**SUGGESTED PROPS**

Wear a hat, use a walking stick, carry a backpack and a water bottle.

After greeting the children, announce that you’re getting ready to take a trip, and ask, “Who has ever left their home to go on a trip like me?”

Wait for a show of hands, and then ask a few of them where they went, and why they went. Was it vacation? To visit family?

Then ask how long the trip was. Two days, three? Maybe even a whole week? Ask the children who they traveled with. Did they go alone? Or did they have someone to help them on their journey?

Then make the connection to the story of Ruth

“In our Bible story today, a woman named Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi went on a trip, too. But they didn’t leave their homes for fun. Ruth and Naomi lived in a country with very little food, and they were hungry all the time. So they had to leave their home to find a new place to live where they wouldn’t be hungry anymore.”

Then make the connection between Ruth and Naomi and refugees in the world today.

First ask, “When you went on your trip, were you ever afraid? Maybe to leave your home, or to fly on an airplane, or see things or people you’ve never seen before?” (Wait for a few responses.)

“Did you know that there are millions of people in our world today who are afraid, but not when they leave home—when they ARE home. More than half of those people are younger than 18 years old—close to your age! These boys and girls live in dangerous places, and just like Ruth and Naomi, they often don’t have enough food to eat. So they have to do exactly what Ruth and Naomi did: find a new home where they will have food and water, and finally be safe from danger.”

Tie in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering

“One Great Hour of Sharing. The money we collect from this offering will help refugees around the world as they look for food and for safety. Giving our money to help is our way of walking together with them, even though we’re far away—hand in hand, just like Ruth and Naomi.”

Finally, make sure to emphasize that we are all equally loved by God

“But do you know what the very best part of all this is? No matter where we go, and no matter where we are, we are never alone because God is always with us. God is with us right here, right now; and God is with our brothers and sisters who are hungry, thirsty, or in danger around the world, too. God loves all of us the same and walks with all of us—especially when we’re afraid. So in the same way, we should also walk with each other.”

Close with a prayer

“Dear God, Thank you for always being with us, and thank you for walking with refugees all over the world. We pray that you would watch over our brothers and sisters who are afraid and in danger. Please use our offerings to bless those who need a safe home, and help us to walk together with them, just like Ruth and Naomi. Amen.”

—Amanda Garcia