

LESSON 6

BOAZ AND RUTH

BEFORE YOU TEACH

What Their Names Mean

Ruth is a shortened version of "retut," which means "lovely friend." Naomi means "pleasant," but the name she called herself later in the story, Mara, means "bitter." Boaz means "powerful" or "strong." Mahlon and Chilion (Naomi's two sons) mean "sickness" and "used up." Orpah (Naomi's other daughter-in-law) means "back of the neck," as she turned her back on Naomi. Elimelech means "my God is king."

Ruth

Ruth was poor, a foreigner, and a widowed woman, all of which would have normally worked against her. But she was helped by an older woman to overcome the difficulties she faced. She had the good sense to listen to the advice given to her by Naomi, and the older woman was rewarded with Ruth's unfaltering loyalty.

Her story illustrates the triumph of courage and ingenuity over adverse circumstances. She also has special significance for Christians. In the Gospel of Matthew, four women were included in the genealogy of Jesus (Mt 1:2-17), one of who was Ruth!

Time and Place

The story is set in the period of the judges and before the birth of David, but it was almost certainly written much later, when the two tribes of Judah were set free from their captivity in Babylon and allowed to return to Jerusalem.

Kinsman Redeemers

A kinsman redeemer was a relative who volunteered to take responsibility for the extended family. When a woman's husband died, the law (Deut 25:5-10) provided that she could marry a brother of her dead husband. 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. 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 the rest of her life, because in Israelite culture, the inheritance was passed on to the son or nearest male relative, but not to the wife.

Unusual Customs

The Book of Ruth mentions some distinctive customs. Ruth's request that Boaz cover her with his cloak does not suggest immorality but rather symbolizes the protection of marriage (Ruth 3:9). Taking off a sandal and handing it to another person signified that the two people had come to a formal agreement.

BIBLE TEXT

Ruth 3-4

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus is descended from the Jews and the Gentiles, because Ruth is a Moabite woman. Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David and a direct ancestor of Jesus. The teaching in Ruth is about near-kinsman redeemers. The Messiah came through Obed, Jesse, and David; God's redeeming work comes through Jesus Christ.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To trust that God blesses those who are obedient.
2. To learn that showing love and kindness to others is what God wants us to do.
3. To learn that Boaz is a kinsman-redeemer; likewise, Jesus Christ is our redeemer.

MEMORY VERSE

"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!"

(Psalm 34:8)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord, we thank You for Your wonderful love and mercy this past week. We thank You for keeping each one of us and our families safe and peaceful. Help us to love our families like You have loved us, O Lord. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

The story of Ruth and Boaz provides your students with a positive example of what happens when someone trusts in the Lord. Talk in practical terms of what it means to trust in the Lord. At one time or another, all of us may have felt all alone or that everything was hopeless. Although Ruth faced poverty and loneliness because she chose to stay with Naomi, she placed her trust in the Lord. "Trusting" God means putting our complete confidence in God and His promises.

Sometimes when we encounter difficult situations, we don't understand what is happening to us. Like Naomi, we wrongly believe that God is causing us to suffer and making it impossible to escape. But it is often only when

our situation seems hopeless that we truly learn to trust in God's power. God is able to meet every need, and in His love, He will give us the strength to endure. God wants us to look past hopeless circumstances and understand that He is faithful.

When our problems seem hopeless, we can call out to God for help. Remember that the Lord loves us so much that He came down in the flesh to die on the cross for us. He also is the God of all creation, and His power is limitless. We can also ask God to help us trust that He will do what is right for us, even though we may not always understand His will. Ruth trusted in the Lord God of Israel. The Lord did not fail her, and neither will He fail us today.

VOCABULARY

glean: to pick up leftover grain in the fields during harvest

property: something that belongs to a person, such as land or a house

witness: a person who sees an event firsthand

legal: according to the law

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about Naomi and Ruth. What had happened to Naomi's husband and sons? (They died.) Naomi decided to go back to her homeland. She told her two daughters-in-law to go back to their mothers, so they could remarry. But Ruth refused to go. Why? (She loved Naomi like her own mother, and she didn't want to abandon Naomi.) Ruth wanted to stay with Naomi to care for her.

From last week's story, we learned that Ruth and Naomi loved each other dearly. Do you remember what Ruth said to Naomi when she asked Ruth to leave? [Wait for students to respond.] Ruth said, "Please do not ask me to leave! Wherever you go, I will follow, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God."

She continued, saying, "Where you die, I will die, and that is where I will be buried. May God let us be together until we both die." Wow, just from her words here, can you feel how much Ruth loved Naomi? Ruth was truly showing love and kindness to her mother-in-law.

[Have colored pencils or crayons ready. Give each student a blank index card to draw on.] Now that each of you has an index card, please think about the words "love" and "kindness." [Write these two words on the board for students to see.] If you were to draw a quick picture to show love and kindness, what comes to mind? What would your picture look like? Quickly draw that picture you see onto this index card. When you are done, bring it to the front to post on the board.

[Give students five minutes tops to work on their pictures. Remind them that this should be a simple drawing. When they bring their finished drawing to you, tape it on the board for everyone to see.]

Let's remind one another that we can love and be kind to others every day, and that we can always do something to bring a smile to others' faces. In today's story, Ruth met a man named Boaz, who also showed love and kindness to many people. Boaz was one of Naomi and Ruth's close relatives, and he took up his duty to care for them. Today, we will see how God guided Ruth step-by-step and blessed her abundantly.

BIBLE STORY

Naomi and Ruth Return Home

Realizing that Ruth would not leave her, Naomi accepted Ruth's love and they both traveled together back to Bethlehem. Since it was time for the barley harvest, Ruth went into the fields to glean some grain for flour so they could make bread. Ruth happened to go into the fields of Boaz, a rich man from the family of Naomi's husband Elimelech. Boaz was a kind man. When he saw Ruth gleaning grain one evening, he told his servants, "When you reap the good grain, let some of it fall to the ground for the poor to collect." He also asked them, "Who is this woman? Does she have a husband?"

His servants answered, "She is the girl who had come back with Naomi. She had worked hard all morning except for a few minutes' rest in the house."

Boaz's Kindness

Soon after that, Boaz met Ruth in the fields again and said to her, "Don't go to other fields to glean grain, because there will always be grain in my fields." To further show his kindness to Ruth, he even said, "And when you are thirsty, just get your water from my jars."

Ruth fell to her knees in gratefulness and asked, "Why have you treated me so well? After all, I am a stranger to you."

Boaz answered, "I have heard what kindness you have shown towards your mother-in-law since your husband died, and how you stayed with her instead of going back to your home.

Therefore, may the Lord bless you and give you a great reward."

Naomi Gives Ruth Instructions

Ruth continued to glean grain in Boaz's fields. One day Naomi said to Ruth, "It's time I found you a husband, who will give you a home and take care of you. You have been working with Boaz's servant girls, and you know he is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be separating the grain from the straw. Go to where he is working, but don't let him see you until he has finished eating and drinking. Watch where he goes to spend the night, and when he is asleep, lift the covers and lie down at his feet. He will tell you what to do."

Ruth answered, "I will do as you say."

Ruth Goes to Boaz

Ruth went out to the place where Boaz was working and did what Naomi had told her. When Boaz had finished eating and drinking, he went over and fell asleep near the pile of grain. Then

Ruth slipped over quietly. She uncovered his feet and lay down near them.

In the middle of the night, Boaz suddenly woke up and was shocked to see a woman lying at his feet. "Who are

you?" he asked.

She answered, "I am your servant Ruth, and you are a relative who is supposed to take care of me. So spread the edge of your cover over me."

Boaz Promises to Take Care of Ruth

Boaz replied, "May the Lord bless you! This shows how truly loyal you are to your family. You could have looked for a younger man, either rich or poor, but you did not. Don't worry! I'll do everything you have asked me to do. Everyone around here knows what a fine woman you are. It is true that I am one of the relatives who is supposed to take care of you, but there is someone who is an even closer relative than I. Stay here until morning, and then I will find out if he is willing to take care of you. If he is not willing, I promise by the living God to take care of you myself. Now go back to sleep until morning."

Ruth Goes Home

Ruth lay back down, but got up before daylight to keep anyone from seeing her. Boaz said, "Don't tell anybody you have been here!" Then he told her to spread out her coat, and he filled it with a lot of grain and placed it on her shoulder.

When Ruth got back to town, Naomi asked her what had happened, and Ruth told her everything. She also said, "He gave me all this grain, because he didn't want me to come back without bringing something for you."

Naomi replied, "Just be patient and don't worry about what will happen. He won't stop until everything is settled today!"

