



RUTH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: RUTH

God's blessing and salvation go to all people.

The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

Ruth's conversion – Ruth was a Moabite woman, not an Israelite. The Moabites traced their origin back to Lot's descendants, particularly the offspring of his union with his daughters (see Genesis 19:36-37). Although the Moabites were not as despised as the heathen peoples of Canaan, they were foreigners and worshipped the god Chemosh. Ruth learned about Naomi's faith and when she refused to go back to the land of Moab, she was in no uncertain terms pledging her loyalty to the Lord and adopting the faith of Naomi. After returning to Bethlehem with Naomi, God blessed Ruth for her obedience and kindness by providing her with the opportunity to gather food in Boaz's field.

Ruth's appeal – Boaz's kindness to Ruth continued for several months—throughout the wheat and barley harvests. By the end of the harvests, Naomi recognized that Boaz was acting as Ruth's redeemer. Being a redeemer meant that he was willing to care for them after the loss of their husbands. Naomi instructed Ruth to end her time of mourning for her husband, get dressed up, and lay at Boaz's feet the next evening. This action was intended to signal Ruth's desire to marry Boaz. Ruth did as Naomi commanded her and when Boaz awoke at midnight to find a woman lying at his feet, Ruth appealed to him using the same language he had earlier prayed over her. She asked him to cover her with his wings. Although marriage was not required in order to redeem Ruth, it was the noble thing to do. Boaz understood what Ruth was saying and was honored that she preferred him to the younger men. Boaz was the instrument used by God to care for Ruth.

Ruth's redemption – Boaz accepted Ruth's proposal and made a commitment to redeem her. Before Boaz could do so, he had to deal with a problem that stood in the way: there was another kinsman-redeemer more closely related to Ruth who had the first right to assume her care. Boaz arranged to meet with him and, as they talked in front of witnesses, it became clear that his man was only interested in the benefit he would receive in the property. He did not want to care for Ruth or Naomi. The other kinsman-redeemer released his right and, according to custom, he and Boaz exchanged sandals to seal the agreement. Boaz announced his intention to redeem Naomi and Ruth and his intention to marry Ruth. Boaz's redemption of Naomi and Ruth is a picture of God's redemption of His people, both Jew and Gentile.

RUTH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: RUTH

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.

Ruth lost her husband and father-in-law and chose to serve her mother-in-law with God's people. She was a very special person in God's plan to bring His Son into the world. We learn one of the genealogies of Jesus (in the Gospel of Matthew) that Ruth was one of the great-grandmothers in Jesus' line.

Matthew 1:5-6 "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."

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

Boaz was a type of Christ in the story. Not only did he redeem the blood line of Elimelech but he also redeemed the land sold by Naomi. To "redeem" something is to pay a price to buy it back.

Jesus is our redeemer.

Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (1 Peter 1:18-19).



RUTH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: RUTH

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

Bible Passage: Job 19:23-27

Connecting the passage to Christ:

Jesus is the Redeemer for whom Job longed and to whom he looked. Job was suffering greatly but he had a strong faith. He believed that one day he would be redeemed, even if it happened after all of his skin was destroyed.

Questions for reflection:

- How does Job's hope-filled prayer compare with Ephesians 1:3-8? (Job's hope and wish are directly fulfilled by Jesus, in the words of the Ephesians passage.)
- Why did Job need a redeemer? (Job could not help himself. Job could not cure his own suffering, nor could he pay the penalty for his own sin. God took away Job's suffering and through Jesus, He also took away Job's sin. We will one day stand with Job in heaven singing praises to our redeemer.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

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.



RUTH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: RUTH

ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

THE FAVOR OF BOAZ

Supplies

- bundles of grain
- a water jar
- a small loaf of bread
- a bowl and other table settings
- grape juice
- sunflower seeds (to be used as roasted grain)

Tell the story of Boaz's care for Ruth in Ruth 2:1-17. Have a male teacher read the story and, when he gets to lines that Boaz says, he should deepen his voice and assume Boaz's character. Use the props to bring the story to life. Narrate Ruth's lines. If there is time and Boaz's lines can be memorized and acted out, all the better.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Why was Boaz so kind to Ruth? (Boaz heard the story of how Ruth cared for Naomi and stayed with her. Also, he was also a redeemer for Naomi – and now Ruth, since they both lost their husbands.)
- What does a redeemer do? (A redeemer offers money, goods, or himself to help a person in his clan who has fallen into a difficult trial and cannot provide for him or herself.)
- What did Jesus do for us as our redeemer? (We were dead in our sins, unable to become righteous on our own. We were cut off from God's family. Jesus redeemed us through His sacrifice on the cross and paid the price of our sin – our debt – so we could be brought back into the family of God.)



RUTH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: RUTH

I NEED A REDEEMER

Supplies

100 5x7 index cards, 25
each of four different
colors

The object of this game is to communicate to the children that a redeemer buys back something that is lost.

Prepare the cards as follows: Write the word "REDEEMER" in large letters on five cards of each color (make sure the ink does not bleed through). Write the numbers one through five four times each, one set for each color. Eventually, each color should have:

5 REDEEMER cards, 4 x 1's, 4 x 2's, 4 x 3's, 4 x 4's, 4 x 5's

Four players can play while the rest of the class watches. Separate the cards into their respective colors and mix up each pile. Each player takes 7 cards from their stack. The players may look at their cards. For each hand, a card is selected and placed face down. The object is to win the hand. The higher the card the stronger it is. So a 2 beats a 1, and a 3 beats both a 2 and a 1 and so on. If however a 1-card goes up against a 5-card alone, the 1-card wins. So, if three people play a 5 and one person plays a 1, the 1 wins all the cards. If a 2-, 3- or 4- card is played along with a 5, the 1- card cannot beat a 5.

