Ruth/Esther, Community Assessment Study Guide

The Story of Ruth

1. Naomi and Ruth are traveling back to Israel because their husbands have died and they have no reason to stay in Moab.
2. The widows have no food, so Ruth, the daughter in law, goes to glean from the barley fields of a distant relative.
3. Boaz notices Ruth working hard and says she is a woman of Noble Character.
4. Naomi suggests Ruth marry Boaz and tells her to dress up and ask him to marry her and be their “Family Redeemer”.
5. Boaz decides to marry Ruth and approaches the town elders to get permission. A closer relative wants to marry Ruth first, but then he finds out that she is a foreigner and back out. Boaz wins the right to marry Ruth.
6. Ruth marries Boaz, and they have a son together. Naomi’s family is alive again.

Community Lessons:

1. Members of a community work together for the greater good.
2. Community members are honest with each other.
3. Community members have individual jobs that are all important.
4. You can and do belong to more than one community, because you can have something in common with lots of different groups.
5. You can choose to be a part of a community, or choose to leave a community, based on that community’s ideals and behaviors.

The Story of Esther

1. The king of Persia holds a giant banquet (or party) and wants his Queen Vashti to show off her beauty. She refuses and he gets mad and divorces her as Queen of Persia.
2. The king holds a contest to find a new queen and Esther hides her Jewish heritage and wins the contest.
3. Mordecai (Esther’s uncle) overhears 2 guards talking about killing the king and he tells Esther and saves the king’s life.
4. Haman, who is angry because Mordecai won’t bow to him, convinces the King to kill all the Jewish people in Persia.
5. The king can’t sleep one night, so he gets a servant to read him the boring daily diaries of the court. He hears about Mordecai saving his life and decides to honor him.
6. Haman decides he wants to kill Mordecai early and builds a stake to put him on when he’s dead.
7. Mordecai tells Esther to help save the Jews. Esther decides to help by holding a banquet and revealing her Jewish Identity to Mordecai. When she does this, she reminds the king that Mordecai, who saved his life, is also Jewish. The king gets angry at Haman and kills him instead and puts him on the pike meant for Mordecai.
8. The king can’t reverse his first law about killing the Jews, but he can give them a new law that lets them fight back and kill their enemies. The Jews do that, and win the battles.
9. Mordecai takes Haman’s job and becomes the new 2nd in command.