



UNIT 9 | SESSION 3

## GOD PROVIDED FOR RUTH

RUTH

### KEY PASSAGE:

Romans 6:23

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the fair payment for sin? The fair payment for sin is death.

### 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.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



## LEADER Bible Study

The story of Ruth is an incredible story. We see how gracious and good God is. We see the providential care God has for a woman who was not Jewish. She was from Moab—a descendant of Lot, not a child of Abraham. Yet, she became a recipient of God’s promise to Abraham because salvation is a gift and is received by faith.

Ruth was married to a Hebrew man who died. She returned to Israel from Moab with her mother-in-law. Ruth was an outsider, a woman without a husband in a land that was not her own. Ruth was vulnerable, but what we see so beautifully in her story is that God protected her and provided for her. In the middle of a famine, God provided food to sustain Ruth. God did more than that; He ultimately provided a husband who redeemed her and saved her from destruction.

Ruth is a picture of what it looks like to trust God in the hard seasons of life. The story of Ruth is the story of you and me. We are outsiders who have no hope in a world cursed by sin. But God did not leave us that way. He provides for us, sustains us, and ultimately redeems us through Jesus.

Ruth brought nothing to her relationship with Boaz but her own need. Boaz saw Ruth, loved her, and redeemed her. From this loving act of redemption, it was from the

family of their great-grandson that Jesus would come into the world and in His great love for people, redeem all who put their trust in Him alone.

God shows us His desire to redeem all those who belong to Him by including Ruth in the lineage of Jesus. Remember that in Jesus, we have hope no matter how hopeless our situation looks. Jesus is more than just a friend. He is our kinsman-redeemer.

### PLACES TO KNOW

**Moab:** ancient kingdom on a narrow strip of land east of the Dead Sea which today is part of Jordan



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “Has anyone ever been the ‘new kid’? It can be hard to be in a new place without lots of friends. Today, we’re going to read about Naomi, who moved to a new town. She was having a hard time, but God gave her a good friend in a woman named Ruth.”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “The Right Redeemer” on the activity page.

**SAY** “Have you ever heard the word redeemer? Redeem means “to buy back.” So a redeemer is someone who pays a price to free someone from something. In today’s Bible story, we will see how God provided a family redeemer for Ruth and the ultimate Redeemer for sinners. We’ll find out what Ruth needed to be freed from and we need to be freed from.”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### OPTION 1: GATHER THE GRAIN

Fill two large bowls with uncooked rice and place them at one end of the room. Place two empty bowls at the other end of the room. Form two teams of kids and direct each team to line up behind an empty bowl.

Give the first player on each team a small cup. Explain that at your signal, players will take turns traveling to the rice and using the cup to carry a scoop back to the empty bowl. After about five minutes, end the game. The team with the most rice in its bowl at the end of the race wins.

**SAY** “Was it easy to gather those grains of rice? What if you didn’t have a cup and had to pick up the grains with your fingers? In our Bible story, we will learn about a woman who gathered fallen grain by hand. Why do you think she had to do that?”

#### OPTION 2: FAMILY PORTRAIT



Provide paper and crayons or markers for kids to draw a picture of their family and write each family member’s name. Encourage them to include as many extended family members (grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins) as they can think of.

Allow the kids to share their family portraits and point out a favorite family member and explain their relationship. Be sensitive to kids’ unique family situations.

**SAY** “Family is really important, isn’t it? Today, we’re going to learn about a woman named Ruth. She lost many of her family members but chose to stay with and help her mother-in-law. Let’s get ready to hear more about Ruth and Naomi.”





LEARN

## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LEARN the Bible Story

#### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Ruth. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Provided for Ruth.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### GOD PROVIDED FOR RUTH

“ Naomi lived in the land of Judah with her husband and two sons. There was a famine in the land, so Naomi and her family decided to go to Moab (MOH ab). While they were there, 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. Since the famine was over, Naomi decided to go home to Judah.

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 the land of Judah together.

Ruth and Naomi needed food, so 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 about Ruth and how she had been kind to Naomi, so Boaz told Ruth to stay in his field. Boaz made sure Ruth was safe and had enough food.

After Ruth gathered grain, she went back to Naomi and told her about Boaz. “He is one of our family redeemers,” Naomi explained. A family redeemer was someone who would help his close relatives if they were in trouble.

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 see Ruth there. Ruth explained, “You are a family redeemer.”

So Boaz stood before the elders in the town and made an agreement. He promised to redeem Ruth, which meant he would buy back the land that Naomi lost after her husband died, and he would marry Ruth.

Later, Ruth and Boaz had a son 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 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. ”

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Act it out:** Tell the story dressed up as Ruth or ask a volunteer dress up and tell the story. Act as though you really lived the story and want to tell the kids what happened.

**Use pictures:** Search online for pictures of the different people or scenes from the story to display as you tell the story to help kids visualize what the people and location of the story might have looked like.

## 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ In Old Testament times, families usually lived all together. Naomi and her husband had two sons. They lived in Judah, but there was a famine. A famine means that there was not enough food growing, so they had no food to eat. Naomi’s family moved to Moab.

While they lived in Moab, Naomi’s husband died. Her sons took care of her. Her sons married women from Moab, but eventually the sons died too. Now who would take care of Naomi? Since the famine was over, Naomi decided to move back to Judah. Her son’s wife Ruth stayed with her. Ruth was kind and cared for Naomi.

Although Ruth was faithful and hard-working, gathering leftover grain from Boaz’s field wasn’t easy. It would have been very difficult for Ruth to gather enough for both she and Naomi to live on. In those days, women couldn’t just go get a job the same way men could, so Naomi and Ruth needed God to help them and provide for them.

God’s law had special rules for what should happen when husbands died and women had no sons to care for them. In those cases, a family member of the husband could marry the woman and become her new husband. This family member was called a family redeemer. Boaz was a relative of Naomi’s, and he was able to serve as the family redeemer. Boaz married Ruth, redeeming her. Boaz and Ruth were the great-grandparents to King David. Jesus came from King David’s family line and saved us from our sin. Jesus redeems us to His family forever. ”

## 3 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ 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. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

## 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 9, Session 3” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. What should I do if my parents are making me move away and I don’t want to?
2. Why can we trust God even in hard circumstances?

## 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Show the pictures of Brody Brewer and his family.

**SAY** “ Ruth worked hard gathering grain to provide for Naomi. Soon, God provided for Ruth through Boaz, the family redeemer. In 2020, Brody worked hard to learn a new hobby. He would grind and polish old axes and make new handles for them. It takes Brody six to eight hours to restore an ax.