

Boaz Marries Ruth

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- small clay pots (styro-foam cups will work too)
- green florist foam or soft clay
- stalks of wheat or artificial flowers
- scissors
- ribbon (optional)
- paints and paintbrushes (optional)



Scriptures

Ruth 3-4

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God gives each of us a family that can care for our needs

Behavioral Objective(s)

To thank God for our families through a drawing activity

Memory Verse

"Your people shall be my people, and Your God, my God." (Ruth 1:16)



Bible Knowledge

Kinsman-Redeemers

A kinsman-redeemer was a relative who volunteered to take responsibility for the extended family. He could be called upon to take on a number of duties: to buy back property that the family had sold; to marry a dead man's wife to produce an heir for the deceased; to buy back a family member who had been sold into slavery due to poverty; or to avenge a relative who had been murdered by killing the murderer.

When Ruth's husband died, the law provided that she could marry a brother of her dead husband (Deut 25:5-10). But Naomi had no more sons. In such a case, the nearest relative to the deceased husband could become a kinsman-redeemer and marry the widow. The nearest relative did not have to marry the widow, though. If he chose not to, the next nearest relative could take his place. If no one chose to help the widow, she would probably live in poverty for the rest of her life. In the case of Ruth, the closest relative was interested in buying the land that belonged to Elimelech (Ruth 4:3-4). But when he realized he was also expected to marry

Ruth, he declined. He probably did not want the responsibility of supporting both Ruth and Naomi. It was also likely that Ruth's future son would inherit the land back.

Boaz and Ruth

When Boaz slept on the threshing floor, Ruth came to lie at his feet at night, just as Naomi had instructed her to do (Ruth 3:3-4, 8). By coming secretly, she would save Boaz any embarrassment should he decide not to honor her request of marriage. Boaz had much to lose by honoring Ruth's request, especially since their first child would be Naomi's heir, not his. But Boaz focused on Ruth's virtuous qualities and was honored that she had come to him. After giving her an immediate response, he did not ask Ruth to leave right away. In fact, he asked Ruth to stay that night and leave early in the morning. By doing so, Boaz was doing his best to protect her: from harm by traveling at night and from unnecessary rumors.

God's plan for Ruth and Boaz included giving them a son who would become the grandfather of David, thus making Ruth an ancestor of Christ (compare Ruth 4:21-22 with Matthew 1:5-17).



Understanding Your Students

Your students may not really understand why people marry. It really isn't necessary to talk about the birds and the bees. But do explain to them that God created marriage because we all need someone to be close to. We need to love and to be loved by another. God also created marriage so that we could all have families with a mother, father, and children. God knew that Adam was lonely in the Garden of Eden, so He made Eve for Adam. In the story of Ruth, God knew exactly whom she needed, so He provided Boaz for her. Even though the students are young and it will be many years before they start to think about this, explain that God knows what is best for them too. He has made plans for each

of them, and He has also created someone for them to meet when they are older. This person is given to us by God to keep us company, to make us happy, and also to help us stay close to God.

If there are students in the class who are from single parent homes, be sensitive to this topic. Explain that God's plan is for each of us to have a mother and father. But situations such as divorce and death can happen to some families. When we know of someone in that kind of situation, we should do our best to show them love. Although a home with a set of parents is ideal, love can also be found in other relationships. We can have good friends and cousins, as well as brothers and sisters in Christ. This is the perfect opportunity to encourage your students to show their love to one another.



Vocabulary

Relative

a person who is a part of your family

Blessings

the good things that God gives us



Before You Teach

The story of Ruth is very famous because of Ruth's loyalty and devotion to her mother-in-law. In spite of many unknowns, Ruth faithfully and obediently followed Naomi back to Bethlehem. What was most moving are the words she spoke when Naomi tried repeatedly to convince her to return home.

"Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me" (Ruth 1:16-17).

In this touching speech, Ruth was declaring her loyalty to Naomi. There really was nothing she would not do for her. But more importantly, she was

also proclaiming her faith in the one true God.

