

Use Week of:

Unit 9 • Session 5

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.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
(10–15 MINUTES)
PAGE 206



TEACH THE STORY
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 208



APPLY THE STORY
(25–30 MINUTES)
PAGE 214



Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

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 kids 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 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.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Draw pictures:** As you tell the story, sketch figures for each person and label them with names to help kids remember the people in the story.
- **Display a map:** Show an Old Testament map and point out Bethlehem and Moab to help kids relate the story to actual places.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: 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.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to choose a special family member to describe to the rest of the group.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Map Mania” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete “Map Mania” on the activity page. Guide kids to use the coordinates to label the given locations on the map

SAY • Which of these places have you heard of before?

Are there any you’ve never seen before? In the Bible story we will hear today, a family left their home in Bethlehem and went to Moab. We’ll find out what happened to them there.

LOW PREP

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Mirror, mirror

Instruct kids to form pairs. If you have an odd number of kids, form a group of three. Designate one partner as the leader. Guide partners to face each other. The leader will move her body, and her partner should mimic her

movements as if standing in front of a mirror. Allow the leader to move into several different positions before switching roles with the partner.

To vary the activity, choose one kid to be the leader. Instruct him to stand in front of the rest of the kids. All of the kids should mimic his actions.

SAY • You did a great job following the lead of your partner. In the Bible story we will hear today, a woman named Ruth was committed to following her mother-in-law Naomi. We'll find out what was going on.

OPTION 2: Bucket collection

Form pairs or small groups. Give one partner or group member a small bucket or large cup to hold over his head. Instruct him to stand about five feet away from his partner or group. In the space between partners, scatter marshmallows or table tennis balls.

Explain that when you say go, teams will quickly gather the marshmallows. Make sure kids each collect at least one. Then players should take turns trying to toss the marshmallow into their teammate's bucket. Set a watch or timer for one minute. Compare how many marshmallows kids landed in each bucket. Collect and scatter the marshmallows, and play additional rounds as time allows.

SAY • Nice work gathering and collecting those marshmallows. Today we'll hear a story from the Bible about a woman who went into a field to gather grain. She found something even greater than food.

- small buckets or large cups, 1 per 2 kids
- marshmallows or table tennis balls, 1 or more per kid
- watch or timer

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



SESSION TITLE: 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.

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire

• Bible

• balls or substitutes of the same size (basketball, volleyball, softballs, large marbles, small marble, pony bead)

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

[Leader enters with a box of balls or substitutes of the same size: basketball, volleyball, two softballs, two large marbles, small marble, and pony bead. A Bible is positioned nearby.]

LEADER • Hello, everyone! My name is [your name]. I have something to show you. I think you'll really like it.

[Remove the items from the box and arrange them on a table (Mercury: pony bead; Venus: large marble; Earth: large marble; Mars: small marble; Jupiter: basketball; Saturn: volleyball; Uranus: softball; Neptune: softball)]

All of these items represent the planets in our solar system. This one [point to the second large marble] is Earth. Venus [point to the first large marble] is about the same size as Earth. This is my favorite science demonstration because it can help you understand how the planets compare in size. Mercury [pony bead] is the smallest planet, and Jupiter [basketball] is the biggest.

[*Pick up the Bible.*] Now the Bible tells us that God created everything in the universe—including the planets. What’s amazing to me is that God is so big, and we are so small—yet He loves us and cares for us! Let’s zoom in on Earth, thousands of years ago ... even then, God was caring for His people. We’ll find out how.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • First, let’s review our big picture question and answer. This is the last week we will focus on this question. Let’s stand up and say it together.

What is repentance? [*Stand facing one way.*]

Repentance is turning away from sin and [*turn to face the other way*] *turning to Jesus.*

• Big Picture Question
Poster

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

• Giant Timeline

LEADER • We’ve been hearing a lot of stories about Israel’s judges. The Israelites were stuck in a cycle. When things were going well, they’d ignore God and forget about Him. God allowed their enemies to rule over them. Then the Israelites remembered how good life was when they followed God, so they cried out to Him for help. God raised up a judge to deliver His people. But when the judge died, the cycle started all over again.

Today’s Bible story is called “Ruth and Boaz.” Neither Ruth nor Boaz was a judge in Israel, but their story takes place around the same time our other stories happened. Let’s find out more.

- Bibles
- “Ruth and Boaz” video
- Story Point Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to the Book of Ruth. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Ruth and Boaz.”

LEADER • The story of Ruth happened during the time of the judges. Naomi and her family went to the land of Moab. Naomi’s sons married women from Moab. One of those women, Ruth, decided to stay with Naomi when she went back to her home in Israel.

God provided a redeemer for Ruth. Ruth was gathering leftover grain in a field when she met Boaz. Boaz was a wealthy man and a relative of Naomi’s dead husband. Boaz redeemed Ruth—he agreed to take care of her—and he married her.

Let me tell you more about Boaz. Boaz was the son of a man named Salmon (SAL mahn) and a woman named Rahab. Do you remember Rahab? She welcomed the Israelite spies into her home when they scouted out Jericho. The Israelites kept Rahab and her family safe, and she became part of God’s people.

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 by taking our punishment when He died on the cross.

Christ connection

LEADER • A thousand years before Ruth lived, God promised Abraham that He was going to bless his family. Ruth was part of that family. Ruth and Boaz had a son named Obed, who grew up and had a

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided on page 213 to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

son named Jesse. Jesse was the father of King David! Through this family, God planned to bring His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 9, Session 5” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about what it means to be part of God’s family. Guide them to discuss how they can show God’s love to someone in need.