Boaz Speaks to the Other Close Relative

In the meantime, Boaz had gone to the meeting place at the town gate and was sitting there when the other close relative came by. Boaz invited him to come over and sit down, and he did. Next, Boaz got ten of the town leaders and also asked them to sit down.

After they had done so, he said to the man, "Naomi has now returned from Moab and is selling the land that belonged to her husband Elimelech. Since you are the closest relative and have the right to buy the property, I am telling you about this. If you want it, you can buy it now, but you must also marry Ruth and have a son by her, since the property must remain in the name of Ruth's former husband."

The man answered, "If that's the case, I don't want to buy it! That would cause problems with the property I already own. You may buy it yourself, because I cannot!" As a sign to show that he was giving up his rights, the man took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz.

Boaz Officially Agrees to Marry Ruth

Boaz told the town leaders and everyone else, "All of you

are witnesses that today I have bought from Naomi the property that belonged to Elimelech and his two sons, Chilion and Mahlon. You are also witnesses that I have agreed to marry Mahlon's widow Ruth, the Moabite woman. This will keep the property in his family's name, and he will be remembered in this town.

Boaz Marries Ruth

Finally, Boaz married Ruth, and the Lord blessed her with a son. After his birth, the women said to Naomi, "Praise the Lord! Today, He has given you a grandson to take care of you! May the boy grow up to be famous everywhere in Israel! He will brighten up your life and take care of you in your old age. His mother is your daughter-in-law, and she loves you more than seven sons of your own would love you."

Naomi loved the boy so much and took such good care of him that the women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." But his real name was Obed, and

he later became the grandfather of King David. This is an amazing work of God. Obed was the grandfather of King David, which means that Ruth was King David's great-grandmother. The most important thing is that Ruth, who was a Moabitess and therefore a Gentile, was chosen to be a direct ancestor of Jesus. This was God's redemption plan!

Final Thoughts

Both Naomi and Ruth showed so much faith and trust in God. They believed that God would take care of them and prepare the best for them. Not only that, their daily actions of showing love and kindness to each other touched many people.

Dear students, do you trust God the way Naomi and Ruth trusted Him? Do you show love and kindness to your friends and families every day? [Point to all the index cards taped on the board, and remind the students what a good feeling it is to have others show love and kindness to you.]

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **What town did Naomi and Ruth travel to together after Ruth refused to leave Naomi?** Bethlehem.
2. **How did Ruth take care of Naomi when they arrived at Bethlehem?** Ruth went out to the fields to glean grain every day to bring food home for her.
3. **In whose fields did Ruth glean grain?** Boaz's.
4. **How did Boaz show love and kindness to Ruth and Naomi?** Boaz asked his servants to always leave some grain on the ground for Ruth to collect, and later married Ruth to take care of her and Naomi.
5. **What was the name of Ruth and Boaz's son?** Obed.
6. **Who did Obed become?** King David's grandfather and an ancestor of the Lord Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" (Psalm 34:8)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

The Obedience of Ruth & God's Choosing of the Gentiles

After Ruth's husband died, she chose to go with her mother-in-law, even though that meant going to a foreign land. Ruth's selfless plea to accompany her mother-in-law — "where you go, I will go" — (Ruth 1:16-17) is a remarkable insight into the richness of her character. There were risks involved too, such as never remarrying or having children. Still, Ruth stepped forward into the unknown. She was obedient to her mother-in-law by going out to the fields and working hard. Her work was tiring and degrading, but she continued to obey and have faith. She belonged to a race often despised by Israel, but God chose her and blessed her abundantly. She became the great-grandmother of King David and a direct ancestor of Jesus! Likewise, when we obey God's teachings, God's blessings will also come upon us.

The book of Ruth demonstrates **God's redemption plan for the Gentiles**. Did you know that Ruth was a Gentile? Ruth was a Moabite, a Gentile. Even though Ruth was a Gentile by birth, she was an ancestor of Jesus.

Spiritually, we are also Gentiles. Though we are not Jews by birth, God loves us and chose us even before we were born. Every day, we should be thankful and joyful for God's love for us, because we can enjoy eternal life with Him through His salvation plan for us.

[Teachers: The following two sections are for older E1 students that are around 8 years old.]

The Messiah came through Obed, Jesse, and David; God's redeeming work comes through Jesus Christ.

