



These teacher notes and the accompanying presentation are designed to support you in exploring the concept of Christian service with pupils. This act of collective worship focuses on the story of Ruth and Naomi. This act of collective worship could be done live, with each teacher delivering from their own classroom, or it could be recorded by the head teacher or senior leader and shared with each class or bubble remotely.

Collective worship in school should be **inspiring, inclusive and invitational**. Adults leading worship should feel free to adapt these materials so that they are comfortable and they are well-matched to your own context. For guidance on collective worship see:

[http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/images/document\\_library/UDR02852.pdf](http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/images/document_library/UDR02852.pdf)

### **Pre-Collective Worship Task:**

Lead a discussion: How does it feel to have a partner for working, or games, or for doing a project together? When are times you really want someone else with you?

**Worship Table:** You will need a green cloth on your altar table to show we are once again in 'ordinary time' in the liturgical calendar: green for growing!

You will also need 3 candles to light to represent the 3 persons of the Trinity.

**Preparation and Resources:** You will need the 3 candles and the PowerPoint presentation.

### **The Main Content:**

## **Welcome**

Show slide 2. Light each of the 3 candles as you say the welcome.

*We gather together in the name of:*

- *God the Father of all, near and far*
- *Jesus the Son, who descended from Ruth in our story today*
- *The Holy Spirit, who prompts believers to serve those in need, like Naomi*

Alternatively, you may want to start with a Christian blessing from the Church of England such as:

*May God give to you and to all those you love  
his comfort and his peace,  
his light and his joy,  
in this world and the next  
Amen*

or

*The Lord bless you and watch over you,  
the Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you,  
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace.  
Amen*

You can also use something simple such as:

*We gather together to meet as our school family  
We all come together as important parts of our school community  
We gather to meet together with God*

*Today we are continuing our focus on serving others. Today we will hear about a brave young woman called Ruth who stayed with her older mother-in-law, Naomi, even when times were tough and their journey took her far from home.*

## **Learning**

Show slide 3. Read the whole story of Ruth from the Old Testament in a children's Bible of your choice. Alternatively, [this short video](#) tells the story of Ruth's dedication to Naomi, but does not include the story of how she met and married Boaz, so you will need to include the next bit:

*Naomi had a relative called Boaz on her husband's side. Ruth told Naomi that she would go to the fields to glean what was left for the poor. Gleaning was the practice of leaving behind some grain after the harvest so those who did not have very much could gather it and eat. Ruth happened to enter the field belonging to Boaz! Boaz asked the workers who she was and they told him she had come from Moab with Naomi. So, Boaz approached her and told her she was welcome to keep gleaning in his fields. He also said he would ensure none of the workers would harm her and that she could take a drink from the water jars whenever she was thirsty. Ruth was amazed by his kindness and asked him why he was treating her so well. Boaz said, "I have been told how you have served your mother-in-law since the death of your husband and that you have come all this way with her, leaving your own family behind. May the Lord repay you for your service! May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have found shelter."*

*Ruth thanked him for his kindness, comparing herself to one of his servants. But Boaz invited her to eat with him as if she were an equal and not a servant. When she went home she had gathered so much grain, Naomi was shocked.*

*"Whose field did you work in?" Naomi asked. When Ruth told her that it was Boaz's field Naomi was delighted and told her that Boaz was one of their 'guardian redeemers', whose job it was to help those in the family who were in need. She told Ruth to keep gleaning in Boaz's fields and eventually Boaz decided to take Ruth to be his wife. Naomi was delighted. Ruth and Boaz had a son and they named him Obed. He became the father of King David.*

Re-read Ruth's words to Naomi on slide 3. She committed to serving her mother-in-law no matter where she went or what she did. She was totally devoted to her to ensure her mother-in-law was kept safe and well.

Go to slide 4. Read the two Bible verses about God blessing people for their service. In the story of Ruth and Naomi we find people who are blessed by God for their service. Ruth is blessed because of her service towards Naomi and Boaz is blessed because of his kindness towards the poor by leaving grain for the less fortunate and hungry to gather for food. The ultimate blessing for Ruth was that she got to be in the family tree of Jesus! In Matthew's gospel we find out that Ruth's and Boaz's son Obed was an ancestor of not only King David but also Jesus (show slide 5).

## **Reflecting**

Go to slide 6. The Book of Proverbs says that if someone helps someone else feel good (refreshed) then they themselves will also feel good. Service is a double

blessing. Invite pupils to spend a few moments thinking about times when they have served others and how that made the other person feel and how it made them feel.

### **Responding**

Go to slide 7. Ruth walked with Naomi physically. They travelled all the way from Moab to Israel together and Ruth took care of her mother-in-law. But Ruth also walked with Naomi in a way where she stuck with her and was dedicated to her so that Naomi felt emotionally and mentally safe and cared for by her daughter-in-law throughout her life. Invite pupils to do this simple exercise, thinking about someone they can serve by sticking with them in life no matter what happens:

Take two fingers. Imagine they are you and the person you want to pledge to 'walk with' and support in the good times and the hard times.

Walk your two fingers slowly across the palm of your opposite hand and as you do, think about that person and ask God to bless them and help them and to help you be a dedicated friend like Ruth was to Naomi.

Finish the collective worship with this worship music video [I'm With You \(Ruth and Naomi\) by Nichole Nordeman](#)

Alternatively, you may wish to end with an Anglican liturgical prayer:

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

*Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.*

*Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.***

*We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. Amen*

### **Post-Collective Worship Task:**

Ask pupils to fold paper and cut out paper dolls to show who they are serving and walking with in life. There is a template with a heart shape between each person [here](#).

Send home some talk homework for families: *Today we have been thinking about Ruth and Naomi and how you can serve someone else just by sticking with them no matter what happens in life. Who has stuck by us and who can we stick by?*