

## Sealed with a Sandal

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our special Harvest assembly where we say thank you for all that God has given us. Today's story is all about a woman who leaves her home and family to help her mother-in-law in a different country. Listen carefully to see how the two women are helped when they have no home, no food and no money.

Let's OPEN THE BOOK and read the Bible story – 'Sealed with a Sandal'

*See ideas on how to present the story*

### CONCLUSION

In biblical times there was a law to ensure that farmers like Boaz told their workers to leave some of the harvest for those who were going through tough times. Boaz actually instructed his workers to leave more than they were supposed to so that Ruth and Naomi had food to eat.

Times at the moment are tough for some people and one of the places people can go for help with some basic food is a food bank. Let's find out more about how they help people:

*Interview someone from the local food bank or do a Q&A about what a food bank is and how it works*

### QUESTIONS:

*What do food banks do?*

Food banks in the Trussell Trust network provide three-day emergency food parcels to people in crisis. There are over 1,200 food banks in the network and the services they provide vary from area to area as they react to the needs of their community. Some provide emergency food alongside additional support services, like a connection with a debt advisor.

*How do people get their food?*

Care professionals like health visitors, schools, and social workers identify people in crisis and issue them with a food bank voucher. The person can then bring this voucher to their food bank to collect three days' nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food from their local food bank. In recent months, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many food banks now also offer home delivery services and use e-referral systems.

*What happens to the food donations they receive?*

Non-perishable, in-date food is donated by the public at a range of places, like schools, churches, and businesses, as well as supermarket collection points. Food bank volunteers and staff then sort this food into emergency food parcels to be given to people in crisis.

*How can we help?*

You can help by supporting your local food bank! You can donate food to support their work in your community, join Team Trussell and do some fundraising of your own, or get involved through your church or school. Every donation makes a real difference and your support is vital.



#### QUIET MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Anyone can be going through difficult times and need some help. Close your eyes and think about anyone you know who is struggling at the moment. I wonder if there is anything that you can do to help?

OR

*(Maybe for Years 5 and 6)*

Close your eyes for a moment. In life, we all need help sometimes. Boaz didn't just do what the law told him to, he did more so he could help Ruth and Naomi. Can you think of someone who is struggling at the moment? Is there anything you can do to help them? It might be being kind, playing with someone who is on their own, or if you are able, talking to your family about making a donation to the food bank.

#### PRAYER INTRODUCTION

I will end by saying a prayer. If you agree with my prayer, you may say 'Amen' at the end after me. It is a way of saying to God, 'I agree'; that you want my prayer to be your prayer too. But you don't have to pray. If you don't want to or you don't think that you should, you can sit quietly and think about what you've heard today.

OR

Now I'm going to say a prayer and if you want to make it your prayer, say 'Amen' at the end after me.

#### PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for the harvest that provides our food. Thank you for the food bank and all the volunteers. Help us to be kind and helpful to those who need our help. And show us ways we can be God's hands and feet so that everyone has enough to eat.

Amen.

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Direction

### STORYTELLERS NEEDED

**Essential:** Narrator, Naomi, Ruth, Boaz and the distant relative

### SUGGESTIONS FOR PRESENTING THE STORY

- Children could join in the story doing some actions. These would need to be explained before using the scripted assembly. If you are filming/recording this to send into school one person could lead the actions and explain before you start.

Possible actions: LONG, LONG WAY – with your right hand point your index finger and make a movement round and round starting in front of your face and then moving away to the right. Naomi could use a paper sign with the words 'a long, long way'. Or make a sign and hold it up on screen for children and the person leading them to say at that point. The narrator will need to pause to allow time for this.

NO HOME – make your hands into the shape of a roof over your head and shake your head from side to side.

NO FOOD – Use your hands to pretend to eat and also shake your head from side to side.

NO MONEY – Rub your thumb over your fingers and also shake your head from side to side.

At the end of the story in Naomi's prayer the actions could be repeated without the shaking of your head, e.g. for HOME make your hands into the shape of a roof over your head and for FOOD pretend to eat; for TAKEN CARE OF make your arms into a cuddle in front of you.

- Using Zoom you could have different people playing the workers and demonstrating cutting the grain and pretending to gather it up with Ruth doing the same. Use the option of no video picture and mute to help create different scenes with the narrator always on screen.
- If you're acting outside and recording then the space can be used imaginatively to gather the grain from the edges but make sure the dialogue and action are centre stage.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR VISUAL IMPACT

- If filming then use simple headscarves and traditional Middle Eastern headdresses. To be respectful to people of other faiths please do not use tea towels
- Ruth could wear an apron/pinafore to gather the barley in
- Sometimes flower shops can supply real wheat/grain to use or if you know a local farmer they may be able to provide some
- The distant relative will need to be wearing sandals and take off one to give to Boaz

### CHILDREN PRESENTING THE STORY

The key scenes for the children to act out are:

1. A long journey, no home, no food and no money.
2. Boaz's field with Ruth gathering barley from the edge of the field. May include other workers in the fields.
3. Naomi and Ruth worried how they would survive after the harvest.
4. Boaz and the distant relative sealing the arrangement.
5. Naomi and Ruth looked after for the future.



The story could be read by an adult and the children could just join in doing actions (refer to the suggestions for presenting the story), or the children could be allocated parts and plan how they would act out/mime the story in class.