

Use Week of:

## Unit 9 • Session 5

# Ruth and Boaz

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

Ruth

**STORY POINT:** God provided for Ruth and Naomi.

### KEY PASSAGE:

1 John 1:9a

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

**INTRODUCE THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
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**TEACH THE STORY**  
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**EXPERIENCE THE STORY**  
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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 ... 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. A family redeemer was someone who would help his close relatives if they were in trouble. 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.

# The BIBLE Story

## Ruth and Boaz

*Ruth*

**Naomi's family** lived in Judah, but there was not enough food in the land. They **decided to go to the land of Moab** where they could find food.

**Naomi's husband died in Moab and her 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. **Naomi told Orpah and Ruth to go back to their families.**

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."** So 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. **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 grain** in the field **and took it home to Naomi.** She told Naomi 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 needed help.

**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.** Ruth said, **“You are a family redeemer.”**

**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.**

**Boaz married Ruth, and they had a baby boy named 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. Boaz bought back what his relatives lost. Jesus is our Redeemer. He bought our salvation by dying on the cross for our sin.*

## **Bible Storytelling Tips**

- **Act it out:** Provide Bible times costumes and other assorted props such as wheat, a basket, and a baby doll. Assign the parts of Naomi, Orpah, Ruth, and Boaz to different preschoolers. Guide preschoolers to play out the parts as you tell the Bible story.
- **Use the “Genealogy of Christ” poster:** Point to Boaz and Ruth on the “Genealogy of Christ” poster (005802967). Gesture toward their descendants on the timeline when Obed, Jesse, and King David are mentioned in the Bible story.

# INTRODUCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Ruth and Boaz

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Ruth

**STORY POINT:** God provided for Ruth and Naomi.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 John 1:9a

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

## Welcome time

- “He Watches Over Me” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the 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

- “God Provides” activity page, 1 per child
- crayons or markers

Help preschoolers follow the instruction for each block on the activity page.

**SAY** • God provides for us in many ways! He gives us families to care for us, homes to live in, and food to eat. He gives us the Bible that tells us about Jesus. In today’s Bible story, we will hear how God provided for two women who needed help.

**LOW  
PREP**

## Play “Follow the Leader”

Choose a child to be the leader. Invite the rest of the group to line up behind the leader. As the leader walks around the room, the rest of the group will follow while mimicking her actions. After a certain amount of time, choose a new leader and play again. The former leader should move to the back of the line.

**SAY** • In today’s Bible story, we will hear about two women

named Naomi and Ruth. Naomi told Ruth to go home to her family, but Ruth chose to follow 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.” Listen to the story.

## Play a Bible book matching game

Print two copies of the “Genesis–Ruth” printable and cut apart the strips. Mix up the strips. Lay the strips faceup in a grid and read out the names. Remind children that these are the first books in the Old Testament. Turn over the strips. Invite preschoolers to take turns turning over two strips at a time to try to find a match. Leave the strips faceup for younger preschoolers. When a child finds a match, she may keep the strips. Continue until all the strips have been matched. Then ask preschoolers to help you put the book names in order. Read the book names, and ask preschoolers to echo the names to you.

- “Genesis–Ruth” printable, 2
- scissors (adult use)

**SAY** • You have learned the names of the first eight books in the Old Testament. Can you say them again with me? We have been learning about the judges in the Book of Judges. Today, we will hear about a woman named Ruth. Her story is found in the Book of Ruth.

## Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, turn the lights off and on, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Suggest preschoolers walk as if they are very sad and very tired. Comment that Ruth and Naomi traveled a long way to Bethlehem in today’s Bible story.

- countdown video (optional)

# TEACH the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Ruth and Boaz

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**STORY POINT:** God provided for Ruth and Naomi.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 John 1:9a

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

## Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Ruth in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** • The Bible is God's words. The stories in the Bible are true. Our story today is in the Book of Ruth. Ruth is in the first part of the Bible called the Old Testament.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

## Tell or watch the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Ruth and Boaz" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

**SAY** • Ruth and Naomi needed help. They needed food and protection. **God provided for Ruth and Naomi.** Boaz was one of their family redeemers. A family redeemer helped his close relatives. Boaz helped Ruth and Naomi. He married Ruth and bought back the land that Naomi's family had lost. Jesus is our Redeemer. He bought our salvation by dying on the cross for our sin.

## Practice the key passage

Place the key passage marker at 1 John 1:9. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Allow preschoolers to take turns saying the key passage from memory using the motions you created.

**SAY** • Our key passage reminds us that God is righteous. God always does what is right and good. We do not always do what is right and good. We are sinners, but when we confess our sins, God will forgive us because of Jesus.

Sing the key passage song, “He Is Faithful,” and the theme song “He Watches Over Me.”

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “He Is Faithful” song
- “He Watches Over Me” song

## Learn the big picture question

**SAY** • Remember our big picture question? *What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.* Jesus is our Redeemer. He bought our salvation from sin by dying on the cross. When we turn away from our sin and turn to Jesus, He saves us and gives us life forever with God.

- Big Picture Question Poster



## Missions moment

**SAY** • God provided for Ruth and Naomi, and their lives were changed. Remember the Dye family? They are missionaries living in Atlanta, Georgia. Watch this video to see how God is changing lives at the Dye’s church.

Show the “Casting the Dye (Part 3)” video.