By forsaking her former life, she was in essence embracing a new one, one with God as her God. This was in fact more difficult than following Naomi. At least there was another physical person she could see, touch, hear and talk to by following her mother-in-law. As difficult as their journey might have been, Ruth could count on another for support and help. However, God is invisible. Ruth's faith was not based on anything she could see. In fact, Ruth didn't know God all that well and up until now, her life had also been fairly bitter. She had no children and her husband was dead. These aren't situations a person would necessarily give thanks to God for. Yet, Ruth was determined. She did not base her faith on the seen, but on the unseen. That is exactly what the Book of Hebrews describes as true faith. And for her great faith, Ruth was blessed. She eventually married Boaz, continued to take care of Naomi, and had a child who would become the ancestor of King David. When we are faithful, God is indeed faithful.



Bible Story

Ruth Works in Boaz's Field

In the last lesson, we learned about two special women. One was called Naomi. She was from a place called Bethlehem. However, because there was no food in that land, Naomi and her family moved to another place called Moab. But some terrible things happened to Naomi's family after that. First Naomi's husband died. Then many years later, her two sons also died. Now Naomi only had her two daughters-in-law left. Their names were Orpah and Ruth. Orpah decided to go back to her own home. But Ruth chose to stay with Naomi, and returned with her to Bethlehem. This was a brave thing for Ruth to do because Bethlehem was very far from her own home. Once the two women arrived in Bethlehem, Ruth went to work picking up grain in a field so that she and Naomi would have food to eat. Do you remember the name of the man who owned the field where Ruth worked? His name was Boaz. He had heard about how kind Ruth was to Naomi, so he gave Ruth bread to eat and also gave her a lot of grain to pick. We can see that Boaz was a very nice person too.

Ruth Takes the Grain Home to Naomi

After working all day in the field, Ruth carried the large and heavy basket full of grain back to where she and Naomi were living. Ruth showed Naomi all the grain she had picked. There was plenty of grain to eat and to make bread with.

Naomi asked Ruth, "Where did you go today to pick all this grain?" Ruth told her that she worked in a field that belonged to Boaz.

"May the Lord bless him," Naomi said. "The Lord is still kind to us. Boaz is a close relative of ours. He is someone who can look after us."

Ruth continued to tell Naomi that Boaz was very kind to her and that he told her to stay in his field with his workers.

Naomi agreed, "It is good for you to stay in Boaz's field because he will look after you and make sure you are okay."

From then on, Ruth stayed close to the servant girls of Boaz to pick grains in his field. She stayed and picked the grains until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. All this time, Ruth lived with

her mother-in-law, Naomi, and took care of her.

Naomi also loved Ruth very much and wanted her to be happy and to have someone to take care of her. So one day Naomi said to Ruth, "It is time for you to remarry. I should find a home for you, where you will be well taken care of. You have been working in Boaz's field and he has taken care of you and looked after you. He will be a good husband for you."

Ruth Goes to See Boaz

Naomi told Ruth what she would need to do. First, she told Ruth to wash herself and put on her best clothes. Then Naomi told her to wait until that night. What was Ruth waiting for? Naomi told Ruth to wait for Boaz to finish eating his dinner. After a while, Boaz would get tired and then fall asleep. Naomi told Ruth to uncover his feet and lie down next to his feet. Although all this seemed very strange to Ruth, Ruth was obedient and agreed to do everything Naomi told her to do.

That night, when Boaz had finished eating and drinking, he lay down next to a pile of grain and soon fell asleep. Ruth walked quietly over to Boaz. She slowly and carefully uncovered his feet so that she would not wake him. Then she lay down next to his feet. In the middle of the night, Boaz woke up and saw a woman lying at his feet.

"Who are you?" he asked.

"It's me, your servant Ruth," she replied. "You are a close relative who can look after me and Naomi."

Even though Ruth did not say very much, Boaz understood what she meant. She was asking him if he wanted to marry her. Boaz saw what a good person Ruth was. She was kind and took care of Naomi. She was also kind to Boaz. Boaz agreed to take care of her. But since it was late at night, he told Ruth to stay the rest of the night and leave in the morning. Then she would not have to walk home in the dark. In the morning, he would let all the townspeople know that he wanted to marry Ruth.

In the morning, Boaz sent Ruth back home to Naomi with a lot of barley. He didn't want her to go home without any food. Then Boaz went to town and told everyone that he wanted to take Ruth as his wife.

Ruth and Boaz Get Married

After all the people in town heard what Boaz

wanted to do, they were happy for Ruth and Boaz. So Boaz took Ruth to be his wife. They loved each other and they took care of Naomi too. Naomi was happy that Ruth was married again.