One of the purposes of the Book of Ruth is found in the genealogy recorded in Ruth 4:17-22. It records the lineage of the Messiah through Obed, Jesse, and David. God did not allow this lineage to be broken, even during a difficult period in history. Ruth was a foreigner, but God included her in His grace. People that the world view as unimportant are God's most important. Ruth, a Moabite excluded by the law, was received by God's grace. Boaz, Naomi's kinsman redeemer, marries Ruth, keeps the family line alive, and illustrates God's redeeming work to come through Jesus Christ (Titus 2:14; 1 Pet 1:18-19).

Boaz is a kinsman-redeemer; he is also a shadow of Jesus Christ.

In the Book of Ruth, the kinsman who is able and willing is Boaz. Boaz is a fitting "shadow" of Christ. Ruth characterizes Boaz as a "near kinsman." "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel" (Ruth 4:14). Thus, Boaz was a "kinsman-redeemer." Boaz was a blood relative, he had the ability to buy the inheritance, and he was willing to marry the widow of his deceased kinsman.

Likewise, God has provided a kinsman redeemer for His people (Lev 25:23-25, 47-49). Jesus Christ became our "kinsman" in the flesh (Jn 1:14) and in Job 19:25, it says, that "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth." Ephesians 1:7 records, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." Jesus Christ is truly mankind's redeemer. God is our Redeemer who redeems us from eternal condemnation. Through water baptism in the living water, God redeems us from the bondage of sin and washes away all our past iniquities. This is indeed a proof of God's redemption plan for us.

Show love and kindness to those around us every day.

We never know how far a little kindness may go. There are so many people who haven't experienced God's love or who are going through difficult times in their life. If each of us can show God's amazing love to those around us, we will be making this world a better place every day! Some of you may think that you're too young to make a difference in another person's life. Think again! Regardless of your age, you can always be kind to others. A famous person once said, "Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple that only gets bigger and bigger."

Here is the story of a 2nd grader named Josh, and how he experienced an act of loving kindness from his friend Kenny.

Josh was never a popular kid in his class. However, he followed class rules, listened to his teacher all the time, and had never gotten into trouble at school. He was a good kid, but he had one problem: he stuttered, especially when he was nervous about something. Unfortunately, this became something that his classmates made fun of whenever Josh was around. They would joke about his clothes, the colors he wore, and his stuttering.

This made Josh very sad. His teacher also noticed the problem, and had warned the naughty classmates not to make fun of Josh anymore. His teacher talked about the negative consequences of bullying others and the importance of showing kindness to those in need. This worked in the classroom. However, whenever his teacher was not around, Josh's classmates still laughed at him.

One day during recess time, the children were playing at the playground. Josh was having a good time on the swings. The swing set was always the children's first choice during recess.

Josh was fast enough that day that he got on it in no time. There was a rule at the playground that everyone had to take turns using the play equipment. If the equipment was occupied by others and you wanted to play, you had to stand in line and count to 100 for the person before you to finish his or her turn.

Josh knew about the rule. He heard the person behind him counting "1, 2, 3, 4...21, 22, 23..." The counting was only up to 43, when all of a sudden, someone pushed him down from the swing. He even heard that person imitating

his stuttering, saying, "It's...t-t-time...to get off...that swing. You're...taking...too l-l-long."

That was not right, Josh thought to himself. His turn was not over yet, because the counting had only gone up to 43, not 100. However, he couldn't speak a word. He was so afraid that he would stutter again as soon as he opened his mouth. He just sat there on the playground feeling angry and sad.

Then he heard another voice. It was Kenny, another boy from his class. Kenny didn't usually talk to him, but now he walked to Josh's side and pulled him up, asking, "Are you alright, Josh?" Josh nodded.

Kenny then turned to the person who had pushed Josh off the swing and said, "Josh's turn was not over yet. I was behind you, and you only counted to 43, not 100. You better get off that swing and let Josh back on, or I'll tell the teacher."

Wow, Josh didn't know that Kenny was on his side, since they didn't usually talk in the classroom or play together. He used to think that he didn't have any friends in this school. But now, he felt so touched by Kenny's kind words and his helping hand.

Josh eventually got back on the swing to finish his turn. As the bell rang and everyone was walking back to the classroom, Josh went up to Kenny to say "thank you." The two boys walked back to class together with big smiles on their faces.

