

LESSON 50

Ruth

RUTH



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD'S BLESSING AND SALVATION EXTEND TO PEOPLE OF EVERY NATION

LESSON SNAPSHOT

- 1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN**
Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
- 2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN**
Read Ruth 4:1–17 from the Scriptures or read story 50, "Ruth," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
- 3. OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN**
A Story of Kindness
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN**
Our Kinsman Redeemer
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ pens or pencils
 - ✓ paper
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN**
Ruth in the Field
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN**
Pawnshop
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ several items from around your house that you could take to a pawnshop; e.g., gold jewelry, a watch, an appliance, or a small antique

TOTAL 90 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Ruth's conversion—Ruth is a Moabite woman, not an Israelite. The Moabites were descendants of Lot, Abraham's nephew. They were pagans who had lived apart from Israel for hundreds of years and worshiped the god Chemosh.

But Ruth has learned about the faith of her widowed mother-in-law, Naomi, and what it means to be a true Israelite. When she herself is widowed, Ruth refuses to go back to her own people in Moab, choosing instead to return to Israel with Naomi to beg for food. This demonstration of faith is noteworthy. It is this faith that God rewards through the kindness of Boaz, a wealthy Israelite landowner.

Ruth's appeal—Boaz's kindness to Ruth continues for several months, throughout the wheat and barley harvests. By the end of the harvests, Naomi realizes that Boaz is acting as Ruth's redeemer.

A kinsman-redeemer was the closest male blood relative. He was positioned by God to help relieve the suffering of a clan or family member by redeeming her. To redeem means to buy back with money something that was lost or to give of oneself for a brother's misfortune. This could be loss of property or in this case marrying a widow to preserve her husband's family line (see Ruth 4:10).

This meant that Boaz is willing to care for Ruth and Naomi after the loss of their husbands. Naomi instructs Ruth to end her time of mourning for her husband, get dressed up, and lay at Boaz's feet the next evening. In this way, Ruth is telling Boaz she wanted to marry him.

Ruth does as Naomi says. When Boaz awakes and sees Ruth, she asks him to cover her with his wings. This was the same thing Boaz had said to Ruth about God taking care of her. God is using Boaz to care for Ruth.

Ruth's redemption—Before Boaz can become the kinsman-redeemer of Ruth and Naomi and then marry Ruth, there is one more thing to take care of. Another man who is more closely related to Naomi and Ruth has the first right to be their redeemer. This man is interested in the land that belonged to Naomi's husband, but he does not want to take responsibility for the two women. Boaz, therefore, is free to marry Ruth. The role of Boaz in the book of Ruth is a picture of God's redemption of his people, both Jews (represented by Naomi) and Gentiles (represented by Ruth).

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Kinsman redeemer

A kinsman redeemer was the closest male blood relative. He was positioned by God to help relieve the suffering of a clan or family member by redeeming her. To redeem was to buy back with money something that was lost or to give of oneself for a brother's misfortune. This could be loss of property or, in this case, marrying a widow to preserve her husband's family line (Ruth 4:10).

This idea of redemption is rooted in what God did for Israel when he brought Israel out of Egypt and gave them a land and a home (see Leviticus 25:38, 45, 52).

Jesus is our redeemer (Ephesians 1:7). Jesus bought back our lives with his life. Now we can have eternal life in heaven as his bride.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read Matthew 1:5–6.

Ruth lost her husband and father-in-law and served her mother-in-law. She was a very special person in God's plan to bring his Son into the world. We learn in the genealogy of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew that Ruth was one of the great-grandmothers in Jesus' line: "Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David" (Matthew 1:5–6 NIV).

In fact, Jesse, Ruth's grandson, was the great King David's father. Boaz and Ruth had another tie to Jesus. They lived in Bethlehem—the very town where Jesus was born!

The life of Boaz points to Jesus. Not only did he redeem the bloodline of Elimelech but he also redeemed the land sold by Naomi.

Jesus is our redeemer. "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:18–19 NIV).

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Ruth 4:1–17 from the Scriptures or read story 50, “Ruth,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

A Story of Kindness

Have the children read the first two chapters of Ruth and come up with as many demonstrations of kindness as they can find.

Here are some examples from the first two chapters:

- In 1:8 Naomi releases her daughters-in-law to return home even though that would leave her without a companion.
- In 1:16 Ruth refuses to leave Naomi alone.
- In 2:4 Boaz greets his workers kindly.
- In 2:8–9 Boaz cares for Ruth by giving her food, water, and protection.
- In 2:14 Boaz invites Ruth to join him for a meal.
- In 2:16 Boaz instructs the reapers to leave some bundled grain behind.
- In 2:18 Ruth brings leftovers from her meal to Naomi.
- In 2:20 Naomi speaks kindly of Boaz and his favor toward them.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Who is our example in showing kindness?
(*The Lord is our example. Ruth and Naomi are also good examples, see Ruth 1:8.*)
- What is God's greatest act of kindness toward us?
(*God loves us so much that he gave up his one and only Son to be our Redeemer.*)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Our Kinsman Redeemer

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pens or pencils
- ✓ paper

Divide the class up into five groups. Have each group look up one of the following verses and give their explanation for how it relates to the topic of Jesus our Redeemer.

- 1 Peter 1:18–19—Peter tells us that we were redeemed by the payment of Jesus’ blood.
- Luke 24:20–21—The apostles on the road to Emmaus express their hope that Jesus would be the redeemer but also express their sadness that he has been dead for three days. Little do they realize they are talking to the risen Redeemer!
- Luke 1:67–68—Zechariah prophesies that Jesus will be the Redeemer.
- Titus 2:13–14—Paul tells Titus that Jesus was the one who redeemed us from all wickedness.
- Ephesians 1:7—We have redemption through the blood of Jesus.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN

Ruth in the Field

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper

Have the children draw a picture of Ruth picking up (gleaning) the stalks of grain.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Pawnshop

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ several items from around your house that you could take to a pawnshop;
e.g., gold jewelry, a watch, an appliance, or a small antique

Ask the class if they know what a pawnshop is. If not, explain that a pawnshop is a place where you can get a loan for something you own. For example, if a person lost his job and needed money to pay the bills until he could get another job, he could take an item like a piece of gold jewelry to a pawnshop and get a loan.

The pawnbroker would determine how much he could sell an item for. In this case, the item I am holding is worth ____ dollars. The pawnbroker would not give all of that to me so that in case I didn't pay back the loan, he could sell the item and get his money back.

Next, pretend that you are in need of money and that you pawned all the items you brought to class. Tell the class that you would get usually less than fifty percent of the value of the items. Next, tell them that if you pawned all your things and wanted them back but didn't have the money, you would need someone to help you. You would need a redeemer—someone to go to the pawnshop and repay what you owe along with the interest or simply buy the items and give them back to you. When you buy back something for someone, you become a redeemer.

In the case of Ruth and Naomi, when Naomi and her husband left Israel, they sold their land. The only way to get it back was if someone acted as a kinsman redeemer to buy it back. Boaz not only agreed to buy back the land for Naomi, he also agreed to become the husband of a foreign woman.

Now connect the story to Jesus using the “Where Is Jesus?” section of this lesson. Jesus is our redeemer, and he came from the line of Ruth and Boaz!