**SAY** • We can tell people the good news that Jesus is our Redeemer, just like the Dye family!

- “Casting the Dye (Part 3)” video

## Pray and transition to experience the story

# EXPERIENCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Ruth and Boaz

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Ruth

**STORY POINT:** God provided for Ruth and Naomi.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 John 1:9a

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

## LOW PREP

- paper
- crayons or markers
- construction paper (optional)
- scissors (adult use) (optional)
- glue stick (optional)

Tip: Be sensitive to family situations.

### Draw your family

Encourage children to draw their families on a sheet of paper. Consider offering strips of construction paper for preschoolers to glue around the edges of their drawing to make a frame. Ask questions about children's families as they work. Remind preschoolers about Ruth's family.

**SAY** • Ruth and Naomi were all alone. They needed help! **God provided for Ruth and Naomi.** Ruth met Boaz, and Naomi realized that he was a member of their family. Ruth married Boaz, and they had a baby boy named Obed. Boaz was a family redeemer. He helped his close relatives. Boaz bought back what his relatives lost. Jesus is our Redeemer. He bought our salvation from sin by dying on the cross.

### Glue grains on a basket

Print a "Basket Outline" on heavyweight paper for each preschooler. Set out a variety of grains such as oatmeal, rice, wheat, and barley. Help preschoolers use a foam brush to spread a thin layer of glue on their basket. Invite preschoolers to sprinkle grains on the glue. Read the story point.

**SAY** • Ruth and Naomi needed food. Ruth went to a field where workers were harvesting grain. She went

- Allergy Alert
- "Basket Outline" printable, 1 per child
- heavyweight paper
- bowls or foam plates
- grains such as oatmeal, rice, wheat, and barley
- white glue
- foam brush

behind the workers and picked up the grain that they left behind. Boaz knew that Ruth had been kind to Naomi, so he told her to stay in his field where she would be safe. Boaz was a family redeemer. **God provided for Ruth and Naomi.**

## Care for babies

Provide dolls and blankets; a doll bed or box; and other baby care items such as empty baby powder container, empty baby bottle, and a rattle or toys. Encourage preschoolers to talk about ways that families take care of each other and especially for babies and small children. Pray thanking God for the families of the children in your room.

**SAY** • Naomi and Ruth were sad as they moved to Bethlehem. They didn't have any other family. They didn't have the food they needed. **God provided for Ruth and Naomi.** He provided Boaz, who was a family redeemer. Boaz married Ruth and they had a baby boy named Obed. Boaz and Ruth loved Obed. Naomi loved Obed, too! Because Boaz redeemed Ruth, they had a happy family. God provided for them. God provides for our families, too!

## Work family puzzles

Set out puzzles depicting families. If family puzzles are unavailable, print "Family Puzzles" in color on heavyweight paper. Cut along the cut lines. Consider contacting preschool families before the session and asking them to email you a digital photo of their family. Print the photos in color on heavyweight paper, and cut them into four to six pieces. Provide envelopes for preschoolers to take their family puzzle home.

- dolls and blankets
- doll bed or box
- other baby care items such as: empty baby powder container, empty baby bottle, and a rattle or toys.

Tip: Be sensitive to family situations.

- "Family Puzzles" printable (optional)
- scissors (adult use) (optional)
- wooden puzzles with family pictures
- pictures of the children's families cut into puzzles (optional)
- envelopes

Tip: Be sensitive to family situations.

**SAY • God provided for Ruth and Naomi** through Boaz, their family redeemer. Your parents provide for you in many ways. They help you learn about Jesus and bring you to church to learn about Jesus. They help you to learn what is right and what is wrong. We choose to do things that are wrong. That is called sin. God wants us to repent of our sin and turn to Jesus. He will forgive us through Jesus, our Redeemer. Jesus bought our salvation from sin by dying on the cross.



## Make invitations

Cut and fold watercolor paper to form cards.

On the front of each card write, *You are invited* with a black permanent marker. Cover a table with a disposable tablecloth or newspaper. Set out watercolors, paintbrushes, and cups of water. Guide preschoolers to paint their cards. As preschoolers work, guide them to think of whom they can invite to church with their invitation. Set aside cards to dry. Encourage preschool parents at pickup and with an email during the week to help their preschooler fill out the inside of the card with your church's information and deliver it.

**SAY •** Part of the Dye family's plan to let people in Atlanta know that Jesus bought our salvation when He died on the cross is to invite everyone they meet to their church. We can invite people to our church too!

- watercolor paper
- permanent marker
- scissors (adult use)
- disposable tablecloth or newspaper
- watercolors
- paintbrushes
- cups of water

Option: Print a label with your church's information for preschoolers to stick inside the invitation.

## Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands, and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray thanking God for the snack.

Serve warm rolls with butter and honey for snack. Comment that Ruth and Naomi probably made bread from the grain Ruth gathered in Boaz's field. **God provided for Ruth and Naomi.** God provided food and a family redeemer, Boaz.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Why did Naomi and Ruth go back to Judah? (*It was Naomi's home, and Judah had food now.*)
2. Why did the people gathering crops leave some on the ground? (*for people who needed it to take it*)
3. What is a family redeemer? (*someone who helped his relatives if they needed help*)
4. Why did Naomi know Boaz would be a good husband for Ruth? (*He was part of their family.*)
5. What did Boaz and Ruth name their son? (*Obed*)
6. ***What is repentance? Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.***

## Transition

When preschoolers finish their snack, they may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

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.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- rolls (optional)
- butter (optional)
- honey (optional)
- plastic knives (optional)

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "He Is Faithful" song
- "He Watches Over Me" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers