

Ruth and Boaz

BIBLE PASSAGE: Ruth 1–4

MAIN POINT: God gave Ruth a family.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 33:22

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.

SMALL GROUP OPENING

(15–20 MINUTES)

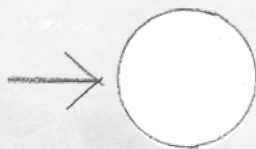
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LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

(10–15 MINUTES)

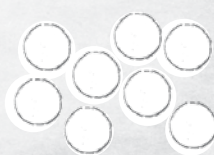
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SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

(20–25 MINUTES)

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Leader BIBLE STUDY

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, and wherever you live, I will live; 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. 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 preschoolers today, introduce them to Jesus, our Redeemer. He bought for us salvation, paying the price with His very own blood.

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The BIBLE STORY

Ruth and Boaz

Ruth 1–4

Naomi lived with her family in Judah. She had a husband and two sons. Naomi and her family were hungry. There was not enough food **in** their land for everyone. Naomi's family decided to go to the land of **Moab**. Moab had food.

While they were in Moab, **Naomi's husband died.** Naomi and her sons were sad. **Naomi's sons got married. Their wives' names were Orpah and Ruth. Then Naomi's sons died too. Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth were all alone. Naomi wanted to go home to Judah.** Judah had food now. **Orpah and Ruth left with Naomi, but Naomi** could not take care of them. She **told them to go back to their families** in Moab.

The women were very sad to leave each other. **Orpah went home, but Ruth would not leave 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." Naomi and Ruth went to Bethlehem.**

It was time for the farmers to gather what they had planted in their fields. The people gathering the crops left some of the grain on the ground for people who needed it. **Naomi said that Ruth could go into the fields and gather the leftover grain. Ruth went to a field owned by a man named Boaz. Boaz saw Ruth working. He had heard how kind Ruth was to Naomi. Boaz told Ruth to stay in his field where she would be safe.** Boaz made sure Ruth had food.

Ruth gathered a lot of grain in the field. She took the grain home to Naomi and told her about Boaz. "Boaz

is a close relative,” Naomi said. “He **is one of our family redeemers.**” A family redeemer was someone who helped his relatives if they were in trouble. Naomi knew Boaz would take good care of Ruth, so she told Ruth to stay in Boaz’s fields.

Naomi knew Boaz would be a good husband for Ruth since he was part of their family, so she gave Ruth special instructions. Ruth put on her best clothes and did everything Naomi told her to do. She **showed Boaz that she wanted to be his wife.** Boaz was surprised to see Ruth. “You are a family redeemer,” she said.

Boaz promised to help Ruth. He agreed to marry Ruth and take good care of her. Boaz gave Ruth grain and sent her back to Naomi.

Boaz married Ruth. Ruth and Boaz had a baby boy 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 helped his close relatives. Boaz was a family redeemer. He bought back what his relatives lost. Jesus is our Redeemer. He bought our salvation from sin by dying on the cross.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD’S WORD?
GET
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that Boaz redeemed Ruth—he paid a price to rescue her. Paul reminds Christians that we were also bought at a price so we must glorify God. (See 1 Cor. 6:20.) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Ruth and Boaz

BIBLE PASSAGE: Ruth 1–4

MAIN POINT: God gave Ruth a family.

KEY PASSAGE: Isaiah 33:22

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.

Welcome time

- “Help, Help, Help” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Grain Matching” activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Guide preschoolers to draw a line connecting each head of grain to its matching silhouette.

SAY • These plants we see on our activity page are heads of grain. In today’s Bible story a woman named Ruth gathered grain from the field to feed herself and her husband’s mother, a woman named Naomi.



- fabric strips

Option: Invite younger preschoolers to hold hands instead tying their legs together.

Walk with three legs

Form pairs of preschoolers, pairing preschoolers of similar height and build. Guide preschoolers to stand shoulder-to-shoulder so the pair’s inside legs are touching. Tie preschoolers inside legs together with a fabric strip. Invite preschoolers to walk around the room with their three legs. Give guidance as needed.

SAY • When your legs are tied together, you have to go everywhere together. In today's Bible story, Ruth was not tied to Naomi, but she 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" (Ruth 1:16).

Fill your plate

Provide a paper plate for each preschooler. Display food cutouts. Invite preschoolers to glue food pictures on their plate.

SAY • What do you like to eat when you are hungry? In our Bible story today, Naomi and her family left the promised land because they were hungry. There was not enough food in their land for everyone, so they went to the land of Moab. Moab had food. Some sad things happened to Naomi's family in Moab. Let's discover what those sad things were.

- paper plates
- crayons or markers
- food pictures cut out from magazines

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to play out being hungry as they move to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: Ruth and Boaz

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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.

Introduce the Bible story

SAY • Where does your family go to get food? Do you go to the grocery store or a farm? Do you go to a restaurant? In today's Bible story, Naomi's family moved because there was not enough food where they lived. God provided for Naomi and her family in a special way.

Watch or tell the Bible story

Open your Bible to Ruth 1.

