



Session 10



A NEW FAMILY

Ruth 2; 4:1-17

The plot of the story of Ruth and Boaz takes its turn in the last two chapters of this short book. Naomi realized that Boaz was one of her family's redeemers. At this point in history, the passing on of a family name was a very important function of life. This practice allowed for family land to be retained from generation to generation so that, among other things, families would together remember God's blessing. God instructed Moses to require that widows without sons be married to the next closest relative in order to continue the family name for the man who had died, ensuring the land and property remained in the family.

Naomi had a plan that would allow Ruth to catch the eye of Boaz and let him know of his role as a family redeemer. Ruth did what Naomi asked, and Boaz told Ruth that he was indeed a family redeemer, but there was a man who was closer in the bloodline than he. The next morning Boaz went to the city gate. During these times, the gate was similar to a city hall where the prominent men of the city would gather to conduct business. When Boaz noticed the arrival of the closer family redeemer, Boaz announced before the men of the city that Naomi had returned from Moab and was looking to sell a piece of property. If the redeemer wanted to purchase the property, he would also need to take Ruth to be his wife. For whatever reason, the other family redeemer chose to let Boaz redeem the family land. So Boaz married Ruth and redeemed the land.

Legal proceedings such as the sale of property or homes today require a ridiculous amount of paperwork. In the time of Ruth and Boaz, the process simply required the exchange of footwear! The other relative gave away his sandal as the legal tender for passing of property from one man to another.

Ruth eventually gave birth to a son whom she named Obed. The end of this book gives a glimpse into the practice of tracing one's heritage from the tribes of Israel. Obed was the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon. Obed became the grandfather of King David of Israel!

SESSION FOCUS

TEXT TRUTH

God planned for Boaz and Ruth to have a family.

BIBLE STORY

Ruth 2; 4:1-17

BIBLE VERSE

Psalm 127:3

CHRIST IN CONTEXT

The Book of Ruth is a beautiful picture of redemption and grace. God extended grace and redemption to all people by sending His Son, Jesus, to be our Redeemer.

BIBLE SKILLS: Preschoolers will . . .

- Remember the names of familiar Bible people.
- Begin to understand that a Bible reference includes a book, chapter, and verse.



CONNECT WITH FAMILIES

Provide these weekly resources to help families explore the Bible together.

- Explore the Bible at Home (Printable: Music & Print Extras)
- Preschool Activity Page
- Preschool Family Card

MISSIONS ACTIVITY: LISTEN TO MUSIC



Tools: Bible, recorded instrumental and vocal music from other countries, a few musical instruments (such as drum, guitar, rainstick, shaker, flute, tambourine), Bible Times Instruments (Pack Item 32)

- Play the instrumental music softly. Invite a child to play an instrument. Talk about types of music the child enjoys. Tell the preschooler that people all over the world enjoy music.
- Pick up the a rainstick and describe how it works. Say: “Some missionaries teach missionary children about the music they will hear in their new countries. Missionary children might see a rainstick like this.”
- Look at the pictures of Bible times instruments. Compare them to some of the actual instruments you’ve shown to the preschoolers.
- Tell children that playing music and listening to songs can help people know about Jesus.

LEADER TIP!

Include this special missions-focused activity in addition to preschoolers’ Bible Explorations.

TEXT TRUTH

God planned for Boaz and Ruth to have a family.

BIBLE STORY

Boaz and Ruth
Ruth 2; 4:1-17

BIBLE VERSE

Children are a blessing from God.
Psalm 127:3

BOAZ AND RUTH

Ruth 2; 4:1-17

Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, moved to Bethlehem. The women had no food. They had no work. Ruth thought about the problem, then she told Naomi, "I'll go to the fields and gather grain."

Early in the morning, Ruth began to work in the grain field. She and other women walked behind the harvesters (workers). The harvesters' sharp tools swept across the rich, ripe grain, and the stiff stalks fell to the ground. Other workers swooped up the stalks.

While the harvesters worked, Ruth gathered the stalks of grain that the workers left behind. Ruth worked a long time.

Boaz, the owner of the field, came by to greet all of his workers. Boaz noticed a woman he did not know. Boaz asked a young man, "Who is the woman following the harvesters?"

The man explained that Ruth was Naomi's daughter-in-law. The man said that Ruth and Naomi had just moved to Bethlehem. The young man told Boaz, "Ruth is a very hard worker. She has taken only one short break."

Boaz spoke to Ruth. He said, "I know Naomi, your mother-in-law. I know you have been very kind to her. You may continue to work here and pick up the grain that the workers leave in my field."

Later Ruth told Naomi about meeting Boaz and how kind he was. Naomi told Ruth that Boaz was someone in her family.

