

OPEN THE BOOK ASSEMBLY



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.