Later, Boaz and Ruth had a baby boy. The women in town said to Naomi, "Praise be to the Lord, you have a grandson. He will make you happy and help you when you get old. You have a daughter-in-law who loves you very much." The women were right. Ruth was very nice to Naomi and took good care of her.

Ruth and Boaz named their baby boy Obed. When Obed grew up, he became the father of Jesse.



Check For Understanding

1. **In which field did Ruth pick grains?** (Boaz's field.)
2. **How do we know Boaz was kind to Ruth?** (He gave her bread to eat and extra grain to take home.)
3. **What did Naomi ask Ruth to do one night?** (Naomi asked Ruth to put on her nicest clothes and go lie at Boaz's feet once he fell asleep.)
4. **When Boaz woke up and found Ruth lying down at his feet, what did he do?** (He told her to wait until the morning to leave. In the morning, he would talk to the towns-



Life Application Story

All Kinds of Families

One Thursday, as usual, Mrs. Hayes went to school to pick up Cathy. She parked the car and walked to Cathy's class. As soon as Cathy saw her mother, she ran towards her and gave her a big hug.

"Hi, Mom," said Cathy excitedly.

"How was your day?" asked Mrs. Hayes as they walked hand-in-hand towards the car.

"Okay. Mom, there was a new student in the class today," announced Cathy.

When Jesse grew up, he became the father of David, who became King David. So Ruth was the great-grandmother of King David. God had given Ruth a special family.

We learned from this story that Naomi and Ruth had been sad in the beginning when they had no one left to look after them. But they took care of each other and helped each other. Soon, God blessed the two women and they were able to be part of a great family again with Boaz. God really looks after everyone who shows His great love and kindness.

people and see if he could marry her.)

5. **Why did the women in the town say that Naomi was blessed?** (They knew Naomi had a great daughter-in-law who looked after her and gave her a new family when she married Boaz.)
6. **How is Ruth's family with Boaz special?** (Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David.)
7. **How did God take care of Ruth and Naomi?** (God took care of them by preparing someone like Boaz to look after them.)
8. **How were Naomi, Ruth and Boaz the same?** (They were all kind and loving people. They did their best to help others.)

"Really?" asked Mrs. Hayes.

"Yes, it's a girl and she has long, black hair. I am not sure if she is Chinese or not but she seemed nice. Her name is Mabel," said Cathy.

"Well, did you get to know Mabel?" asked Mrs. Hayes.

"Kind of. We sat together at the same table for lunch. I found out that she lives with her mother and not her father," said Cathy.

"How did you find that out?" wondered Mrs. Hayes.

"Well, we were talking about the yummy cookies Terry was eating and she said that her dad made them for her. That's why Mabel said that Terry was lucky to have a dad who baked for her. Mabel said

that she only saw her dad once a month," explained Cathy.

"Well, not all families are exactly the same," said Mrs. Hayes.

"But I thought that all families have a mother, a father and kids," said Cathy.

"That is mostly true. God did make families so that there would be a mother, a father and children. But sometimes, bad things can happen to some of these families," Mrs. Hayes said, trying her best to explain.

"What kind of bad things?"

"Well, some mothers and fathers don't get along and decide to not stay together anymore. Other times, one of the parents die early and so there is only one parent left. No matter what happens, it is always sad for the children, who don't get to grow up with both a mommy and a daddy," said Mrs. Hayes slowly

"Well, I have a mommy, a daddy, and a brother," smiled Cathy.

"Yes, you do. And don't forget your grandma and grandpa. All of us love you very much," said Mrs. Hayes.

"Do you think Mabel is kind of sad that she can only see her father some of the time?" Cathy asked.

"Probably, but maybe she has other brothers or sisters or even grandparents she can spend time with," offered Mrs. Hayes, as she got her keys out of her pocket. "Or maybe her father does lots of fun things with Mabel when they are together so that she can remember those great times when she doesn't get to see him."

"Or she could have a lot of good friends who play with her so she doesn't feel lonely," Cathy suggested.



Activity 1

Ruth's Family

Look at the pictures. Who was a part of Ruth's family? Write down their names under the right picture (Ruth and Naomi; Ruth, Boaz and Obed).

Once Mrs. Hayes opened the door, Cathy got into her car seat and buckled up. Mrs. Hayes also got into the car and started the engine. They drove for a bit and there was silence in the car.

"Is everything alright?" asked Mrs. Hayes. "You are awfully quiet."

