

STORY (Ruth 1)

READ: Ruth 1

TELL THE STORY:

The story begins in the land of Bethlehem, in Judah, with Naomi, and her husband, Elimelech. They had two sons, named Mahlon and Chilion. Elimelech's family and friends all worshipped God.

Bethlehem was in the middle of a famine. Does anybody know what a famine is? A famine is when the land is SO dry that they are unable to grow any food!

Naomi and her husband didn't know what to do, so the family left the land of Bethlehem and moved to the land of Moab, where the people worshipped other gods.

But something horrible happened. Naomi's husband died. Naomi's sons married Moabite women, but after 10 years, they also both died! Naomi, felt very small and very unimportant. Do you ever feel small or unimportant? When the famine was over, Naomi decided that she would go back to the land of Bethlehem. She said to her daughters-in-law, "Return to your own mother's house." After all, she had nothing to offer them — she had no more sons for them to marry ... just an uncertain future in a foreign land.

One of her daughters-in-laws (named Orpah) left, but the other clung to her and said, *"Where you go, I go, your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me."* Can you guess the name of this daughter-in-law? Her name was, Ruth.

So Naomi and Ruth set out for the land of Bethlehem. All of Naomi's friends were very excited to see her again. But Naomi told them, "Don't call me Naomi (which means "pleasant"). Call me Mara (which means "bitter"), because my life has become very bitter."

Indeed, after losing her husband and two sons in a foreign land, Naomi had every right to feel bitter about her life. But even though she did not know it, God never forsook her. He was always taking care of her and preparing a hope and a future for her.

Resources: (try to show only what is covered in Ruth 1)

Ruth and Naomi: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__5ppDVbUs

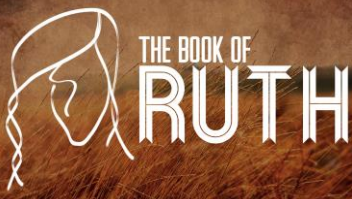
God's Story: Ruth <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irThVpdeSXk> (until 0.45 sec)

Ruth, Naomi & Boaz <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTZjvMzXQs4> (until 50 sec)

The Book of Ruth <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyr3Ayl7zVY> (until 55 sec)

Overview: Ruth <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0h1eoBeR4JK> (for Yellow class)

Images: <https://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ruth-1/>



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RUTH 1: WHEN THINGS ARE BITTER ...

LESSON

INTRODUCTION

The book of Ruth in the Old Testament has 4 chapters — we will look at 1 chapter per week.

For the Jews, Ruth is the book that they read on Pentecost in their synagogues. Pentecost marks the giving of the Law at Mt Sinai (and later in Acts, it marks the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early church).

Ruth is a beautiful Old Testament historical book of how God works in mysterious ways, through our darkest, most bitter days, for our good.

Even more importantly, it illustrates Christ's great love for us and the redemption He purchased for us. We'll see more of this today and in the next few weeks.

BAD THINGS HAPPEN SOMETIMES ...

First, there was a famine in Bethlehem. (Bethlehem means "House of Bread", so it's extra ironic that there was no bread).

Then Naomi lost her husband. Then not just one, but both her sons.

In those times, a woman without a husband or son is very vulnerable — she would have nothing, no one to protect her, no one to provide for her. She was far from her home, and all she had were two daughters-in-law from the foreign land in which she was living in.

No wonder she was bitter ("Mara").

GOD STILL WORKS FOR GOOD!

Naomi was so bitter that she blamed God for bringing her back empty, for afflicting her, for bringing misfortune upon her.

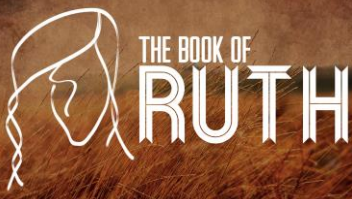
But she failed to see that God was bringing something good out of all the losses and challenges.

Through it, she met Ruth, who clung to her side even when she had nothing to offer her. And God was the One who broke the famine and opened the way home for Naomi.

Do you remember what Romans 8:28?

RUTH PUT HER FAITH IN THIS GOD

Ruth didn't have to stay with Naomi. She could have let Naomi travel back to Bethlehem alone. She



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RUTH 1: WHEN THINGS ARE BITTER ...

left her own family, her people, her gods. She chose to put her faith in Naomi's God even though she didn't know Him yet. And God used Ruth for a very special purpose, as we will find out soon.

