

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**
The Favor of Boaz
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ bundles of grain
 - ✓ a water jar
 - ✓ a small loaf of bread
 - ✓ a bowl and other table settings
 - ✓ grape juice
 - ✓ sunflower seeds (to be used as roasted grain)
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
A Story of Kindness
6. **WORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page 50—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Gleaning
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ large bag of popcorn
 - ✓ paper cups for the children
 - ✓ napkins
 - ✓ water for the children to drink
 - ✓ two baskets, one large and one small

TOTAL 80 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).

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**

The Favor of Boaz

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ bundles of grain
- ✓ a water jar
- ✓ a small loaf of bread
- ✓ a bowl and other table settings
- ✓ grape juice
- ✓ sunflower seeds (to be used as roasted grain)

Tell the story of Boaz’s care for Ruth in Ruth 2:1–17. Have a male teacher read the story and, when he gets to lines that Boaz says, he should deepen his voice and assume Boaz’s character. Use the props to bring the story to life. Narrate Ruth’s lines. If there is time and Boaz’s lines can be memorized and acted out, all the better.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **Why was Boaz so kind to Ruth?**
(Boaz heard the story of how Ruth cared for Naomi and stayed with her. He was also a redeemer for Naomi—and now Ruth since they both had lost their husbands.)
- **What does a redeemer do?**
(A redeemer offers money, goods, or himself to help a person in his clan who has fallen into a difficult trial and cannot provide for him or herself.)
- **What did Jesus do for us as our redeemer?**
(We were dead in our sins, unable to become righteous on our own. We were cut off from God’s family. Jesus redeemed us through his sacrifice on the cross and paid the price of our sin—our debt—so we could be brought back into the family of God.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 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.)

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 10 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 50—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Do you think gleaning for food is easy or hard? Why?
(Gleaning is very hard work. Since not much is left behind, it would take a long time to gather enough for a meal.)
- What does Ruth’s hard work say about her love for Naomi?
(Ruth loved Naomi very much to care for her this way and not leave Naomi to go back to her own mother.)
- What nice things did Boaz do for Ruth?
(He gave her permission to follow close to the reapers. He also told his men to drop some of the grain to make it easier for Ruth to gather food for herself and Naomi.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Gleaning

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large bag of popcorn
- ✓ paper cups for the children
- ✓ napkins
- ✓ water for the children to drink
- ✓ two baskets, one large and one small

Prior to class, place napkins with piles of popcorn around the room on the desks or tables. When the children arrive, assemble them away from the tables onto a carpet to hear the story. When you get to the part about gleaning, tell the class you have set up your classroom with a harvest of popcorn.

Pretend that the popcorn was the crop you planted and now it is time to harvest or gather in the crop. Give the small basket to a volunteer who will play the part of Ruth. You take the large basket and play the part of a worker in the field.

Using the large basket, remove the popcorn quickly from one of the napkins. Don't grab any little pieces left over. Explain to your volunteer that she is allowed to gather the bits and pieces left over for herself to eat. That is how gleaning works. It would take too much time for the harvesters to get every last bit. Poor people and widows would follow behind the harvesters to glean the extra grain left behind.

In the case of Ruth and Boaz, Boaz instructed his men to watch out for Ruth and told them to leave extra grain behind (Ruth 2:15–16).

Finish up by telling the class how, instead of taking all of grain, Boaz's helpers left large portions behind for Ruth to gather to fill her basket. (Now move from pile to pile in the classroom so your volunteer has enough to fill her basket.)

Connect Boaz's kindness to Ruth with God's kindness to us. Not only does God provide food for us in spite of our sin, he also sent Jesus to be our Redeemer.

Share the portion of the popcorn you collected in your large basket with the class.

LESSON 50 - RUTH