"I was just thinking that each family is a little bit different," said Cathy. "Our neighbors, Justin and Emily live with their grandparents. I don't see their parents. Eugene from my piano class says he has a big family and lives with ten people in his house."

"That is a big family. But no matter what each family is like, God has prepared people to look after us. We should always be thankful for that," Mrs. Hayes said.

"I am going to go home and draw a picture of my family and hang it up," said Cathy.

"That's a great idea," said Mrs. Hayes as they drove into the parking lot of a supermarket.

"Do we need to get something, Mom?"

"Yes, we are out of eggs and I guess we can see if they have any markers too. I think most of the ones we have at home are dried up," said Mrs. Hayes.

"Thanks, Mom," said Cathy as she unbuckled her seatbelt and got out of the car.

Questions to Think About

1. **What was different about Cathy's day at school?** (There was a new girl in the class.)
2. **What did Cathy say about this new girl?** (This new girl only lived with her mother.)
3. **How are families sometimes different?** (Allow students to answer.)
4. **What can we thank God for about our families?** (Allow students to answer.)



Activity 2

My Family

Provide each student with a large piece of construction paper (regular white paper will work too). Ask them to think about their family. Who is a part of their family? If time permits, let each student share how his/her family will be different if one of the members had not been there. Have the students draw a picture of their family members. They can be

creative and include backgrounds such as a house or a park. Help them to label the people and post them up in the class once they are finished. Conclude this activity by leading your students with a prayer of thanksgiving for each of the family members God has given us.



Activity 3

Pots of Love

Materials:

1. small clay pots (can be purchased at craft stores); medium-sized styrofoam cups will work too
2. green florist foam or soft clay (or Play-doh)
3. stalks of wheat (or artificial flowers)
4. scissors
5. ribbon (optional)
6. paints and paintbrushes (optional)

Directions:

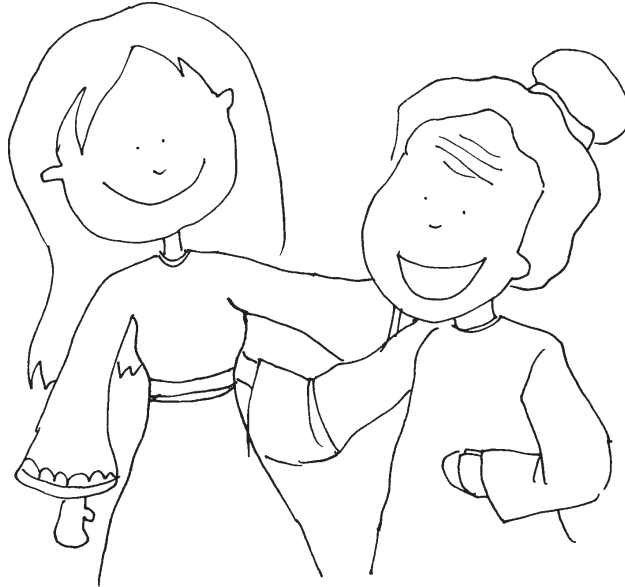
1. Give each student a clay pot.
2. Help them push in some foam or clay into the pot.
3. Provide each student with three or four stalks of wheat (or one or two artificial flowers). Cut them to size so they will fit nicely in the pots.
4. Help them push the wheat or flowers into the foam.
5. If time permits, the students can paint their pots. Allow time for paint to dry.
6. If there is not enough time, help the students tie a ribbon around the pots. They can present the pots to a family member to show their love.
7. As the students are engaged in this activity, talk about the following questions:
 - *What kinds of things make our families special?
 - *What can we thank each of our family members for?
 - *How can we thank God for giving us such a wonderful family?

Activity 12:1

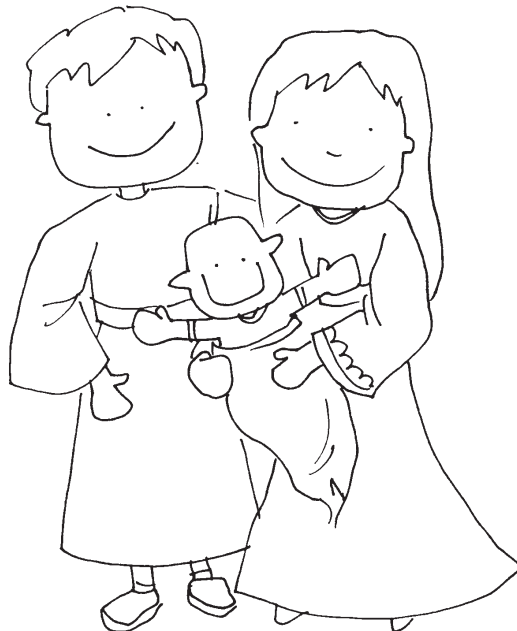
Ruth's Family

Look at the pictures. Who was a part of Ruth's family? Write their names down in the spaces below.

