

June 28 Elementary

Bible Passage: Ruth and Boaz / Ruth

Story Point: God provided a redeemer for Ruth.

Memory Verse: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

Big Picture Question: What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

Christ Connection: *Boaz was a family redeemer. He helped his close relatives who were in trouble. Boaz cared for Ruth and Naomi because their husbands had died. In a similar way, Jesus is our Redeemer. We need help because we sin. Jesus bought our salvation for us by taking our punishment when He died on the cross.*

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* **BIBLE STUDY TIPS FOR PARENTS:**

Only two books in the Old Testament bear the name of a woman: Ruth and Esther. Ruth's story occurs at the time when judges ruled over Israel. God's people were characterized by rebellion and immorality. At a time when the Israelites desperately needed a king to lead them back to God, Ruth's story of faithfulness points us to Jesus Christ, a coming Redeemer who will make all wrong things right again.

Ruth was the daughter-in-law of Naomi, a woman from Bethlehem who settled in Moab with her husband and two sons to escape a famine. Naomi's husband died, and her two sons married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. They lived in Moab for 10 years; then Naomi's sons died.

Naomi heard that the Lord had provided food for His people during the famine, so she decided to go back to Judah. Naomi encouraged Orpah and Ruth to return to their families. Orpah returned home, but Ruth clung to Naomi. Ruth said, "Wherever you go, I will go ... your people will be my people, and your God will be my God" (Ruth 1:16). So Naomi and Ruth traveled back to Bethlehem together.

Naomi permitted Ruth to gather fallen grain in a field. The owner of the field was Boaz, a relative of Naomi's late husband and a family redeemer. A family redeemer was someone who would help his close relatives if they were in trouble. Boaz noticed Ruth and told her she could safely gather grain in his field. At Naomi's urging, Ruth sought to be redeemed by Boaz. Boaz bought back the land

Naomi and Ruth had lost when their husbands died, and he married Ruth. They had a son named Obed, whose grandson would be King David.

God gave Ruth—a foreigner—a special place in the lineage of Jesus Christ. As you teach kids today, introduce them to Jesus, our Redeemer. He bought for us salvation, paying the price with His very own blood.

***STORY:**

SAY • We've been hearing a lot of stories about Israel's judges. The Israelites were stuck in a cycle. When things were going well, they'd ignore God and forget about Him. God allowed their enemies to rule over them. Then the Israelites remembered how good life was when they followed God, so they cried out to Him for help. God raised up a judge to deliver His people. But when the judge died, the cycle started all over again.

Today's Bible story is called "Ruth and Boaz." Neither Ruth nor Boaz was a judge in Israel, but their story takes place around the same time our other stories happened. Let's find out more.

Use the Bible storytelling tips below to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video, or both!

Ruth and Boaz

Ruth

Naomi lived in Judah with her husband and their two sons. There was a famine in the land, so it was difficult to find enough food to survive. Naomi and her family decided to go to Moab.

While they were in Moab, Naomi's husband died. Naomi's sons married women from Moab, Orpah and Ruth. They all lived in Moab for 10 years, and then Naomi's sons died. Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth were all alone. The famine was over, so Naomi decided to go home.

The women were very sad to leave each other. **Orpah returned home, but Ruth clung to Naomi.** Ruth said, "Wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you live, I will live; your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." **So Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem together.**

Ruth went into the fields to gather fallen grain. She happened to go to the field of Boaz, a good man from the family of Naomi's late husband. Boaz saw Ruth in his field. He had heard how kind Ruth was to Naomi, so **Boaz told Ruth to stay in his field where she would be safe.** Boaz made sure Ruth had enough food.

Ruth returned to Naomi and told her about Boaz. "Boaz is one of our family redeemers," Naomi replied. A family redeemer was someone who would help his close relatives if they were in trouble. Naomi knew Boaz would take care of Ruth, so she encouraged Ruth to stay in his fields.

Naomi wanted to make sure Ruth had a husband to care for her, so she **gave Ruth special instructions**. Ruth put on her best clothes and laid down near Boaz's feet. In this way, **Ruth showed Boaz that she hoped he would marry her**. Boaz was surprised to find Ruth at his feet. "You are a family redeemer," Ruth said.

Boaz promised to redeem Ruth, which meant he would buy back the land that Naomi lost after her husband died, and he would marry Ruth.

