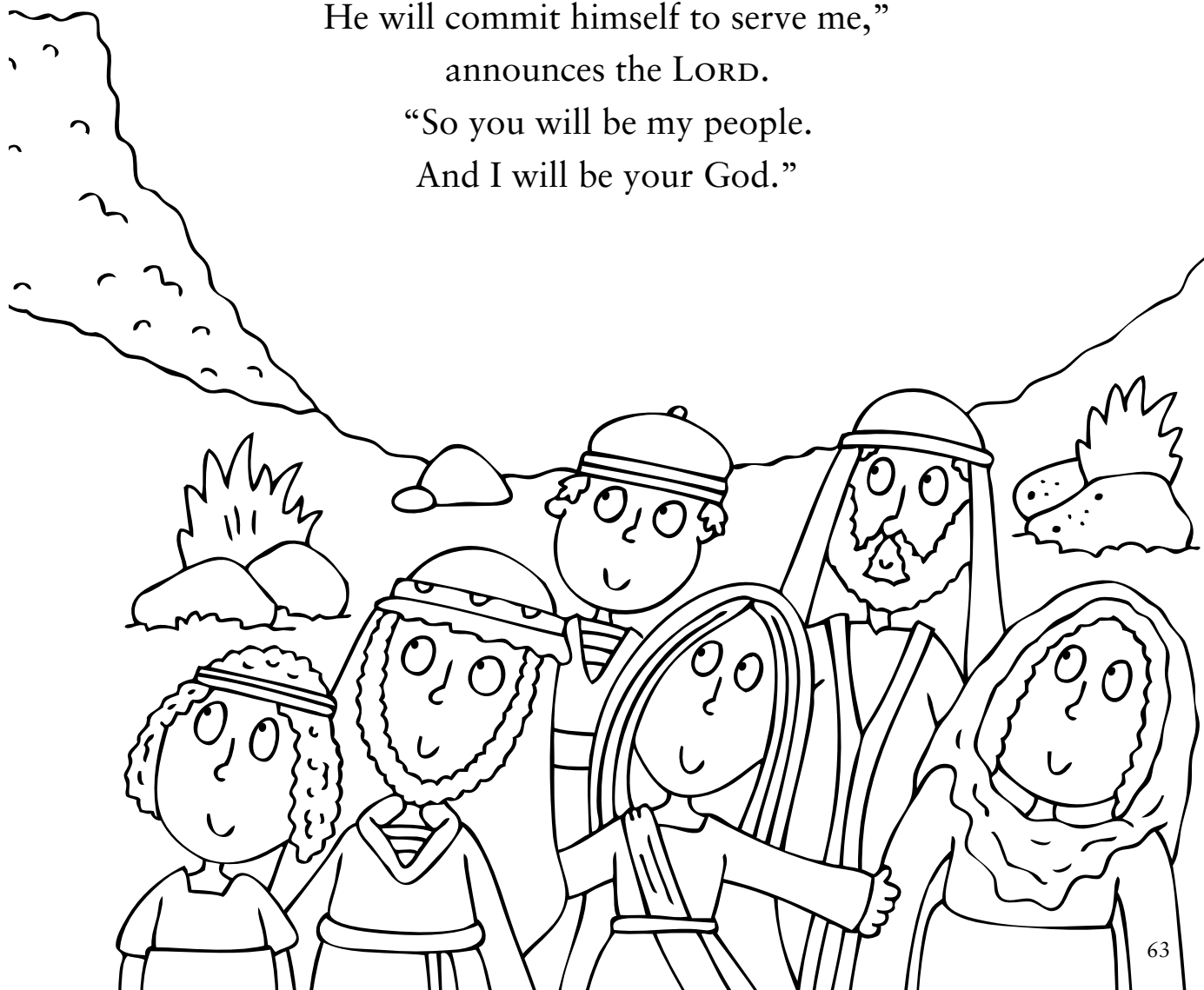
People will have respect for them.







“Things will be as they used to be for Jacob’s people.  
 I will make their community firm and secure.  
 I will punish everyone who treats them badly.  
 Their leader will be one of their own people.  
 Their ruler will rise up from among them.  
 I will bring him near.  
 And he will come close to me.  
 He will commit himself to serve me,”  
 announces the LORD.  
 “So you will be my people.  
 And I will be your God.”





Read Ruth 2:1–23 and complete the activity to learn more about the kindness Boaz showed to Ruth.

## GRAIN AND STRAW

### STUFF YOU NEED:

- Generous amounts of two kinds of items to separate, such as two shapes of pasta or two colors of paper cut into small pieces
- Bowls or small tubs, baskets

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Mix up the two different pasta shapes or two colors of paper pieces in one tub.
2. Share that in the Bible story they just read about, Ruth separated the grain from the straw. We're going to play a separating game today.
3. For a noncompetitive game version:
  - a. Have children work in pairs, or a parent and child can work together.
  - b. Have one child search for one shape or color, and the other search for the second shape or color.
  - c. Transfer what they find to baskets.
4. For a competitive version:
  - a. Assign children to teams and prepare a tub and basket for each team.
  - b. Tell each team which shape to find.
  - c. Each player runs to the tub, finds five pieces, and brings them back to the team's basket.
  - d. Play for a specified amount of time then see which team has filled their basket the fullest.
5. Once finished, ask the children the following questions:
  - a. How did Ruth show kindness to Naomi?
  - b. How did Boaz show kindness to Ruth?
  - c. Share together some ways you can show kindness to other people.
  - d. Explain how Boaz and Ruth are good examples of being kind to others. We please God when we are kind.

Read Ruth 3:1–18 to learn about how Boaz showed kindness to Ruth when he found that she and Naomi didn't have anyone to care for them. Then do the activity to think of ways you can show kindness to others.

## KINDNESS CHARADES

### STUFF YOU NEED:

- Index cards or scrap paper
- Markers
- Basket

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Share with your children that the Bible story was about people who showed kindness to others. In this activity each of us are going to think of ways to show kindness and then we're going to see if we can guess what ideas others came up with.
2. Have your children think of ways to show kindness and write them on index cards. If your child is too young to write easily, have them whisper their ideas in your ear and you write them down.
3. Fold the cards at least in half and put them in a basket.
4. Have children take turns drawing a card from the basket and miming the action on the card for others to guess. If you'd like, you can assign children to teams and have one team act while the other guesses.
5. After you've completed the game, discuss the following questions:
  - a. Which of these kindness ideas do you think you could do for someone?
  - b. When do you think you can show kindness to others?
6. Share that Boaz and Ruth showed kindness on regular days in their regular lives. That's what God wants us to do. We please him when we are kind.

Because God loves us, we should share that love with others. This activity encourages you to think about how you can show God's love to the people around you.

# KINDNESS COUNTS

Think about something kind that you have done. Draw a cartoon story about it. Use all six boxes.



1



2



3



4



5



6