Boaz continued to show kindness to Ruth and take care of her and Naomi. Later Boaz and Ruth married and had a baby son to add to their family.

LEADER TIP

You choose! Are your preschoolers ready to learn memory verses? Decide which wording of the session Bible verse you want to use with your group.

BIBLE VERSE

From the Bible text:

Sons are from the Lord, [children] a reward. Psalm 127:3

Paraphrase:

Children are a blessing from God. Psalm 127:3



CIRCLE TIME (10-15 MINUTES, DEPENDING ON YOUR AGE GROUP)

GATHER

- Welcome preschoolers and invite them to sit in the circle to play a game.
- Say: “Let’s talk about families. God gives us different kinds of families. Some families are big, some are small, but all families are special to God. Let’s learn about our families.”
- Tell children: “I will say something about families. If what I say describes your family, stand up.”
- Make statements such as: stand up if you have a brother; stand up if you have a sister; stand up if your grandmother lives nearby; stand up if your dad drives a car; stand up if your family lives in a house.
- Adapt statements to reflect the families represented by your group of children.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “God gave all of us families. Our families may be different, but they are all important to God. Last week we learned about a family who lived in Bible times. Today we will learn more about Naomi and Ruth.”
- Open the Bible to Ruth 2. Hold the Story Picture as you tell the story in your own words.
- Show children today’s Text Truth Flower and add it to the Spring Wall Poster. Read the statement.
- Say: “God planned for you to have a family. Each of you is a blessing to God and to your family and to me. God had a special plan for Ruth, Boaz, and their baby, and He has a special plan for you, too.”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to the Bible Verse Strip marking Psalm 127:3.
- Lead children to say the verse and reference together.

PRAY

- Thank God for loving families and giving them children.

TOOLS

- Bible
- Music & Print Extras

PACK ITEMS

- 10 Story Picture: Boaz and Ruth
- 15 Bible Verse Strips
- 16 Spring Wall Poster
- 17 Text Truth Flowers

EXPLORATION STATIONS (45-60 MINUTES)

TEXT TRUTH

God planned for Boaz and Ruth to have a family.

BIBLE STORY

Boaz and Ruth
Ruth 2; 4:1-17

BIBLE VERSE

Children are a blessing from God.
Psalm 127:3

PACK ITEMS

10 Story Picture: Boaz and Ruth

PRINTABLES

Allergy Sign

LEADER TIP!

Today's children live in a variety of family situations. Be sensitive and affirming of children and the people who show love and care for them.

Set up at least three stations to provide choices of multisensory activities and movement for busy preschoolers. Use the Bible in every exploration.

MAKE A FAMILY POSTER

Tools: Bible, long strip of paper, picture cutouts showing families, glue sticks or tape, Activity Page, washable marker

- Across the paper write the Bible verse. Lay the Activity Page on the Bible opened to Ruth 2.
- Invite preschoolers to choose pictures to make a family poster. Encourage children to take turns using glue sticks or tape. Mention that cooperating with one another shows love.
- Remark: "God loves children. He planned for families to have children. The words on our poster say 'Children are a blessing from God.'"
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page, then tell the Bible story from the Bible.
- Thank God for families.

ROCK & READ

Tools: Bible, 2 baby dolls, baby-care items, blankets, child's rocking chair, several books about families

- Invite children to use the items to care for the baby dolls. As children play, remark that Boaz and Ruth had a baby.
- Suggest that a preschooler read a book to a baby doll. Talk to the child about her family taking care of her and reading to her.
- Find Ruth 2 in the Bible. Touch the page and say: "This is the Book of Ruth. It tells about many things that happened to Ruth. God blessed Ruth and her husband Boaz with a baby son."

SHOP FOR FOOD

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Boaz and Ruth, empty food boxes or toy food items, child's grocery cart, toy cash register, shopping bag or basket

- Arrange the food boxes and toy food to resemble a grocery store or market.
- Invite children to shop for food. Show preschoolers the Story Picture. Remark that Ruth and Naomi needed food, so Ruth gathered grain in Boaz's barley field.
- Ask preschoolers about their trips to the grocery store with their families. Say: "We can count on God to help us. God helps us have the things we need. God loves and cares for children and families."
- Turn to Ruth 4 and tell about Boaz and Ruth. Help children identify the family members in the Story Picture.
- Turn to Psalm 127:3 and say the Bible verse together.

GATHER PRETEND GRAIN

Tools: Bible, brown and yellow shredded paper, handled paper bag or basket for each child

- Scatter paper on the floor. Tell the children the paper is pretend grain.
- Invite preschoolers to gather the "grain" to put in their bags. Remark that Boaz had large grain fields and many workers to gather the grain.
- After most of the pretend grain has been gathered, tell the children to come together in a circle.
- Say: "Wow! You did a great job gathering grain! You are very good workers!"
- Turn to Psalm 127:3 and say today's Bible verse. Remark that God planned for families.
- Call on children to name the people in their families. Thank God for each child's family.