Ruth and Boaz had a son named Obed. Naomi took care of Obed. **When Obed grew up, he was the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David.**

SAY • During the cycle of judges, a woman named Naomi left Israel with her husband. Her sons married women from Moab, but they had no children. Naomi's husband and sons died, meaning her family no longer had a way to keep the land that belonged to them in Israel. Ruth, her daughter-in-law, worked hard to gather food to feed them both, but she needed a *redeemer*—someone to buy the land Naomi had and provide for them.

God provided a redeemer for Ruth. Boaz saw Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi and her hardworking attitude. He cared for her and wanted to protect her from hard times. Boaz agreed to redeem Ruth and buy the land that belonged to Naomi's family. God used Boaz and Ruth to further His plan to send the true Redeemer, Jesus. Ruth and Boaz became the great-grandparents of King David. And David was an important ancestor of Jesus, the Son of God. Through Boaz and Ruth, God provided the One who saved the world from sin and death.

***Christ Connection:**

Christ Connection: Boaz was a family redeemer. He helped his close relatives who were in trouble. Boaz cared for Ruth and Naomi because their husbands had died. In a similar way, Jesus is our Redeemer. We need help because we sin. Jesus bought our salvation for us by taking our punishment when He died on the cross.

SAY • A thousand years before Ruth lived, God promised Abraham that He was going to bless his family. Ruth was part of that family. Ruth and Boaz had a son named Obed, who grew up and had a son named Jesse. Jesse was the father of King David! Through this family, God planned to bring His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world.

***GOSPEL PLAN:**

(Included in the Activity Pages)

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

***PRAYER**

SAY • Lord God, thank You for Your Word. You provided a redeemer for Ruth, and we are reminded that You ultimately provided a Redeemer for us in Jesus. You welcome us into Your family and make us brothers and sisters in Christ. You are a good Father, and we love You. Amen.

***KEY PASSAGE / MEMORY VERSE:**

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

SAY • I loved seeing in our Bible story today how God wants us to be in His family. Even though we are sinners, we can confess our sin. He is faithful and just, and He will forgive us.

***DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

COMPREHENSION:

- Where was Ruth from originally? (*Moab, Ruth 1:4*)
- What was Ruth's vow to Naomi? (*"Wherever you go, I will go; where you live, I will live; your people will be my people, and your God will be my God"; Ruth 1:16*)
- How did Ruth meet Boaz? (*She was gleaning in his field, and he was kind to her; Ruth 2:2-8*)
- What did Naomi tell Ruth to do after she found out about Boaz's kindness? (*Go lie down at Boaz's feet, Ruth 3:3-4*)

- Why did Ruth go to Boaz at the threshing floor? (*to ask him to redeem her, Ruth 3:9*)
- What did Boaz do for Ruth? (*invited her to stay in his fields, offered her protection and water, married her and redeemed her and Naomi; Ruth 2:8-9; 4:14*)
- Boaz and Ruth were the great-grandparents of whom? (*David, the eventual king of Israel and an important ancestor of Jesus; Ruth 4:17-22*)

YOUNGER:

Open to the book of Ruth. Ask which division of the Old Testament Ruth is part of. (*History*) Remind kids that Bible divisions help us understand what some books in the Bible have in common.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

- How does Boaz point us forward to Jesus? *Guide kids to discuss the fact that Boaz bought back the land of Naomi and Ruth's family. He redeemed the women and gave them a new life. Through Jesus, we can be redeemed from sin, protected from death, and given new life with God forever.*
- How did Jesus redeem us? *Guide kids to understand that we are born in sin. We cannot earn God's love, so we needed Jesus to save us. Jesus came to earth to live the perfectly obedient life we never could. He died the death we deserved and rose again to prove that His sacrifice was enough. He defeated sin and death so we could have new life with God.*
- How does God's great love for us change the way we behave toward others? *Help kids see that when we love God, we will want to obey Him and love the things He loves. That includes loving other people. We will want to see those in need comforted and cared for. Obeying God means taking care of other people and showing them His love.*

Say • God provided a redeemer for Ruth. In an even greater way, God provided a Redeemer for you and me through Ruth's family line. Jesus came to save us from sin and give us eternal life with God.

OLDER:

Open your Bibles to Ruth 1. Tell kids that today's Bible story comes from the Book of Ruth. Explain that the Book of Ruth is the third book of Old Testament History. It follows the Book of Joshua.

Challenge kids to name the first eight books of the Old Testament.

