



UNIT 9 | SESSION 3

GOD PROVIDED FOR RUTH

RUTH

CHRIST CONNECTION: God sent Jesus to be our Redeemer.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God gives life forever. Romans 6:23

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God used Boaz to take care of Ruth and Naomi.
- God sent Jesus to earth through Ruth's family.
- Jesus died on the cross and came back to life to redeem us.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

Naomi and Ruth were alone in a foreign land. Naomi wanted to go back to her home in Israel. Ruth told Naomi, "I will go where you go. Your God will be my God." Ruth and Naomi went to Judah together. Ruth went to a field to gather leftover grain. The field was owned by a man named Boaz. Boaz heard how Ruth took care of Naomi, so he sent Ruth home with extra grain. Ruth told Naomi about Boaz's kindness. Naomi said Boaz was a family redeemer. When a family member was in trouble, the family redeemer would help. Boaz helped Ruth and Naomi. Boaz married Ruth, and they had a son named Obed. Obed was the father of Jesse, the father of David. Jesus was born into David's family.



BABIES ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Ruth. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune “If You’re Happy and You Know It”:

“When Ruth needed help, God sent Boaz!

When Ruth needed help, God sent Boaz!

Boaz bought Naomi’s land, and he gave Ruth his hand.

When Ruth needed help, God sent Boaz!”

SAY “Ruth and Naomi went back to Naomi’s land, but they needed help. God used Boaz to take care of Ruth and Naomi and to redeem their land. Later, Jesus died on the cross and came back to life to redeem us!”

2 LOOK AT GRAIN



Post an Allergy Alert. Pour a handful of grains (barley, oats, or rice) and clear shower gel into a sandwich-size ziplock bag for each baby. Consider double bagging to prevent leaks. Use duct tape to seal the bags. Encourage babies to squeeze the bags to explore the grains. Talk about the Bible story as they play.

SAY “God used Boaz to take care of Ruth and Naomi. Boaz made sure they had plenty of grain to eat. Later, Boaz married Ruth. God sent Jesus to earth through Ruth’s family.”

3 GO HOME!

Use a stroller or walking rope to take babies on a walk either inside or outside as weather permits. Naomi and Ruth were on a walk to Naomi’s home. Talk about plants and animals they might have seen on the way or how hot or cold it might have been when they traveled.

SAY “Ruth loved Naomi. Ruth chose to go with Naomi back to her home in Judah. Since they did not have cars, they had to walk. It was a long journey! When they got there, God used Boaz to take care of Ruth and Naomi.”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Ruth. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 MAKE BARLEY ART



Post an Allergy Alert. Print and cut apart “Sack” printable. Trace the sack onto brown construction paper (1 per toddler). Allow toddlers to use crayons to color their sacks. Squirt (or brush, using a cotton swab) liquid glue over the opening of the sack. Guide toddlers to sprinkle uncooked grain (barley, rice, or oats) over the glue. Set aside the artwork to dry. Explain the importance of grain in our daily diet. Tell the Bible story.

SAY “ God used Boaz to take care of Ruth and Naomi. Boaz made sure they had plenty of grain to eat. Later, Boaz married Ruth. God sent Jesus to earth through Ruth’s family. ”

3 LACE SHOES

Provide clean sneakers and demonstrate how to thread shoelaces through the holes. Point to the Bible story picture where Boaz is holding his sandal. Tell the Bible story.

SAY “ God used Boaz to take care of Ruth and Naomi. Boaz promised to care for Ruth, Naomi, and their land. As a sign of that promise, Boaz took off his sandal to show he would care for them. God made a promise to send Jesus to be our Redeemer. God always keeps His promises. ”

4 PLAY OUT A GROCERY STORE

Provide toy food, totes, toy cash registers, play money, and other items to play out grocery shopping. Remind toddlers that Ruth and Naomi could not go to a grocery store like we can to get our food. Ruth had to gather leftover grain. Allow toddlers to play. Retell the Bible story.

SAY “ God used Boaz to take care of Ruth and Naomi. God sent Jesus to take care of us. Jesus died on the cross and came back to life to redeem us and take care of us. ”

5 COMPARE HARVESTING THEN AND NOW

Use an electronic device to show how grain is harvested today versus in Bible times. Consider displaying empty boxes of familiar foods that use grains (crackers, cereals, oatmeal, and so forth). Be aware of and sensitive to any food allergies. Tell the Bible story.

SAY “ In Bible times, people gathered grain by hand. God told His people to leave behind some of the crops for people who didn’t have food. Ruth gleaned, or gathered grain, in Boaz’s field. God used Boaz to take care of Ruth and Naomi. ”

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RUTH

CHRIST CONNECTION: God sent Jesus to be our Redeemer.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God gives life forever. Romans 6:23

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: SCOOP GRAIN



Post an Allergy Alert. Fill a large shallow plastic bin with an inch of uncooked grain. Provide cups, toy shovels, colanders, and other items for toddlers to play with the grain. Make sure toddlers do not try to eat the grains. Tell the Bible story as toddlers play.

SAY “ Ruth and Naomi traveled back to Naomi’s home, Judah. They came right in time for the grain harvest. Ruth went to pick up the grain that was leftover from Boaz’s workers. God used Boaz to take care of Ruth and Naomi. Later, Boaz married Ruth. God sent Jesus to earth through Ruth’s family! God sent Jesus to be our Redeemer. ”

2 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”:

“Glean, glean, glean the grain! Glean it all day long! (Stoop and play out picking up grain.)

Pick it, put it in your bag. Sing a gleaning song!” (Wipe your brow as if tired.)

3 PLAY WITH PEOPLE FIGURES

Provide people figures for toddlers to play out the Bible story. Cut thin strips of yellow paper to represent the stalks of grain Ruth gathered. Tell the Bible story as toddlers play.

SAY “ God used Boaz to take care of Ruth and Naomi. Boaz was a redeemer. He took care of his family when they needed help. Jesus died on the cross and came back to life to redeem us. ”

4 READ BOOKS ABOUT FAMILIES

Before the session, gather books about multigenerational families. Talk about how families can include friends and neighbors, as well as those related to one another. Explain that Naomi loved Obed as her own grandson. Read the books with toddlers, reminding them that God sent Jesus to earth through Ruth’s family.

SAY “ God used Boaz to take care of Ruth and Naomi. Boaz married Ruth, and they had a son named Obed. Naomi took care of Obed like a grandmother. God loves and cares for families. Everyone who trusts in Jesus becomes part of God’s family forever. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.