SAY • God is so kind to give us His true words in the Bible. The Bible tells us what God is like and what He has done for us. Our story today comes from the Book of Ruth. This story happened in the time of the judges. Show the Bible story video "Ruth and Boaz" or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

Talk about the Bible story

SAY • Naomi and Ruth needed help. They did not have food or anyone to take care of them, but **God gave Ruth a family.** God used Boaz, one of their family

- Bible
- "Ruth and Boaz" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

redeemers, to help Ruth and Naomi. King David and King Jesus would come from Boaz and Ruth's family. Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. What happened to Naomi's husband and sons in Moab? (*They died.*)
2. Who went with Naomi to Bethlehem? (*Ruth*)
3. In whose field did Ruth gather leftover grain? (*Boaz*)
4. What is the name for someone who helps his relatives who are in trouble? (*family redeemer*)
5. How did Boaz help his family? (*He married Ruth.*)

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Do you remember the answer to our big picture question, ***Whom does God use in His plan? God uses people in His plan.*** God used Boaz to help his close relatives. Boaz was a family redeemer. He bought back what his relatives lost. Jesus is our Redeemer. He bought our salvation from sin by dying on the cross.

• Big Picture Question Poster

Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Isaiah 33:22. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song "He Will Save Us."

• Key Passage Poster
• "He Will Save Us" song

SAY • God uses people in our lives, but He is the One in control of everything that happens. He is our Judge, lawgiver, and King. He is the only One who can save us. God sent Jesus through Boaz and Ruth's family to save us from sin.

Transition to small groups

Small Group ACTIVITIES

SESSION TITLE: Ruth and Boaz

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• various stickers, not identical

Trade stickers

Provide several sheets of stickers. Be sure the stickers are not all the same. Allow each preschooler to choose his or her favorite sticker. Make a note of which sticker each preschooler chose. Then guide preschoolers to trade stickers with another preschooler. If a preschooler gets upset about giving up her sticker, promise her that you will get her sticker back for her. Continue to guide preschoolers to trade stickers several times. Then pull out a sheet of stickers of your own and make a show of giving each child the sticker she originally wanted from your stickers. Have duplicate stickers in case any stickers are ripped during trading.

SAY • You thought you lost your sticker, but I got it back for you. That reminds us of Boaz. Naomi's family had lost everything. Boaz was a family redeemer. Boaz helped his close relatives. He bought back what his relatives lost. Our Redeemer is not Boaz, but Jesus. He bought our salvation from sin by dying on the cross.

- Allergy Alert download
- measuring cups
- uncooked rice, wheat berries, or barley
- plastic tub
- bowls, 1 per child

Measure grain

Provide several sets of measuring cups and a plastic tub of

uncooked rice, wheat berries, or barley. Give each child a bowl and invite them to take turns measuring grain and pouring it into their bowl. Show older preschoolers how to level off the grain in their measuring cup over the tub. Preschoolers may empty their bowl back into the large tub and continue measuring grain.

SAY • Ruth went into Boaz's field to gather leftover grain.

Boaz made sure Ruth and Naomi had food. **God gave Ruth a family.** Boaz was a family redeemer, and he helped Ruth and Naomi. He bought back what his relatives lost. What Boaz did for Ruth and Naomi, Jesus did for us, but in a even better way. Jesus bought our salvation from sin by dying on the cross.

Make grain art

Print the main point, key passage, or big picture question on a sheet of heavyweight paper for each preschooler.

Provide an assortment of seeds, beans, and grains.

Suggestions include sunflower seeds, dried beans, dried peas, rice, popcorn kernels, oats or wheat berries. Use a glue stick to spread glue on a preschooler's paper and invite him to place items on the glue.

SAY • Seeds were planted in the fields and crops grew. The people gathering the crops left some of the grain on the ground for people who needed it. God planned for Ruth to gather grain in Boaz's field. **God gave Ruth a family.** Boaz was a family redeemer. He married Ruth and bought back what his relatives lost. We have a Redeemer, too. Our Redeemer is Jesus. He bought our salvation from sin by dying on the cross.

- heavyweight paper
- seeds, beans, and grains
- glue stick
- marker
- Allergy Alert download

- cardboard boxes
- tape strips
- plastic toys

Play out moving

Provide several cardboard boxes. Invite preschoolers to place plastic toys in the boxes and use tape strips to seal them closed. Preschoolers may carry or push the boxes across the room and unpack the items. Play as time allows.

SAY • When Naomi and her family moved to Moab, they probably didn't use boxes and tape like this. Ruth went with Naomi back to her hometown of Bethlehem. Boaz lived in Bethlehem. **God gave Ruth a family.** Boaz was a family redeemer. Jesus is our Redeemer. He bought our salvation from sin by dying on the cross.

- books about babies

Read books about babies

Provide picture books featuring babies for the preschoolers to look through or read a book about babies to preschoolers. Invite preschoolers to share their experiences with babies.

SAY • God gave Ruth a family. Ruth and Boaz had a baby boy named Obed. When Obed grew up, he was the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David. Can you think of another special baby born in Bethlehem who was called "Son of David?" That's right, Jesus! Jesus was part of Boaz and Ruth's family. Jesus is our Redeemer.

Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve whole grain crackers for snack today. Remind preschoolers that Ruth was gathering grain in Boaz's field when Boaz saw her. **God gave Ruth a family.** Boaz was a family redeemer. He bought back what his relatives lost. Jesus bought our salvation from sin by dying on the cross.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Transition

When a child finishes his snack, guide him to throw away any trash. He may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of their family. Remind preschoolers that **God gave Ruth a family.** Jesus would one day come to earth through Ruth's family. Pray for the children.

SAY • God, You always provide a way to help Your people.

Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Redeemer.

Jesus bought our salvation by dying on the cross for our sin. Amen.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- books
- puzzles
- play dough
- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool