

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

FREEZE FRAME

Characters: Ruth, Naomi, Orpah, Group 1 (3–4 people), Group 2 (3–4 people)

FYI: Re-create Ruth 1:1–19, particularly the part when Orpah leaves Naomi but Ruth stays (vv. 14–17). Try to capture Ruth’s reverence to God and loyalty to Naomi. Show Orpah’s irreverence and desire to go her own way, attracted by the group reaching out to her, begging her to return to their country.

Listen to the ideas of your students and encourage them to create a scene that tells the message of where Ruth’s heart was—connected to God and the desire to worship Him.

It may help your students create this scene by keeping in mind that they will want to show the cross or the worship of God versus the world. Both groups might represent the world’s peer pressure.

Although you may want to use the ideas the students come up with, following is a suggestion for what the live painting might look like: Naomi kneeling and worshipping God with both hands lifted up. Ruth could be just behind her with an outstretched hand on Naomi’s shoulder and another hand lifted up in reverent prayer.

Group 1 They will represent Ruth’s country and stand some distance away, reaching out to Ruth as if begging her to come home. They may be positioned in proximity to Group 2, but make sure you see their attention directed to Ruth.

Orpah should stand with her back to Ruth and Naomi, facing Group 2 as if somewhat reaching out to them.

Group 2 They will stand with arms open wide, welcoming Orpah. Group 2 could look devious and sassy, perhaps standing with their hands on hips. Another might smirk or have an up-to-no-good look. Another could give an endearing welcome. What does the world’s peer pressure look like? Consider this question with both groups.

DISCUSSION

Explain the behavior of Ruth toward her mother-in-law in light of her relationship with the one true God. Ruth honored and respected her mother-in-law as a fellow believer in the God of Israel. She witnessed her faith in the decisions and actions of her life.

Like all parents and authority figures, Naomi was a sinner, but Ruth still honored her. What do these actions of Ruth, recorded in God’s Word, teach us about why we are to honor parents, teachers, and other authorities? We honor them not because of their worthiness, but rather because they are God’s representatives to us.