

July 5*Unit 9*Session 5*Elementary

Ruth and Boaz

BIBLE PASSAGE: Ruth

STORY POINT: God provided a redeemer for Ruth.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 John 1:9

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

Opening Activity: Follow-the-leader

Invite your kid/s to play follow-the-leader. Select one kid to be the leader. He/she will move about the room and the rest of the kids will follow her and mimic the ways she moves. Every few minutes of play, assign a new kid to be the leader. SAY •Great job following those leaders. In our story today we will learn about a woman named Ruth who chose to follow another woman, named Naomi. Ruth had the option to stop following, but chose to stick with Naomi and even to worship the one true God with Naomi!

THE BIBLE STORY

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.

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.

Key passage activity

Invite your kid/s to say the key passage from memory. Help them by providing words if they get stuck. Praise each kid's efforts and encourage kids to continue working to memorize the key passage. Then, invite them to play a gathering game. Write each word of the key passage on a separate card. Scatter the cards around the room and ask the kids to gather them. Then, challenge them to work together to put the cards in the right order to form the key passage.

SAY •When we first repent of our sins and ask God to forgive us through His Son, God declares us righteous. But after that, our sinful choices still damage our ability to relate to God and other people. Thankfully, God tells us through His Word that we can confess our sins and trust Him to cleanse us.

Discussion & Bible skills

Help your kid/s find 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.

1. Where was Ruth from originally? (Moab, Ruth 1:4)
2. 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)
3. 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)
4. How does Boaz point us forward to Jesus? Guide them 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.

5. 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.

6. How does God's great love for us change the way we behave toward others? Help them 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.

Craft: Basket

Cut out the basket pieces and the wheat pieces. Pair the wheat pieces and put together in the basket. Have a good discussion pairing them together especially focusing on the lineage of Jesus.

Reflection and prayer

Ask your kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

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