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

RUTH 1-RELATED CRAFT

Insert Romans 8:28 verse: *"In all things, God works for the good of those who love Him and who are called according to His purposes."*

WORKSHEETS

Puzzle: https://www.jesus-without-language.net/wp-content/cache/page_enhanced/www.jesus-without-language.net//naomi-ruth-1-make//_index.html_gzip

Colouring: <https://ministryspark.com/wp-content/uploads/19-Ruth-Shows-Love.pdf>,
<https://coloringhome.com/coloring-page/21539?album=ruth-and-naomi-coloring-pages>

Puppets: <https://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/children/picture-activities/ruth-naomi-loyal-friend/>

REVISION QUIZ (older kids)

Ruth 1 Bible Trivia Countdown Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUDI2BmTV6U>

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

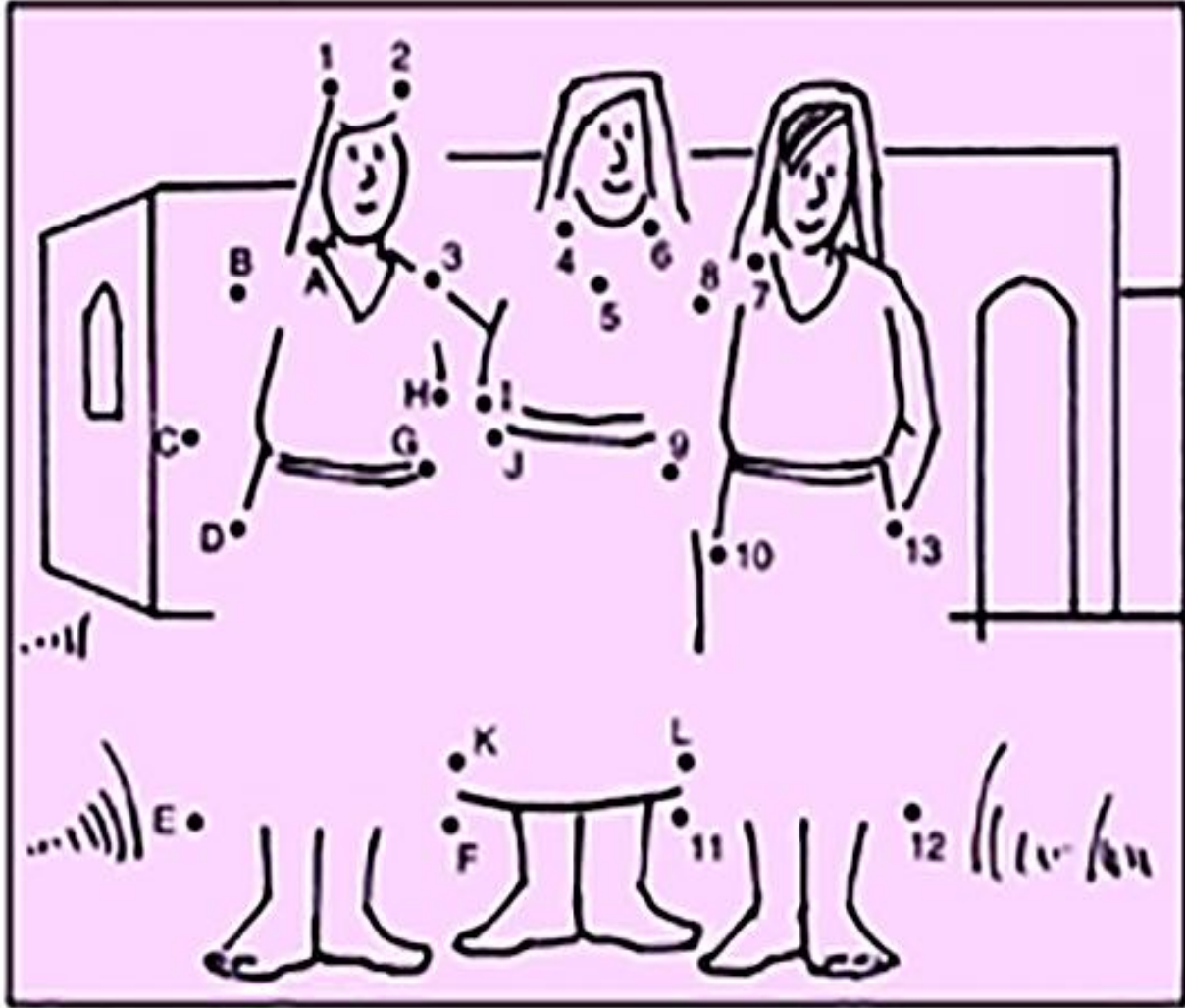
Invite kids to put their trust in God.