As another poem of kindness reminds us—

*Do it that very moment!
Don't put it off—don't wait.
There's no use in doing a kindness if you do it a day too late!*

Let us remember to pass on God's loving kindness to those who are in need today.

ACTIVITIES

1

Banner of Trust

Objective: To remind students to trust in God always.

Materials

- Shelf paper, 29" x 8" long
- Wrapping paper
- Yarn, pastel colors
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Glue
- Straw or dowel, 10" x 1/4"

Instructions

1. Copy the letter patterns on the following pages and cut them out.
2. Trace the letters on the wrapping paper and cut them out.
3. Positioning it vertically, fold over the top of the shelf paper one inch.
4. Glue the word "TRUST" down the center of the paper.
5. Glue pieces of yarn on the letters in decorative patterns.
6. Slip a straw or dowel inside the fold at the top and glue the paper over it.
7. Tie a piece of yarn to each side of the straw/dowel.
8. Hang up the banner to show your "TRUST" in the Lord.

Explain to the students that we can trust in God because He is **Truth**.

We can trust in God because He is **Right**.

We can trust in God because He **Understands** what we are going through.

We can trust in God because He is **Sufficient**.

We can trust in God because He is **Terrific**.

2

Rhythm Rhyme

Objective: To reinforce that we can show our love to God through actions.

Instructions

1. Arrange the chairs in an oval.
2. Teach students the following rhythm rhyme:

WHAT I SAY

(Stomp feet twice on ground while you say this line.)

AND WHAT I DO

(Smack thighs twice with open hands while you say this whole line.)

IS HOW I SHOW

(Clap hands together twice while you say this whole line.)

MY LOVE FOR YOU

(Each student hugs himself then points in any direction.)

3. Practice the rhythm rhyme a few times with the students. Once they are very familiar with the lines, have them close their eyes. Shuffle them around and place each one in a chair in the oval.
4. With their eyes still shut, have them say the rhythm rhyme and perform the actions along with you. When they are finished, they can open their eyes and see to whom they are pointing. Have them switch seats with the person they point to.
5. Have students shut their eyes again. Reshuffle them in the oval. Repeat the rhythm rhyme again and point. Keep playing as time allows.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" (Psalm 34:8)
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. Boaz
7. gleaned
8. sandal
9. Answers may vary.
10. Answers may vary.

E1 Year 1 Book 4 Lesson 6—Boaz and Ruth

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Jesus is descended from the Jews and the Gentiles, because Ruth is a Moabite woman. Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David and a direct ancestor of Jesus. The teaching in Ruth is about near-kinsman redeemers. The Messiah came through Obed, Jesse, and David; God’s redeeming work comes through Jesus Christ.

- Lesson Objectives:**
1. To trust that God blesses those who are obedient.
 2. To learn that showing love and kindness to others is what God wants us to do.
 3. To learn that Boaz is a kinsman-redeemer; likewise, Jesus Christ is our redeemer.

Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 34:8)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

1. Write down the memory verse for this week.
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Multiple Choice

2. ____ : What happened to Naomi's husband and her two sons?
 a. They moved away. b. They worked in another city. c. They died.
3. ____ : Where did Naomi decide to move to after knowing that Ruth would not leave her?
 a. Bethlehem b. Jerusalem c. Beersheba
4. ____ : Why did Naomi want to help Ruth find a husband?
 a. Naomi wanted to get rid of Ruth to live by herself.
 b. Naomi loved Ruth dearly and wanted her to have a family, so she could be taken care of.
 c. Naomi planned to leave Bethlehem soon, and she didn't want Ruth to go with her.
5. ____ : What happened to Naomi after Boaz married Ruth?
 a. She moved away.
 b. She married someone else, too.
 c. She lived with Ruth and Boaz and helped take care of her grandson Obed.

Fill In the Blank

gleaned	sandal	Boaz
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6. After moving back to Naomi's hometown, Ruth worked in the fields that belonged to ____.
7. Ruth went and _____ in the field after the reapers.
8. After Naomi's closest relative decided not to buy her property nor marry Ruth, he gave his _____ to Boaz as a sign to give up his rights.

Life Application

9. Write down the words, "God blesses those who obey His teachings!" Give two examples of how you can be obedient to the teachings of God.

10. Work with your mom or dad. Ask your parent to share about how he/she has experienced God's wonderful grace by showing love and kindness to others.