Say • The events of Ruth happened during the time of the judges, sometime after Joshua died. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Ruth 1:1-2. Remind kids that Naomi's family was from Bethlehem. Because of the famine, they moved to Moab. That's where they met Ruth and her sister Orpah. Show the Old Testament Kingdoms Map and point out Bethlehem (I4) and Moab (K7). Then ask the following questions:

- Why do we need Jesus to be our Redeemer? *Guide kids to recognize that without Jesus, we are slaves to sin and need someone to redeem us, or pay the price to set us free. Jesus paid the penalty for sin by dying on the cross. He rose from the dead. Everyone who trusts in Him is freed from sin and death. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 6:6-7.)*
- Why do you think Jesus loves all people? *Remind kids that God created all people in His image, and Jesus does not want anyone to be separated from Him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Pet. 3:9.)*
- What evidence of God's grace have you seen in your own life? *Lead kids to recall that grace is God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment. As sinners, we deserve*

death but God—by His grace—provides salvation through His Son, Jesus. God also graciously and freely gives us good gifts. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 2:4-7.)

***ACTIVITY:**

ACTIVITY PAGE & COLORING PAGE

Invite kids to complete the “Perfect Match” activity page. Challenge the kids to draw lines connecting each object on the left with the thing on the right that it goes well with.

Say • Sometimes things are made for each other. Other times it only becomes clear two things go well together after they have been brought together. Today we will hear about how God brought Ruth and Boaz together for His plan.

MAP & FAMILY TREE ACTIVITY PAGE

Invite kids to complete “Map Mania” on the activity page. Guide kids to use the coordinates to label the given locations on the map

Say • Which of these places have you heard of before? Are there any you’ve never seen before? In the Bible story we heard today, a family left their home in Bethlehem and went to Moab.

REDEEMABLE FOR

SAY • Redemption can sometimes be difficult to understand because it’s not a word we hear often these days. The most basic definition for “redeem” means to trade for something or to buy it back. Explain that a coupon is a piece of paper that can be used to redeem for something else. If you have a coupon at home, show your child and ask a few questions:

What is the coupon good for?

Where can it be used?

Does it have value besides as a coupon?

Are there limitations to how it can be used?

Then, distribute paper and markers or crayons to the kids. Have your child create 4-8 coupons that they can give out to parents or siblings. These can be coupons for things like hugs, washing the car, doing the dishes, or other ways to show love to family.

SAY • These coupon books are a great way to show love to your family. Your family members can redeem the coupons for you to help them with chores, give them hugs, or whatever! And each time a coupon is redeemed, you can remember how **God provided a redeemer for Ruth**. And through Ruth’s family, God provided the greatest Redeemer, Jesus.

REVIEW GAME

Write various point values on 9 separate pieces of paper. Tape the paper securely to the floor in a 3-by-3 grid or attach the pages onto a giant game floor mat.

You can either play with two teams, or see how many points your child/children can get together.

Ask a review question. If the team answers correctly, let them toss a beanbag onto the point board and award points based on where the beanbag lands. Then invite team 2 to take a turn.

Where did Naomi's family travel to find food? (*Moab, Ruth 1:1*)

Name one of Naomi's daughters-in-law. (*Orpah or Ruth, Ruth 1:4*)

What happened to Naomi's husband and sons? (*They died, Ruth 1:3-5*)

Who said, "Your God will be my God"? (*Ruth, Ruth 1:16*)

Whose field did Ruth gather grain from? (*Boaz's field, Ruth 2:3*)

What special role did Boaz have in his family? (*He was a family redeemer, Ruth 2:20*)

What was the name of Ruth and Boaz's baby? (*Obed; Ruth 4:13,17*)

Obed was the grandfather of which great Israelite king? (*King David; Ruth 4:17,22*)

Say • God provided a redeemer for Ruth. Boaz was a family redeemer. He helped his close relatives who were in trouble. In a similar way, Jesus is our Redeemer. We need help because we sin. Jesus bought our salvation for us by taking our punishment when He died on the cross.

REDEEM THE PIECE

Provide your child with a puzzle from which you have removed a piece. Allow your child time to work on their puzzles. When they realize that their puzzle is missing a piece, reveal that you have the missing pieces. Ask your child what they would be willing to do or give you to get the missing pieces. Discuss the idea of redemption. Then review the story.

Say • God provided a redeemer for Ruth. Boaz purchased the land that Naomi's husband and sons had lost. He married Ruth and became their family redeemer. In a similar way, Jesus bought us back from the power of sin and death. Jesus paid for our sins when He died on the cross. His resurrection on the third day proved that He was victorious. Through Jesus, we can be redeemed!