

LESSON 50

Ruth

RUTH 1 – 4



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD'S BLESSING AND SALVATION EXTEND TO PEOPLE OF EVERY NATION

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Optional: whiteboard, dry erase marker

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 50)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 50

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Ruth Gleans in the Field

SUPPLIES: towels or scarves for gleaners and harvesters; baskets for collecting sheaves; slips of paper cut into confetti and strips (from opening activity)

Descendants

SUPPLIES: whiteboard and dry erase markers

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn how God provided for Ruth in the midst of her difficult situation.

Prior to class, take some construction paper and cut some into confetti and some into strips. Before the children come into the class, sprinkle the paper on the floor around the room.

When the children come in have them take their seats then explain what gleaning is. Tell them that on a farm at harvesttime some of the stalks and some of the grain fall to the ground. God did not allow a farmer to go back and collect what was missed (Leviticus 19:9). Instead, widows, strangers, and the poor were allowed to gather the leftover grain. Also, farmers were not allowed to harvest the very edge of their fields to leave even more gleanings for those who needed food.

Tell the children to pretend that they are travelers looking for food or widows who lost their husbands. Explain that the paper on the floor represents the grain and that you want to see if the class can glean all that is on the floor.

Talk about how God provided for his people through gleaning.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 50, “Ruth,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What happened in the story of Ruth?**
(Ruth and Orpah were married to Naomi’s sons. In time, Naomi’s husband and sons died so Ruth, Naomi, and Orpah were widows. Ruth could have gone back to her own mother, but she stayed with Naomi saying she would make Naomi’s people her people and Naomi’s God her God.)

- When Ruth and Naomi went back to Bethlehem, what did they do for food?
(Ruth, like other poor women of her time, gleaned grain from a farmer's field. This meant that she picked up the stalks of barley that were left on the ground after the farmer's workers had finished harvesting.)
- What happened when Ruth began to gather the leftover grain from the field?
(One of the farmers, Boaz, saw Ruth in the field and was merciful to her. Boaz discovers that Ruth has cared for his relative Naomi.)

Boaz loves Ruth for her care of Naomi and marries her. Their son Obed was the grandfather of Israel's greatest king, David.

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- What do you remember most about Ruth's story?
- How did God provide for Ruth and Naomi?
(He protected them on their journey. He led them to the field of Boaz.)
- Who is the hero of this story?
(God is the hero of this story, but he used Boaz to rescue Naomi and Ruth from their poverty.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 50—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Matthew 1:5–6

Ruth lost her husband and father-in-law and served her mother-in-law. She was a very special person in God's plan to bring his Son into the world. We learn in the genealogy of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew that Ruth was one of the great-grandmothers in Jesus' line: "Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David" (Matthew 1:5–6 NIV).

In fact, Jesse, Ruth's grandson, was the great King David's father. Boaz and Ruth had another tie to Jesus. They lived in Bethlehem—the very town where Jesus was born!

The life of Boaz points to Jesus. Not only did he redeem the bloodline of Elimelech, but he also redeemed the land sold by Naomi.

Jesus is our redeemer. "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect" (1 Peter 1:18–19 NIV).

- Do you think gleaning for food is easy or hard? Why?
(Gleaning is very hard work. Since not much is left behind, it would take a long time to gather enough for a meal.)
- What does Ruth's hard work say about her love for Naomi?
(Ruth loved Naomi very much to care for her this way and not leave Naomi to go back to her own mother.)

■ What nice things did Boaz do for Ruth?

(He gave her permission to follow close to the reapers. He also told his men to drop some of the grain to make it easier for Ruth to gather food for herself and Naomi.)

Ruth Gleans in the Field

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ towels or scarves for gleaners and harvesters
- ✓ baskets for collecting sheaves
- ✓ paper confetti and strips (from opening activity)

Have a girl in the class play the part of Ruth. Divide the rest of the class into gleaners and harvesters. Hand out towels or scarves to be worn as shawls or headdresses.

Begin with Ruth begging in the fields for sheaves of grain. Other children can join her in gleaning. Each child should pretend to pick up grain.

The teacher plays Boaz. Boaz should be guiding the story of what is happening.

The story should include Boaz watching the gleaners collecting leftover sheaves and kernels of grain.

Ruth approaches the group of children collecting the scraps of paper scattered on the floor to ask who owns the field. When they identify Boaz, Ruth asks permission to glean on his field.

Once permission is granted, Ruth and the other children fill up their baskets with remaining slips of paper.

Ask the children, what do you think happened to Ruth and Naomi?

Descendants

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry erase markers

Ask the children if they know the names of one of their grandparents. Have a couple volunteers share their grandparents' names. Tell them your grandparent's name.

On a whiteboard, begin to draw your own family tree. If you have children, start drawing your family tree with them, leading to you, leading to your parents and grandparents. Explain that when you keep going and going on a family tree, you find out the people you came from.

Finally, ask the children if they know who Jesus' mother and father were. (Some may say God, but lead them toward Mary and Joseph.) Ask them, "Do you know who is in Jesus' family tree if we keep going way and way back?" (Ruth) Show them that when God delivered Ruth from her terrible situation, he was also preparing a way for Jesus. (Reference for your own purposes Ruth 4:18–22 and Matthew 1:1–17.)

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

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