

# THE STORY OF RUTH

## Ruth



During the time of the judges, there was a famine in the land. A man named Elimelech left Israel with his wife Naomi and his two sons to try to find food in a land called Moab. His sons married two Moabite women. One was named Orpah, and the other was named Ruth.

Later, Elimelech and his two sons died, leaving Naomi without her two children and without her husband. Naomi planned to go back to Israel and told Orpah and Ruth to stay in Moab. She said, “May the Lord grant each of you a new husband.” But Ruth replied, “Wherever you go, I will go. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.” So, Naomi and Ruth traveled to the town of Bethlehem. It was the beginning of the barley harvest.

Naomi and Ruth needed food, so Ruth decided to go to the fields and gather any grain that the harvesters left behind. The field she chose to gather grain in was owned by a man named Boaz. He noticed Ruth gathering grain in his field. He asked one of his servants, “Who is this young woman?”

The servant replied, “She is the young woman from Moab who returned with Naomi. She has been working hard since early morning.” Boaz went to Ruth and said,

“Please don’t go and gather grain in any other field. Stay close to my female servants and you will be safe. And if you get thirsty, drink from the jars my servants have filled.” Boaz also told his workers to pull out some of the good grain from the bundles and leave them behind for her to gather.

Ruth told Naomi about Boaz’s kindness. Naomi asked God to bless Boaz. Then she told Ruth that Boaz was a family redeemer. A family redeemer was a man who had the responsibility to help his relatives when they were in need. Ruth went to Boaz and said, “Please take me under your wing, because you are a family redeemer to me.”

Boaz replied, “I will do for you whatever you say, because you are a woman of noble character.” Boaz went to the town gate and spoke to the elders. Boaz redeemed Ruth by buying back the land that once belonged to Naomi’s husband. Then Ruth and Boaz were married, and they had a son named Obed, who would be the grandfather of the great Israelite King David.

*Christ Connection: Ruth was in great need and unable to provide for herself. God provided Boaz as her redeemer. We are in great need and unable to save ourselves from our sin. God provided Jesus as our Redeemer.*



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

**1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY**

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today, we are going to hear about the story of Ruth. Through our Bible story we will see how **GOD PROVIDED A FAMILY REDEEMER FOR RUTH**. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

**Read from Ruth.****•What does this story teach us about God?**

**God provided for Ruth every step of the way. None of the things that happened in Ruth's life were a surprise to God.** Sometimes we face difficult circumstances and need help. God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan. Just as God cared for Ruth and had a plan for her life, God cares for us and has a plan for our lives.

**•How is Jesus the ultimate Redeemer?**

Boaz showed kindness to Ruth and helped her when she was in need. He provided her with food, safety, and eventually a home with him. Boaz bought back the field that belonged to Naomi's husband and redeemed Ruth. However, **Jesus is the ultimate Redeemer because He paid the debt for our sin.** We were helpless and unable to pay the debt of our sin. Yet, Jesus' love for sinners compelled Him to die on the cross for our sin.

Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

**2 MISSIONS MOMENT**

Tell kids that Doug and Evelyn Knapp were appointed as missionaries to Tanzania, Africa, in 1963. Explain that the Knapps began to help the people of Tanzania with their farming needs. The Knapps also told the people about Jesus while Doug helped them learn more about gardening.

Tell kids that many people came to know and trust in Jesus through the Knapps' ministry of gardening. Share how these Christians went on to start new churches who shared the gospel with even more people. Close in prayer, thanking God for meeting both physical needs and spiritual needs for the people of Tanzania. Ask God to reveal ways we can help people understand how Jesus meets their greatest need.



LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

Ruth was in great need and unable to provide for herself. God provided Boaz as her redeemer. We are in great need and unable to save ourselves from our sin. God provided Jesus as our Redeemer. When we trust in Jesus, our sin is forgiven and we can come to God.






### 4 PRAY

Thank You, God, for sending Jesus as our Redeemer. We know we cannot save ourselves from our sin. We praise You for Your love and care for us. In Jesus' name, amen.

## THE GOSPEL

### GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.

				
<b>GOD RULES</b>	<b>WE SINNED</b>	<b>GOD PROVIDED</b>	<b>JESUS GIVES</b>	<b>WE RESPOND</b>
Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.	Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.	Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.	Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.	Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### 1 THINK ABOUT THE STORY

- **What should we do when we have fears that something might happen to us or our family?**
- **Why can we trust Jesus to always provide what we need most?**

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to Ruth 4. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Ruth 4:9-10. Remind preteens that **GOD PROVIDED A FAMILY REDEEMER FOR RUTH**. Boaz bought back the field that once belonged to Naomi's husband, and he chose to marry Ruth. Discuss how this act of kindness gave Ruth a hope and a future. Through Ruth's family, God had a plan to provide us with a Redeemer. Jesus shed His own blood to pay the price for our sin. Jesus redeems those who trust in Him so they can be made right with God. Through faith in Jesus, we have an eternal hope and a future.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud Ruth 4:9-10 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

#### 1. **Do you think the cost of sin is high? Can anyone pay the debt for their sin? Why not?**

Tell kids that our sin has an infinite cost because we sin against an infinitely holy God. Discuss how we can never pay the debt for our sin. Remind kids that Jesus paid the price in full for our sin when He shed His blood on the cross. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Pet. 1:18-19.)

#### 2. **Ruth was not an Israelite. Can anyone become a part of God's family? Why?**

Remind kids that Ruth was a Moabite, but she chose to follow the one true God. Discuss how faith in Jesus is the only way to become a part of God's family. Tell kids that any person can trust in Jesus and follow Him. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 10:11-13.)

#### 3. **Who was Boaz's great grandson?**

Tell kids that King David, who we'll learn about later, was the great grandson of Boaz. Discuss how the difficult circumstances of Ruth's life were not an obstacle to God. Share how God had a plan for Ruth's life, and in His plan, He had determined to use her family to bring Jesus into the world. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matt. 1:17,21.)

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### BIG PICTURE QUESTION

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How does God care for His creation?  
God loves and rules over His creation according to  
His perfect plan.

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## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### 1 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Philippians 4:19. Lead them in reading the key passage aloud together. Provide each kid a piece of paper and a marker or pencil. Guide kids to fold their paper accordion style. On each section, lead the kids to write a few words of the verse. Demonstrate how they can unfold each section at a time to help them practice the key passage.

### 2 PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for sending Jesus to be our Redeemer.

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#### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

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### IS IT TRUE?

Form kids into two teams. Review the Bible story by asking each team if a statement is true or false. Explain that if the team guesses correctly, they receive a point. Begin with following examples and then add your own:

- Naomi came from Moab.
- Ruth was a widow.
- Boaz protected Ruth.
- Naomi traveled back to Jerusalem.
- Ruth had a son named Jesse.
- Naomi gathered grain from Boaz's field.
- We cannot pay the debt of our sin.

Remind kids that the story of Ruth points us to what is true about God: **God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.** God had a perfect plan for Ruth and provided for her needs. We can trust that God has a perfect plan for our lives as well. When we trust in Jesus, God guides us to what is best and provides for our greatest need.