



# World Development and Relief 2011

## More than Aid: Children's Resource



**ORDER THE 2011 WDR POSTER** (*See thumbnail above right*)  
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**This lesson is for:** United Church children

**Purpose:** to introduce or deepen an understanding of how we help others, not only with one-time aid but also by joining with them in a mutual relationship over the long term

**Length:** to be used for Children's Focus during the WDR worship service or in Sunday school

### Purpose

Children who already know that their church does good work for those in need around the world will learn from this lesson that there are various ways to help and that the United Church seeks real partnership with others, especially through World Development and Relief.

### The key points of the lesson are

- we help people in need in many parts of the world.
- we offer love, prayers, and understanding about their situation.
- we offer immediate help as they need it in emergencies.
- we work with them for long-term solutions that they identify.

### Outline

1. Children will hear a Bible story (the story of Ruth and Naomi) and discuss it.
2. They will connect the story to their own experiences of helping others.
3. They will hear how the church helps around the world.

### Before You Start

**Read** this background about World Development and Relief:

The United Church has a long tradition in overseas mission. During the 1970s, global justice and peace initiatives characterized overseas mission work. Appeals for humanitarian relief efforts in Nigeria, India, and East Pakistan were the precursor to what is now World Development and Relief. Participation in global mission continues to be an important focus for the United Church.

World Development and Relief is the only area within the **Mission and Service Fund** to which you can designate funds. In fact, United Church people give close to \$600,000 annually in support of WDR. The amount of money the United Church actually budgets for WDR spending is close to four times this amount. WDR money supports both long-term development work and short-term responses to humanitarian crises.

The United Church works in partnership with churches and agencies that have established strong community development programs. These community-based programs focus on agriculture, community health, education, childcare, youth work, and HIV/AIDS prevention. Many of these partners have community-based networks for distributing emergency supplies in times of crisis; for example, famine in Southern Africa, drought relief in Mozambique, or earthquake relief in India. The United Church is committed to helping not only with immediate needs in times of crisis, but also with long-term work as communities rebuild and re-establish themselves.

Each year the United Church offers WDR resources for congregations. These resources highlight some of the kinds of work supported by WDR funding. The resources are often produced in partnership with the Anglican and Presbyterian churches, who also support global development and relief work through their own partnerships. The resources include several pieces that can be used together or separately. They are funded by the **Mission and Service Fund** and are offered at no cost to congregations.

**Read** the entire document at:

[www.united-church.ca/files/getinvolved/support/enthusiasts/resource\\_wdr2005.pdf](http://www.united-church.ca/files/getinvolved/support/enthusiasts/resource_wdr2005.pdf)

**Read** about how we respond to emergencies:

[www.united-church.ca/communications/news/response/how](http://www.united-church.ca/communications/news/response/how)

**Read** about Haiti as an example of why long-term development is needed:

[www.united-church.ca/files/partners/global/haiti/empire.pdf](http://www.united-church.ca/files/partners/global/haiti/empire.pdf)

## Materials for the Lesson

- “More than Aid” poster (available free from UCRD) as a general introduction and display
- a large map of the world with pins or stickers showing where the church works; the information you’ll need can be found in the August issue of *Mandate* magazine: Mission and Service Fund Special Edition (available from UCRD)
- a copy of the 2011 WDR calendar for each child; the calendar is available at:  
[www.united-church.ca/funding/msfund/about/wdr#resources](http://www.united-church.ca/funding/msfund/about/wdr#resources)

## Lesson

Helping isn't always easy!

Here's what I mean:

Joey is four and his brother, Craig, is six. Craig is a whiz at Lego and Joey loves to watch him build things. One day Dad surprises Joey with a big-kid Lego kit for a super helicopter. The picture on the box looks awesome, but when Joey dumps the pieces out he realizes he needs help reading the instructions and getting started. He asks Craig for help.

Just then Mom calls Joey to take his cough medicine. When Joey comes back, the helicopter is sitting, all done, on the floor. Craig smiles happily, and is surprised when Joey bursts out crying.

## Discussion

Talk with the kids about what happened. (Craig thought he was being helpful, but Joey only wanted instructions and a *little* bit of help; he wanted to do the building himself.)

No: helping isn't easy. The United Church has spent many years learning to help people in the best way. We say that helping is "More than Aid." The church knows that when there is an emergency, people need money, food, medicine, and other things right away. But to be real partners, and to truly help others, we must do more than offer a bandage or a quick fix.

We can learn a lot about helping from the Bible. Today's Bible story is about two women. Let's hear it and see what we can learn about helping in the best way.

## Bible Story

*Depending on the age of the children, read the story of Ruth and Naomi from Ruth 1:1–22 or from page 102 of Ralph Milton's Family Story Bible, or use the quick version below. The key points are underlined.*

Naomi, her husband, and her two sons moved from their home in Bethlehem to a new place called Moab. They were strangers there and it took a while to get used to things and make new friends. Eventually they settled in, and one of Naomi's sons married a local woman named Ruth.

Everything was great until Naomi's husband and two sons died. Naomi and Ruth were left alone. They were very sad. They cried together and tried to help each other feel better. Things got worse when they ran out of money. Ruth's family, who lived nearby, brought her food and oil, and she shared them with Naomi. Ruth knew Naomi was sad and lonely because her relatives were far away in Bethlehem.

One day, Naomi told Ruth that she was going back to Bethlehem. “You are sharing with me and there really isn’t enough for both of us,” Naomi said to Ruth. “Go back to your family. You are young and will do better without me.”

Ruth thought about what Naomi needed most, and then she said, “You need to go back to your family and your country. But I will come with you. I love you and will look after you now and always. Wherever you go I will go too.”

The two brave women went back to Bethlehem. Naomi was happy to be home. Ruth married a new husband, and she always included Naomi as part of her new family.

### Discussion

Let the children talk about the story. Use these questions to bring out the points of the lesson:

- Were the women from the same country?
- Did that matter to their friendship?
- When their husbands died, how did they first help each other?
- In Moab, how did Ruth try to make things better?
- How did Naomi try to help Ruth?
- Was it what Ruth needed?
- What did Ruth do that shows what a good friend she was?

Ruth was a wonderful partner to Naomi. She gave her things she needed right away but she also was Naomi’s friend all her life.

### The Church Helps Friends

The church helps people in all these places around the world. (*Point out places on the map.*) Like Ruth, we know that people need more than money and food when there is an emergency.

We also give our friends things to help them get stronger so they can have a better life. We help them become stronger so they can look after themselves when another emergency comes along. We promise to stay with them as long as they need us.

The church needs money to do this helping, and that’s what our poster is asking for.

We need money to help people with emergency supplies, but we also want to help them get better housing, education, health care—all the things we have. We do that in our church through a program called World Development and Relief, or WDR for short.

This week, think about how the church helps people around the world in two ways:

1. Immediately, when there is an emergency.
2. By helping them for as long as they need help.

## **You Can Help, Too**

*(Hand out a calendar to each child.)* Here is a calendar for you to follow with your family for Lent (or any five weeks). On Sunday (name the date of the follow-up Sunday five weeks away), bring back your gifts for our church friends who need our help.

## **Closing Prayer**

Thank you, God,  
for friends who help,  
and for a church that cares  
for people around the world.  
Teach us to always love and  
help others in the best way.  
Amen