Remind kids that: **Even when things are bitter, God is working out something sweet!**

Ruth Stays With Naomi

Naomi lived in Moab.
Her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth,
were with her. They loved her.

Connect the dots. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
A B C D E F G H I J K L



Where you
go I will go,
and where
you stay I
will stay.
Your people
will be my
people and
your
God my God.

Ruth 1:16

STORY (Ruth 2)

READ: Ruth 2 (for older kids)

TELL THE STORY:

Last week, we saw Ruth return to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi.

The famine had ended, and it was the beginning of the barley harvest.

As Ruth and Naomi had nothing to their name, Ruth asked Naomi if she could go to the barley fields and pick up any leftover grain that she was allowed to take. She could bring home the grain and they could grind it to make flour. That way Naomi and Ruth would have enough to eat.

(After the workers cut and bundled the barley stalks from the field, there would always be some stalks left behind. Picking up the leftover barley stalks was called “gleaning.”)

So Ruth went to a field and followed behind the workers harvesting the field. She “happened” to go to the field of a man called Boaz, who was actually a relative of Elimelek, Naomi’s late husband.

At that time, Boaz came to check on the field and his workers.

He noticed Ruth in the field and asked the head worker who she was. He heard how kind Ruth was to Naomi, staying with her after her husband died and leaving Moab to travel back to Bethlehem with her.

So Boaz told Ruth that he was very happy to hear how she took care of Naomi. He told her that she was always welcome to work in his field where she would be safe and no one would bother her. He told Ruth that she could take her breaks and drink with his workers when she got thirsty.

At mealtime, Boaz made sure Ruth had enough bread and roasted grain to eat. She ate all she wanted and had some left over.

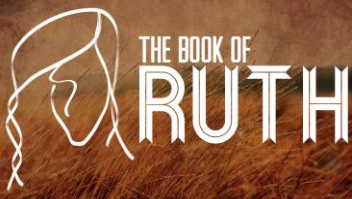
Boaz even gave orders to his workers to let Ruth gather whatever she wanted, even if it’s from their sheaves (the bundles of barley). In fact, he told them to pull out some stalks from the bundles they had gathered and leave them for her to pick up. And he reminded them not to scold her at all!

Wow! What favour! Ruth just wanted permission to gather leftovers, the bits and pieces here and there. But she got so much more!

Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. She threshed the barley and got about 13 kg worth of grain (an ephah)! She carried it home, along with the leftover food from lunchtime, and Naomi was amazed.

“Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!”

Ruth told Naomi that she worked in Boaz’s field.



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RUTH 2: HIS FAVOUR IS ON YOU

“The Lord bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our family redeemers.”

According to Jewish law, 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. So Ruth gathered grain until the barley harvest was finished. She also worked there through the end of the wheat harvest. And Ruth continued to live with Naomi, her mother-in-law.

Resources: (try to show only what is covered in Ruth 2)

God's Story: Ruth <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irThVpdeSXk> (0.45 sec-1.40)

Ruth: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gR2sZRAVcwc>

Boaz notices Ruth: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPOMe-9gMPk>

Images: <https://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ruth-2/>

LESSON

OVER AND ABOVE

Ruth just wanted permission to gather leftovers, the bits and pieces here and there, to make some food for Naomi and herself. But she got so much more!

She was given:

- Security
- Protection
- Food/Water
- Provision (extra grain to glean)

There would have been many other gleaners in the field, but Ruth found favour in Boaz's eyes, and that made all the difference.

When we have Jesus, we have His favour in our lives, and he gives us over and above all that we need.

Ephesians 3:20 *"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us ..."*

FAMILY REDEEMER

According to Jewish law, a kinsman or family redeemer is someone who would help his close relatives if they were in trouble.

Naomi was bitter and thought she had no one and nothing left in this world. But she suddenly realised that her husband's relative could help take care of her and Ruth.