Ruth and _____



Ruth, _____ and _____







Write the names of the people on the board and read them aloud before beginning.

1. *I hit my donkey three times because it didn't listen to me. I didn't know God was trying to stop me from going somewhere. (Balaam.)*
2. *We were the only two spies who came back from Canaan with a good report. (Joshua and Caleb.)*
3. *We wandered in the wilderness for many, many years because we didn't trust God would help us enter Canaan. (The Israelites.)*
4. *I hid two spies on my roof so that they would not be caught. (Rahab.)*
5. *I took some clothing, gold and silver, and hid them under my tent. God was mad that I didn't listen to His command not to take anything from Jericho. (Achan.)*
6. *I fought the Midianites with only 300 men in our army. I was a judge. (Gideon.)*
7. *I got my strength from God because I didn't cut my hair. (Samson.)*
8. *My husband and both my sons died when we were living in Moab. (Naomi.)*
9. *I followed Naomi back to Bethlehem even though I had never been there before. I promised Naomi I would take care of her. (Ruth.)*
10. *I helped Ruth when she worked in my field and later, I married her. (Boaz.)*

Short Answers

1. *Why did God send an angel to block Balaam and his donkey? (God didn't want Balaam to help the enemies of the Israelites. God told Balaam to only say what God told him to say.)*
2. *What reasons did the ten spies give for*

not wanting to go into Canaan? (They said that the people of Canaan were like giants and the land was surrounded by great big walls.)

3. *What happened to Rahab when the Israelites came to attack Jericho? (She and her whole family were saved because she had helped the spies.)*
4. *What did God ask the Israelites to do when they got to Jericho? (God told them to march around the city walls once a day for six days. Then on the seventh day, they had to march around seven times and then blow their trumpets and shout. Then the walls of Jericho would fall down.)*
5. *What was the name of the city the Israelites lost at after winning at Jericho? (Ai.)*
6. *What did Gideon ask God to do to show him that God was going to help him? (Gideon asked God for some signs; please see lesson 8 for the details.)*
7. *What was a Nazirite? (A Nazirite was a person who worked for God. He could not cut his hair, drink wine or touch dead bodies.)*
8. *Why did Naomi ask Orpah and Ruth to go back to their own homes? (She wanted them to get married again.)*
9. *How did Ruth show love to Naomi? (She obeyed Naomi by following her back to Bethlehem and took care of her by picking grain so they would have food to eat.)*
10. *How did Boaz take care of Ruth when she worked at his field? (He gave her food to eat and also left extra grain for her to pick.)*

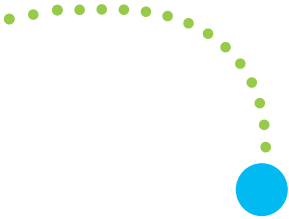
Charades

To review the past twelve lessons in a fun way, try playing a game of charades. The students may not be able to re-enact the scenes, but they can be given nouns or verbs related to each lesson to act out, without speaking. For example, the word "RIVER" can be written on

a card or a river can be drawn (so students can “read” it for themselves). Pick one student to come forward and act out the river. Make sure the other students do not see the card. Then once the class has successfully guessed the word, review a short lesson that is related to that word. River, for example, could relate to when the Israelites crossed the river on dry ground so that they could get to Jericho. Some suggested words are given below with related lessons. Feel free to come up with your own.

Possible words:

1. donkey (*Balaam*)
2. spy (*The 12 Spies or Rahab*)
3. sun (*The Sun Stands Still*)
4. hair/cutting hair (*Samson*)
5. picking grain (*Ruth*)
6. sword (*Gideon*)
7. water or river (*The Water Stops Flowing*)



Seek the Lord with all your heart!

“Seek the Lord while He may be

found, call upon Him while He is

near.”

(Isaiah 55:6-7)