DECORATE A FLOWER POT

Tools: Bible, Preschool Family Card, small nonbreakable flower pots, foam stickers, potting soil, small flowering plants (opt.), Allergy Sign

- Choose whether children will decorate pots only or add soil and plants. Check with parents about allergies ahead of time.
- Invite preschoolers to decorate flower pots with the foam stickers. Comment that today is Mother's Day, and we can show our love to a family member or special friend.
- Give children freedom to decorate their pots as they wish. While preschoolers work, open the Bible to Ruth 4.
- Show children the Family Card and name the family members. Say: "The Book of Ruth tells about this family."

TEXT TRUTH

God planned for Boaz and Ruth to have a family.

BIBLE STORY

Boaz and Ruth
Ruth 2; 4:1-17

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

BIBLE VERSE

Children are a blessing from God.
Psalm 127:3

PACK ITEMS

10 Story Picture: Boaz and Ruth

NEXT HOUR (MORE EXPLORATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS)

Look for printable Next Hour Helps in Music & Print Extras.

MAKE A BIBLE VERSE FAN

Tools: Bible, copy paper, markers, tape, Activity Page

- Print today's Bible verse on a paper. Encourage a child to decorate the paper. Read the verse, then open the Bible to Psalm 127:3 and show the child the words.
- Comment that the preschooler is a blessing to his family.
- Show the child the picture on the Activity Page as you summarize the Bible story about a Bible times family.
- When the child finishes decorating his paper, help him fold it to make a fan. Tape the end to keep the paper in a fan shape.

ROLL A BALL

Tools: large ball, Story Picture: Boaz and Ruth

- Put the picture on the floor. Invite children to sit in a circle.
- Roll the ball over the picture to a child. Ask the child to tell you something he remembers about the Bible story.
- Continue rolling the ball and reviewing the Bible story. Comment that God helped Ruth have food for her family, and God planned for Ruth to meet Boaz.
- Find Ruth's and Boaz's names in Ruth 4.

PREPARE A MEAL

Tools: Bible, toy food items, tablecloth, plastic plates, cups, bowls, cloth napkins, Preschool Family Card

- Remind preschoolers that God provided food for Ruth's family. Ask children to tell what they remember about Ruth going to Boaz' field.
- Say: "God loved Ruth and Naomi. He provided for their needs and showed them what to do to have food. God also gave Ruth a husband—Boaz. God planned for Ruth and Boaz to meet and have a family."

- Invite children to prepare a meal together. Guide children to set the table and “cook” their favorite dishes. Remember to say a thank-you blessing to God for providing for our needs.

GUESS WHO SAID IT

Tools: Bible, Bible story statement cards (see Leader Tip), envelope, Activity Page or Story Picture: Boaz and Ruth, beanbag

- Mix the Bible story statement cards and put them in an envelope.
- Invite preschoolers to play a game to review the Bible story. Sit in a circle and put the envelope and Activity Page in the center.
- Toss the beanbag to a child. Ask the preschooler to get a card from the envelope. Read the statement to the child and ask the child to name the person in the Bible story who said this. Help the child if needed, or ask friends to suggest answers.
- Give every child a turn to get a card and guess the Bible story person.

LEADER TIP!

Statements to write on cards for “Guess Who Said It”:

- “I can gather grain that the workers leave behind.” (Ruth)
- “She is Naomi’s daughter-in-law and she is a hard worker.” (worker in Boaz’s field)
- “You have been kind to Naomi.” (Boaz)
- “Continue to work in my field.” (Boaz)
- “Boaz is in our family.” (Naomi)

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Gather children in a circle and sing together. Play songs from Music & Print Extras.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Display the Story Picture as you tell highlights of the Bible story. Comment that God loves and cares for families, and He blesses many families with children.
- Ask a child to come to the front of the circle and point to Obed in the picture. Say: “Boaz and Ruth had a son, and his name was Obed.”
- Say: “Families can be different, but all families are special.”
- Encourage preschoolers to tell about their families, but do not pressure children.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Say: “The Book of Ruth is in the Old Testament part of the Bible. We find today’s Bible story in the Book of Ruth.”
- Place a marker in the Bible at Psalm 127:3.
- Play music and pass the Bible around the circle. Stop the music and tell the child holding the Bible to stand.
- Lead children to say the Bible verse and reference. Mention that the Bible verse is from another book in the Old Testament.

PRAY

- Thank God for families. Ask God to help families love and care for one another.