

# Know God



During this month we will learn about the seventh standard of Christathel, Know God, as we read a fiction book, *The Tanglewoods' Secret*, written by the missionary nurse and Christian author Patricia St. John.

This book is about a sister and brother, Ruth and Philip, who are living with their aunt while their parents serve as missionaries overseas. Ruth's fiery temper and selfish spirit cause tension between her and her aunt, but when Ruth finally forms a relationship with the Good Shepherd she learns selflessness and charity, and finds a new source of joy.

**Commitment Connection:** After talking with the minister about giving up her selfish behavior and committing herself to Christ, Ruth is inspired to attempt to curb her unruly spirit. But she finds to her sorrow that her practiced habits are difficult to change. Despite several uncontrolled outbursts, Ruth recommits after each mistake to behave in a way that would be more acceptable to others and to Jesus.

## Suggested Books

### Intermediate Readers

🔗 *The Tanglewoods' Secret* by Patricia St. John and revised by Mary Mills, published by Moody Publishers. This is an abridged version with a few revisions to make the language more modern and understandable for American children.

These editions from [ChristianBook](#), and [Amazon](#) have been revised. The revised edition is also available as an audio book on Audible.com.

### Advanced Readers

🔗 *The Tanglewoods' Secret* by Patricia St. John. This original version is available [new on Amazon](#) (with an unillustrated cover), or find it used online at Abe Book or Thrift Books.

### Video

🔗 [Tanglewoods' Secret | Full Movie | Virginia Fiol | Mark Chpman](#) this is a movie adaptation of the book, released in 1980 in the United Kingdom.

## **Suggested Activities**

☞ Philip and Ruth loved to explore the woods and watch the birds and animals. Philip was especially keen on birds and had learned a lot about their songs, nest building, and habits.

Learn to recognize the songs of some common birds in your area. Use a website like this one <https://www.bird-sounds.net/> or use Audubon's website for owl calls [Learn to Identify Five Owls by Their Calls](#). Or, download the amazing bird identification app from The Cornell Lab: <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org>.

☞ Ruth and Philip had a deep appreciation of nature and used their knowledge of wildflowers to sell bouquets to raise money.

Make flower arrangements of your own out of grass, foliage, and flowers you can find in your area. (Please harvest responsibly.) Here are sources for tips and inspiration: [How to create a wild flower arrangement](#) from House & Garden [Easy DIY Bouquets With Wildflowers](#) by American Meadows [Native Flower Arrangements](#)

☞ Ruth admired the stained glass windows she saw in her church. Your handmaidens can make their own easy "stained glass" decoration for their rooms using a card-stock paper frame and tissue paper "glass." Here are some [example images on Pinterest](#). The tissue paper pieces can be placed on waxed paper using thinned glue, or secured using contact paper. Print and cut out the silhouette of the Good Shepherd to place in the middle. **Curriculum Resources page 36.**

☞ After Ruth spends the night in the church and is found by the minister, Mr. Robinson, they have a discussion about the Good Shepherd and the minister gives Ruth a postcard picture of a shepherd leaning over a precipice and trying to rescue a lamb. Print the picture from **Curriculum Resources page 37** to show to the handmaidens.

Near the end of the book Terry, now injured and ill, asks for "a picture of that there sheep after the Shepherd had took him up—when he was safe like, in the Shepherd's arms and being carried home."

Ruth asks the minister for help to find the "next picture." Ask your handmaidens to draw a picture of the Good Shepherd with the lamb. In **Curriculum Resources pages 38 - 42** there is a frame to print, coloring pages for those girls who might prefer not to draw, and photographs of the type of sheep which actually live in the Holy Land.

To take the activity one step further, watch this short video about sheep herding: [Appreciate Those who Take Care of You: Sheep and their Shepherd](#)

☞ The minister, Mr. Robinson, gave Ruth the following advice:

*"Pick out a special verse every day. If it tells you to be thoughtful or to work hard, or to love other people, then ask Him to make you able to do it. If it's a story, try to think what lesson it's meant to teach you."*

Print the scripture verses and stories from [Curriculum Resources pages 43 - 45](#), and put each one in a separate envelope (or put all the papers in a large envelope) and ask the handmaidens to pick one scripture / story per day for a week and try to follow Mr. Robinson's advice. During the next club meeting, let the handmaidens discuss their experience. (Remember to involve parents so they can remind their girls to pick out and read a paper each day.)

☞ The words of the hymn *There Is a Green Hill Far Away* were used by Mr. Robinson to teach the children. Learn this hymn with your handmaidens. Note that there is more than one version of the hymn. The version mentioned in the book can be found here [There's a Green Hill far away - A Hopefilled Hymn for Visual Worship Media](#). Another, more classic version: [There Is A Green Hill Far Away - King's College, Cambridge](#) And a third option with one fewer verse and a different tune can be found in the LDS Hymnbook #194: [There is a green hill far away](#) sung by the Tabernacle Choir

### **Hero Visits and Field Trips**

☞ Ruth and Philip loved bird watching and learning more about birds. As a club visit an aviary.

☞ When Ruth spent the night in the church, she was impressed by the stained glass windows and other decorations.

Visit a church that has stained glass windows. You could encourage the handmaidens to reverently notice the details in the church's adornments by giving them a scavenger hunt list of things to find, or divide the handmaidens into two groups and have each group make a scavenger hunt for the other group.

*"He will often speak to you in your heart, and you must learn to hear His voice; when He speaks you must always obey. And you must learn to talk to Him about everything, too; we call it praying, but really it means sharing everything with the Shepherd."*

~ The Tanglewoods' Secret