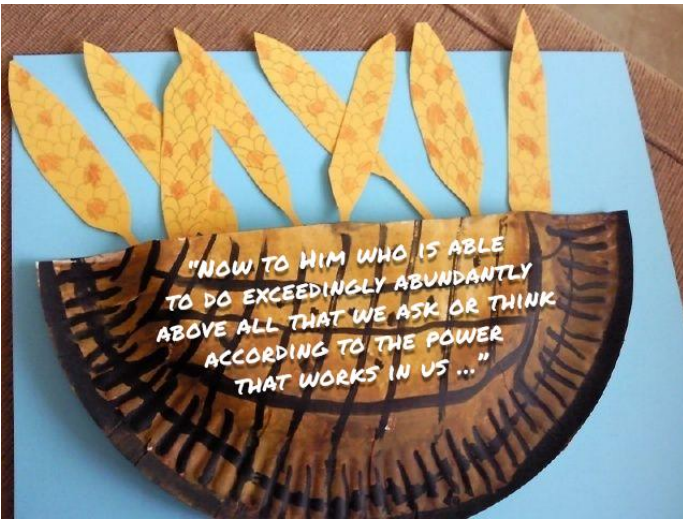
That's when she exclaimed, "The Lord has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead."

We will learn more about the family redeemer in the next few lessons.

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

RUTH 2-RELATED CRAFT

Insert Ephesians 3:20 verse: "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us ..."



Gleaning baskets

Bookmark: <https://www.jesus-without-language.net/ruth-ruth-2-make-2/>

REVISION QUIZ (older kids)

Ruth 2 Bible Trivia Countdown Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4z8Vp1s7NIY>

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Invite kids to put their trust in God.

Remind kids that: **Jesus' favour is on me!**

STORY (Ruth 3)

READ: Ruth 3 (for older kids)

TELL THE STORY:

Last week, we saw Ruth “happen” to glean in a field of a man named Boaz.

Boaz was a relative of her father-in-law, Naomi’s late husband.

The name Boaz probably referred to quickness or strength. He was a man of great wealth. But besides referring to monetary strength, the Hebrew name probably meant that he was gifted in other ways.

And Ruth found favour in Boaz’s eyes for he had heard about Ruth’s goodness to her mother-in-law.

What were some of the blessings she received?

Security, protection, food/water, provision (extra grain to glean)

When Naomi found out that Ruth had been gleaning in Boaz’s field, she started thinking ...

Naomi considered Ruth as her daughter, so she wanted to make sure she’d be well taken care of, even though she was a foreigner. Naomi knew Boaz was a relative, and she could see that Boaz would be a good husband for Ruth.

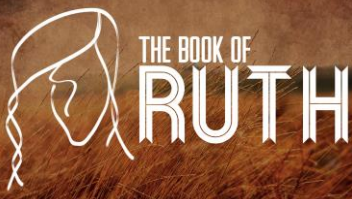
The law of God said that when a young woman became a widow, the man who was the nearest relative of her dead husband — the family-redeemer — should marry the widow and buy back any land that had belonged to her. This was God’s way of ensuring that widows are taken care of and that the land would always be kept in the same family.

So Naomi instructed Ruth what to do, according to the customs of the day. She told her to wash, put on perfume and dress in her best clothes and to go down to the threshing floor, where Boaz would be winnowing barley.

Usually, all of the workers would sleep near the grain so that no one would steal it. Naomi told Ruth to wait until they had all finished eating and drinking and went to sleep. And then to go quietly to where Boaz laid, uncover his feet and lie down. In the culture of the time, that was a way for Ruth to show Boaz that she wanted to marry him.

Ruth did everything Naomi told her to. She waited until everyone was asleep and then laid down at Boaz’ feet. When Boaz woke up at midnight, he found Ruth at his feet. “I am your servant Ruth,” she said. *“Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family (family-redeemer).”*

Boaz was an older man and was flattered that Ruth had chosen him, instead of someone younger or richer. He praised her as a woman of noble character, and said that he was willing to marry her.



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RUTH 3: HE COVERS US

However, there was a small problem. There was another relative of Naomi's who was closer than Boaz and had greater legal right to marry Ruth. So Boaz had to check with that closer relative first.

Boaz told Ruth to lie there until morning. The next day, he gave her six measures of barley, wrapped in her shawl, and she went home to tell Naomi what happened.

Naomi then told Ruth, "Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today."

Resources: (try to show only what is covered in Ruth 3)

God's Story: Ruth <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irThVpdeSXk> (1.40-2.31)

Boaz awakens to Ruth <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XERRMdKhk8M>

Images: <https://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ruth-3/>

LESSON

COVERED BY HIS PROTECTION

According to Jewish law, a kinsman or family redeemer is someone who would help his close relatives if they were in trouble. For example, when a young woman became a widow, the man who was the nearest relative of her dead husband — the family-redeemer — should marry the widow and buy back any land that had belonged to her. This was God's way of ensuring that widows are taken care of and that the land would always be kept in the same family.

"Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family (family-redeemer)."

By asking Boaz to spread his garment over her, Ruth was asking him to redeem her as his wife and cover her with his protection.

When we are in Jesus, He covers us with His protection and His love.

Psalm 91:4 *He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

COVERED BY HIS REDEMPTION

Back in the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, their eyes were open and they realised they were naked. They tried to sew fig leaves — a picture of self-effort — and cover themselves. But the fig leaves could not hide their sin. God had to make garments of skin — an animal was sacrificed — to clothe and cover them.

Jesus is our family-redeemer — He was the ultimate sacrificial Lamb who came to be sacrificed to take away all our sin and cover us with cloaks of righteousness.

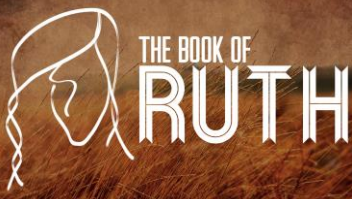
Isaiah 61:10 *I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness.*

WAIT AND REST

Even though there was still the problem of a "closer relative" Naomi told Ruth, *"Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today."*

Naomi had confidence that Boaz would do whatever he said he would. So all Ruth had to do is to rest and wait, while Boaz did the work. We'll find out what he did next Sun!

Sometimes we may not see the results we want immediately. But we can rest and know that Jesus is working all things for good for us.



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RUTH 3: HE COVERS US

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

RUTH 3-RELATED CRAFT

E.g. a blanket or wings craft with the memory verse:

Psalm 91:4 *He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge.*

REVISION QUIZ (older kids)

Ruth 3 Bible Trivia Countdown Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ1bcF0KVZQ>

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Invite kids to put their trust in God.

Remind kids that: **Jesus covers me with His protection and redemption!**

STORY (Ruth 4)

READ: Ruth 4 (for older kids)

TELL THE STORY:

Last week, we ended the story with Boaz agreeing to marry Ruth as her kinsman/family-redeemer.

There was one obstacle though. Do you remember what? *There was a closer relative who could redeem Ruth.*

But Boaz said he will handle the matter. So the next day, he went to the city gate and sat there until he saw the close relative passing by. Boaz called out to him and gathered 10 old men who were leaders of the city. Everyone sat down together.

Boaz told the close relative, "Naomi has come back from the country of Moab. She wants to sell the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. Since you are the closer relative to Naomi, you have the first right to buy the land. If you don't want to buy it, tell me. I am the only person after you who can buy back the land. If you don't buy it back, I will."

The close relative said, "I will buy back the land."

Then Boaz said, "When you buy the land from Naomi, you must marry Ruth, the dead man's wife. She is the woman from Moab. That way, the land will stay in her dead husband's family."

The close relative answered, "Then I can't buy back the land. If I did, I might lose what I can pass on to my own sons. I cannot buy the land back. So you buy it yourself."

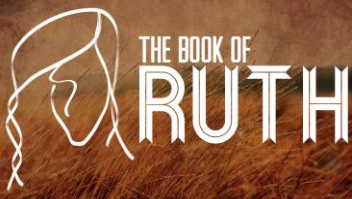
Long ago in Israel when people traded or bought back something, one person took off his sandal and gave it to the other person. This was their proof of purchase.

So the close relative he took off his sandal and handed it to Boaz in front of all the elders as witnesses.

So all the people and elders who were at the city gate blessed Ruth — a Moabite, a foreigner, a non-Jew — and Boaz's family.

Boaz took Ruth and married her. The Lord let her become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. They called him Obed.

Naomi's friends all congratulated Naomi. "Praise the Lord who gave you this grandson. And may he become famous in Israel. He will give you new life. And he will take care of you in your old age. This happened because of your daughter-in-law. She loves you. And she is better for you than seven sons. She has given birth to your grandson."



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RUTH 4: HE REDEEMED US

When Naomi returned to Bethlehem, she asked everyone to call her Mara. Do you remember what that means? *Bitter*

Now she was no longer empty, but full. Naomi took the boy, held him in her arms and cared for him.

What about Ruth? Ruth was a widow, a foreigner, a non-Jew. But because she put her faith in the God of Naomi ("Your God will be my God"), she found a wonderful restoration through Boaz and was given a special honour in the history of Israel.

Her son, Obed, grew up and had a son named Jesse. Do you know who Jesse was? Jesse was the father of David. Yes, King David. And King David's great great great great ... grandson was a man called ... Jesus.

God took Ruth and grafted her into Jesus' family tree in a very special love story of redemption.