• “Unit 9, Session 5” questions from kids video



Missions moment (3 minutes)

LEADER • There are people around the world and in our neighborhoods who haven’t heard the gospel. Remember the Dye family? They are missionaries living in Atlanta, Georgia. They share this news everywhere they go. They also invite the people they meet to their church. Watch this video to see how God is changing lives at the Dyes’ church.

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

LEADER • People who have not heard the gospel don’t know that when we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us. Like the Dye family, we can tell people this good news wherever we go.

• “Casting the Dye (Part 3)” missions video

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together 1 John 1:9.

LEADER • I loved seeing in our Bible story today how God wants us to be in His family. Even though we are sinners, we can confess our sin. He is faithful and just, and He will forgive us. Let’s sing this song to help us remember our key passage.

• Key Passage Poster
• “Faithful and Righteous” song

Lead boys and girls in singing the “Faithful and Righteous” song.

Sing (4 minutes)

Open your Bible and read aloud Isaiah 48:17.

LEADER • God didn’t just create people and leave us on our own. He is our Lord; He teaches us and leads us so that we can live for Him. Sing with me.

Sing together “Walking by Your Side.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Lord God, thank You for Your Word. You provided a redeemer for Ruth, and we are reminded that You ultimately provided a Redeemer for us in Jesus. You welcome us into Your family and make us brothers and sisters in Christ. You are a good Father, and we love You. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

• “Walking by Your Side” song

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



SESSION TITLE: 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.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- strips of paper
- marker

Before the session, write words or phrases of the key passage on strips of paper. Mix up the strips.

Show the key passage poster and invite kids to read 1 John 1:9 aloud together. Remove or cover and poster and challenge volunteers to recite the key passage from memory.

Scatter the prepared key passage strips on the floor for kids to gather and arrange in order. When kids finish, guide them to say 1 John 1:9 together. If time allows, scatter the strips and play again.

SAY • If we confess our sins, God will forgive our sins. He always does what is right. God changes us to be more like Jesus. That's great news!

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Ruth 1. Tell kids that today's Bible story comes from the Book of Ruth. Explain that the Book of Ruth is the third book of Old Testament History. It follows the Book of Joshua. Challenge kids to name the first eight books of the Old Testament.

SAY • The events of Ruth happened during the time of the

judges, sometime after Joshua died.

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Ruth 1:1-2. Remind kids that Naomi's family was from Bethlehem. Because of the famine, they moved to Moab. That's where they met Ruth and her sister Orpah. Show the Old Testament Kingdoms Map and point out Bethlehem (I4) and Moab (K7). Then ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Why do we need Jesus to be our Redeemer? *Guide kids to recognize that without Jesus, we are slaves to sin and need someone to redeem us, or pay the price to set us free. Jesus paid the penalty for sin by dying on the cross. He rose from the dead. Everyone who trusts in Him is freed from sin and death.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 6:6-7.)

2. Why do you think Jesus loves all people? *Remind kids that God created all people in His image, and Jesus does not want anyone to be separated from Him.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Pet. 3:9.)

3. What evidence of God's grace have you seen in your own life? *Lead kids to recall that grace is God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment. As sinners, we deserve death but God—by His grace—provides salvation through His Son, Jesus. God also graciously and freely gives us good gifts.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 2:4-7.)

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Watercolor invitations

Cut pieces of watercolor paper in half and fold each sheet in half to make a card. Group kids at tables and give them each a card, a paintbrush, and a permanent marker. Place cups of water and watercolor paint at each table.

- watercolor paper
- scissors
- paintbrushes
- permanent markers
- cups of water
- watercolor paints
- chalkboard or dry erase board
- chalk or marker

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

Explain that they are going to make invitations to invite friends to church. Instruct kids to write a message on the front (For example: *You are invited*) and the inside of their card. Write the church address on a dry erase or chalkboard for kids to also include in their cards. Then invite kids to decorate the fronts (only) of their cards. Let the cards dry.

Be sure to explain to parents that the cards are invitations to invite someone to church. Encourage them to help their child invite someone to church.

SAY • Share that part of the Dye family’s plan to let people in Atlanta know the good news about Jesus is to invite everyone they meet to their church. We can invite people to our church too!

LOW PREP

- masking tape or Giant Game Floor Mat (005408950)
- beanbags
- paper
- marker

OPTION 2: Review game

Write various point values on 20 separate pieces of paper. Tape the paper securely to the floor in a 4-by-5 grid or insert the pages into a giant game floor mat. Form two teams of kids. Ask a review question. If the team answers correctly, let them toss a beanbag onto the point board and award points based on where the beanbag lands. Then invite team 2 to take a turn.

1. Where did Naomi’s family travel to find food? (*Moab, Ruth 1:1*)
2. Name one of Naomi’s daughters-in-law. (*Orpah or Ruth, Ruth 1:4*)
3. What happened to Naomi’s husband and sons? (*They died, Ruth 1:3-5*)
4. Who said, “Your God will be my God”? (*Ruth, Ruth 1:16*)
5. Whose field did Ruth gather grain from? (*Boaz’s field, Ruth 2:3*)

6. What special role did Boaz have in his family? (*He was a family redeemer, Ruth 2:20*)
7. What was the name of Ruth and Boaz's baby? (*Obed; Ruth 4:13,17*)
8. Obed was the grandfather of which great Israelite king? (*King David; Ruth 4:17,22*)

SAY • God provided a redeemer for Ruth. Boaz was a family redeemer. He helped his close relatives who were in trouble. 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.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, asking God to give kids hearts like His and eyes to see all people as valuable. Thank God for sending Jesus to redeem sinners.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Family Lineage" on the activity page. Kids should read Ruth 1:2; 4:10,17 and then fill in the blanks on the family tree.

• pencils
 • Journal Page
 • "Family Lineage" activity page,
 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.