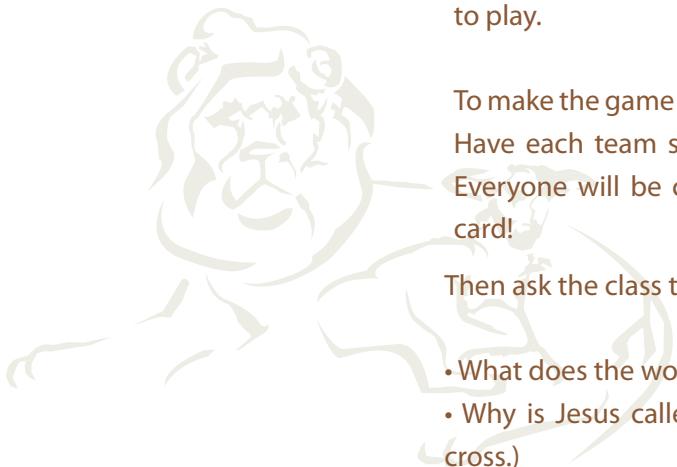
If a hand ends in a two-way tie, two players split the cards. In a three- or four-way tie all the cards remain in the center and the winner of the next hand takes them all.

A redeemer card can be played at the end of a lost hand to buy back the card(s) lost in that round. To play a redeemer card the person should say, "I would like to buy back my card". The used redeemer card may only be used once and then must be returned to the bottom of its unused pile. A redeemer card is best saved to protect a higher-numbered card. At the end of a hand the winner places all the cards on a pile. Play continues until all the cards in every person's hands have been played. If a person has no numbered cards left to play, they may take a card off of their stack to play.

To make the game more interesting for the class, divide the class up into four teams. Have each team select a player and then use those four students in the game. Everyone will be cheering their team member on, hoping they get a redeemer card!

Then ask the class the following questions:

- What does the word redeem mean? (To buy back something that was lost.)
- Why is Jesus called our Redeemer? (He purchased us by His blood shed on the cross.)



RUTH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: RUTH

A STORY OF KINDNESS

Have the children read through the story of Ruth and come up with as many demonstrations of kindness that they can find.

Here are some examples from the first two chapters:

- 1:8 Naomi release her daughters-in-law to return home even though that would leave her without a companion.
- 1:16 Ruth refuses to leave Naomi alone.
- 2:4 Boaz greeted his workers kindly.
- 2:8-9 Boaz cares for Ruth by giving her food, water, and protection.
- 2:14 Boaz invites Ruth to join him for a meal.
- 2:16 Boaz instructs the reapers to leave some bundled grain behind.
- 2:18 Ruth brings leftovers from her meal to Naomi.
- 2:20 Naomi speaks kindly of Boaz and his favor toward them.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Who is our example in showing kindness? (The Lord is our example. Ruth and Naomi are also good examples, see Ruth 1:8.)
- What is God's greatest act of kindness toward us? (God loves us so much that He gave up His one and only Son to be our Redeemer.)



RUTH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: RUTH

PRAYER

Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.

IN CLASS PROJECT

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. Have the older children draw a picture of Ruth picking up ("gleaning") the stalks of grain.

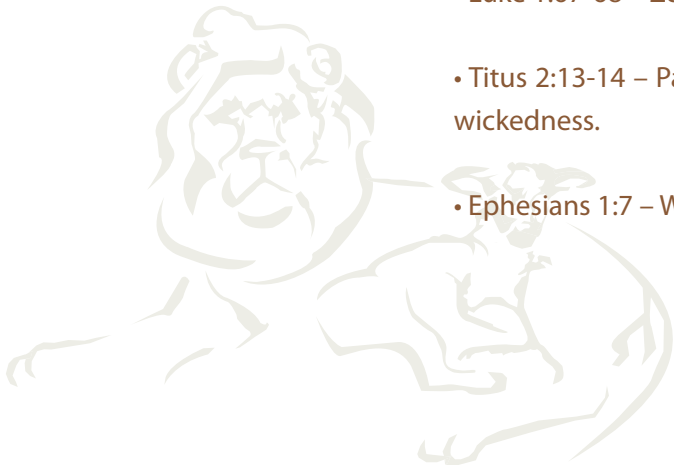
FOR OLDER GRADES

Supplies

- pens or pencils
- paper

Divide the class up into five groups. Have each group look up one of the following verses and give their explanation for how it relates to the topic of Jesus our Redeemer.

- 1Peter 1:18-19 – Peter tells us that we were redeemed by the payment of Jesus' blood.
- Luke 24:20-21 – The apostles on the road to Emmaus express their hope that Jesus would be the redeemer but also express their sadness that he has been dead for three days. Little do they realize they are talking to the risen Redeemer!
- Luke 1:67-68 – Zechariah prophesies that Jesus will be the Redeemer.
- Titus 2:13-14 – Paul tells Titus that Jesus was the one who redeemed us from all wickedness.
- Ephesians 1:7 – We have redemption through the blood of Jesus.



RUTH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: RUTH

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Kinsman redeemer – A kinsman redeemer was the closest male blood relative. He could make right the suffering of of a clan member. To redeem was to buy back with money something that was lost or to give of oneself for a brother's misfortune. This could be loss of property or, in this case, marrying a widow to preserve her husband's family line, see Ruth 4:10.

This idea of redemption is rooted in what God did for Israel when he brought Israel out of Egypt and gave them a land and a home, see Deuteronomy 25:38, 45, and 52.

Jesus is our redeemer, see Ephesians 1:7. Jesus bought back our lives with His life. Now we can have eternal life in heaven as His brothers.