Resources: (try to show only what is covered in Ruth 4)

God's Story: Ruth <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irThVpdeSXk> (from 2.25)

LESSON

KINSMAN/FAMILY REDEEMER

According to Jewish law, a kinsman or family redeemer is someone who would help his close relatives if they were in trouble. For example, when a young woman became a widow, the man who was the nearest relative of her dead husband — the family-redeemer — should marry the widow and buy back any land that had belonged to her. This was God's way of ensuring that widows are taken care of and that the land would always be kept in the same family.

There are 3 general conditions for someone to be a kinsman/family redeemer.

The person had to be:

- A **close** relative
- **Able** to redeem (with the means to support and provide for the family)
- **Willing** to redeem

Boaz fulfilled all 3 conditions ... but there was a closer relative.

The other relative was **closer** and **able** to redeem ... however, he had his own family, so he was **NOT willing** to redeem.

So he gave up his right to redeem by taking off his right sandal and giving it to Boaz, opening the way for Boaz to redeem Naomi and Ruth.

OUR KINSMAN/FAMILY REDEEMER

When Ruth was redeemed by Boaz, she became the great grandmother of King David, from whom Jesus came, many, many generations later.

Just as Ruth was redeemed from a desolate life, where she had nothing, we were redeemed from a life of sin and sorrow by our Kinsman Redeemer — Jesus.

Jesus fulfilled all the 3 conditions of a Kinsman Redeemer. He:

- Was a **close** relative: God became man and walked among us
- Was **able** to redeem: Jesus was perfect and without sin
- And most importantly, was **willing** to redeem us!

Ephesians 1:7 *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.*

Thank you Jesus for redeeming me!

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

RUTH 4-RELATED CRAFT

with the words: Thank you Jesus for redeeming me!

e.g. Paper shoe: <http://www.jesus-without-language.net/boaz-ruth-4-make-2/>

Bead sandals



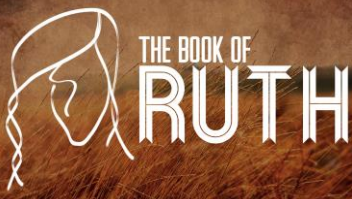
REVISION QUIZ (older kids)

Ruth 4 Bible Trivia Countdown Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imYirnNfQe8>

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Invite kids to put their trust in God.

Remind kids that: **Jesus redeemed me!**



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RUTH: GOD'S LOVE STORY OF REDEMPTION

STORY REVIEW

VIDEOS

God's Story: Ruth <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irThVpdeSXk&t=45s>

Ruth, Naomi & Boaz <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTZjvMzXQs4&t=51s>

The Book of Ruth: a music video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txmyWXKc9zY>

You can also act out the scenes with props/costumes or do a pictorial review with Q&A to see how much the kids understood/remembered.

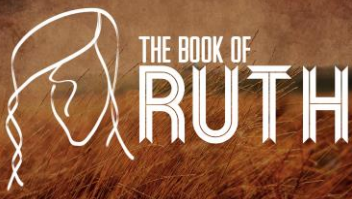
LESSON REVIEW

In our series on the book of Ruth, we learned that:

When things are bitter ...

- **God is working it out for our good**
Romans 8:28: "In all things, God works for the good of those who love Him and who are called according to His purposes."
- **His favour is on us**
Ephesians 3:20 "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us ..."
- **He covers us**
Psalm 91:4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge.
- **He redeems us**
Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

All these promises are for us, who are Gentiles like Ruth, because Jesus is our Kinsman/Family Redeemer. The story of Ruth in the Bible is a beautiful picture of how God came down on earth to redeem us and make us part of His family.



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RUTH: GOD'S LOVE STORY OF REDEMPTION

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

COLOURING

Ruth, Boaz, Naomi <https://ministry-to-children.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Ruth-and-Naomi-coloring-page.pdf>

WORD SEARCH

Easier <https://www.dltk-kids.com/t.asp?t=https://www.dltk-kids.com/bible/word-search/b-wordsearch-easy-ruth.gif>

Harder <https://www.dltk-kids.com/t.asp?t=https://www.dltk-kids.com/bible/word-search/b-wordsearch-ruth.gif>

CLASS POSTER

Kids can each colour a picture from the story of Ruth (e.g. main characters, barley harvest, cloak, slipper, baby, King David etc.) and stick them on one big poster with the words: **Jesus is my Kinsman Redeemer**

SHARE & PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Invite kids to put their trust in God.

Remind kids that: **God works all things out for my good!**