

RUTH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: RUTH



The STORY

Read "Unhappy Times" and "Ruth Finds Work" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (pages 122-123).

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

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.

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CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Ruth gleaning stalks of grain. Engage the children by asking:

- Do you think gleaning for food is easy or hard? Why? (Gleaning is very hard work because there is not much left behind so 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 with 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.)

SNACK QUESTIONS

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

- Ruth's story is amazing. What amazed you the most about this story?
- Who is the hero of this story? (Boaz, because he rescues Naomi and Ruth from their poverty.)
- How do people typically treat poor people in their neighborhoods?
- How did Boaz treat poor Ruth when she was in his "neighborhood"? (Typically people are not kind to poor people, but Boaz showed kindness to Ruth.)
- What do we learn about God in this story? (God is merciful.)



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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 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.

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 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!

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.

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).

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.

