

THE STORY OF RUTH

RUTH



KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 4:19

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: *How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.*

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.

STORY POINT: God provided a family redeemer for Ruth.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

The book of Ruth weaves a redemption story that begins with one family from Bethlehem and points toward the Messiah born in the same city. In the story of Ruth, we see how God sees and cares for His people, even demonstrating His love for the nations through a Moabite woman who became a part of Jesus' lineage. God's provision for not only Ruth, but all people, is revealed through the theme of a redeemer.

What does Ruth's story teach us about our need for redemption? How does faith play a role in this book of the Bible?

In the time of the judges, famine overtook the land of Judah. So, a man named Elimelech traveled with his family to the land of Moab. Eventually, Elimelech and his two sons died, leaving his wife Naomi and her two daughters-in-law seemingly without provision or protection in their time of need. Naomi granted her late sons' wives to return to their homelands, yet Ruth swore to remain with Naomi and declared that Naomi's God would be her God too.

Ruth remained faithful to Naomi and took to the fields to glean grain for them both. It was there she received kindness from the field's owner Boaz, whom she soon learned was their family redeemer. Boaz had the power to bring Ruth and Naomi back into Elimelech's family so their lineage would continue. He took Ruth as his wife to provide her with the food and protection she needed. Like Ruth, we need provision, but our need goes even further: salvation from sin. The kindness of Jesus led Him to the cross to redeem us amid our sinful state.

Lead kids to see that this story goes beyond mere physical provision to reveal a God who made the way to offer us salvation. Pray that the children in your class would see God's sovereign hand at work in this story and that they would trust in Jesus as the perfect and final Redeemer.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Have you ever helped take care of someone or something? Maybe a neighbor who was sick or a pet. How did you care for them and give them what they need?”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: YOU GO, I GO



Form kids into pairs and explain that each pair will be completing a three-legged race. Instruct pairs to lock arms as you tie a handkerchief around one kid's left leg and the other kid's right leg. Then challenge pairs to race to from one side of the room to the other. If space is limited, consider playing this activity outside as the weather permits.

Alternatively, rather than a three-legged race, you may choose to lead pairs to hold an inflated balloon between their side as they walk from one side of the room to the other. If kids pop the balloon, use their hands, or drop the balloon, they must return to the starting line and begin again. The first team to successfully walk to the other side with their balloon intact wins.

SAY “The race wouldn't work unless you and your partner worked together and went in the same direction. Today, we will learn about a woman named Ruth and how she chose to follow her mother-in-law Naomi. We'll see how Ruth said, 'Wherever you go, I will go. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.'”

OPTION 2: GATHER IT

Before the session, scatter 30 green chenille stems, 30 yellow chenille stems, and 30 brown chenille stems around the room. Form three teams of kids and assign a chenille stem color to each team. Challenge the teams to work together to gather their “grain.” Once teams have gathered all their “grain,” challenge them to divide the grain into bundles of five. The first team to have six bundles of grain wins. Repeat, if time allows.

SAY “Does anyone know what we can make with grain? [Allow response.] We can make bread with grain. Today, we will learn about a woman named Ruth who gathered grain from the field of a man named Boaz. Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi were poor and needed food to eat. God cared for Ruth, and God provided a family redeemer for Ruth.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Find the Way” activity page.

| **SAY** “ Today, we’ll learn how God cared for Ruth and provided her with a family redeemer. ”

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Guide kids to open their Bibles to Ruth 1. Remind kids that Ruth and Naomi traveled from Moab (K7) to Bethlehem (I4). Discuss how hundreds of years later, Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.

. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Ruth 1:1 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “ The story of Ruth tells us about two very different places, Moab and Bethlehem. Ruth was from the territory of Moab, but Naomi and her family were from Bethlehem in Judah. Ruth was not an Israelite, but she trusted in God and became part of His family.

The story of Ruth reminds us that God loves all people, not just the Israelites. God rescued Ruth and provided for her needs. He didn’t turn her away or forget about her. In the city of Bethlehem, God provided a redeemer for Ruth and a Redeemer—Jesus—for all people! God loves each of us and invites us to be a part of His family through faith in Jesus. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** “ How did Ruth show she trusted God? ”

Tell kids how Ruth traveled to Naomi’s homeland, declaring that Naomi’s God would be her God too. Ruth kept her word to Naomi and gathered enough food for them both to eat. Instead of blaming God for the difficult things in her life, she remained faithful to Him and followed the advice of Naomi.

| **SAY** “ How does God provide the things we need? ”

Explain to kids that God created the world and filled it with the things we need to live: food, water, shelter, and people who can care for us. Explain that He went even further by providing us redemption and salvation through Jesus and His sacrifice. He provided us with His Word and His church to teach us more about Him. Remind kids how God sees and knows everything we need, even when we might not understand why He doesn’t always give us what we think is best.

| **SAY** “ How is Jesus our Redeemer? ”

Guide kids to understand that we are born in sin. We cannot earn God’s love, so we needed Jesus to save us. Share how redeem means to “buy back” or “pay for.” Discuss how Jesus paid for our sin through His death on the cross. Jesus came to earth to live the perfectly obedient life we never could. He died the death we deserved and rose again to show His power over sin and death. He defeated sin and death so we could have new life with God.



LIVE

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: FAMILY OF JESUS

Provide each kid with a “People in the Family of Jesus Spinner.” Guide kids to color the pictures. Then lead kids to cut out each circle. To assemble the spinner, follow the directions on the printable. Review each person and discuss how these people are all in the family line of Jesus. Remind kids that these people weren’t perfect, but God is perfect and faithful to His promises.

SAY “*God loves families. All throughout the Bible, we see how God cared for families—even when they sinned and disobeyed Him. God’s plan to send Jesus into the world included using families and promising that one day, a Savior would be born. From Abraham and Sarah to Boaz and Ruth, God was working out this plan. Eventually, God’s eternal Son, Jesus, was born to Joseph and Mary in the little town of Bethlehem. Jesus is our Redeemer who came to save us from sin and death.*”

OPTION 2: TRUE OR FALSE



Provide each kid with a piece of paper. Guide kids to label each side of their paper as *True* or *False*. Explain that you will read several statements about today’s story. If they believe a statement is true, they will hold up *True*. If they believe a statement is false, they will hold up *False*. Read the following statements aloud and consider adding more of your own:

- Ruth left Naomi and went back to her own land. (*False*)
- Boaz provided Ruth with food and safety. (*True*)
- Ruth was from Moab. (*True*)
- Boaz owned a grocery store. (*False*)
- Ruth and Boaz got married and had a son named Obed. (*True*)

SAY “*God provided a family redeemer for Ruth. Boaz bought back the land for Ruth and Naomi. 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. Through faith in Jesus, we can be redeemed!*”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.