



## Session 10



# BOAZ, THE FAMILY REDEEMER

## Ruth 3–4

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

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Ruth 3–4

**MEMORY VERSE:** Psalm 23:1

**BIBLE VERSE:** Titus 2:14

**TEXT TRUTH:** God is always at work.

**BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT:** Begins to know some of the books of the Bible in order and pronounces names of some Bible books. Begins to find the names of prominent Bible people in the books where their stories are recorded: Ruth (Ruth). Becomes familiar with the contents of specific books.

### BIBLE STUDY

(35 MINUTES)

- Jump In:** *variety of building supplies such as: blocks, large craft sticks, chenille stems, index cards, plastic interlocking blocks, sturdy tape; Bible Timeline for Kids; “Christ the Redeemer” (Slide)*
- Examine the Text:** *“Bridges Around the World” (Poster Pack), “Bridge Descriptions” (Printable), tape, adult scissors, “Ruth” (Books of the Bible Posters), “Text Truth 10” (Slide), Family Cards, Bibles*
- Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location video*

- Memory Verse:**

*“Psalm 23:1” (Poster Pack), small dry erase boards, dry erase markers, (Optional: music)*

- Prayer:** *none*

### APPLY THE TRUTH

(20 MINUTES)

- Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- Review:** *painter’s tape, “Review Questions” and “The Gospel” (Printables), “Christ in Context: Ruth” (Poster Pack)*
- Tech Connect** *(Optional): a device with the LifeWay Kids app*

### ACTIVITIES

(20 MINUTES)

- Bible Skills:** *large craft sticks, permanent marker, “Bible Books” (Books of the Bible Posters)*
- Move:** *a large, clear area to play*
- Make:** *copy paper, black markers, colored pencils in spring colors*
- Explore:** *“Dr. Pepper Photos” and “Tanzania True/False” (Printables)*

Leaders, grow on the go! Listen to session-by-session training every week on Ministry Grid, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, LifeWay’s Digital Pass, or visit [goexplorethebible.com/kids-training](http://goexplorethebible.com/kids-training).

## BOAZ, THE FAMILY REDEEMER

### Ruth 3–4

*Naomi knew that Boaz was one of the family redeemers. He could help Naomi and Ruth. So Naomi made a plan. She had Ruth wash and wear her best clothes. Then she sent Ruth to ask Boaz to be their family redeemer. If he agreed, he would buy some land that Naomi needed to sell and Boaz would also marry Ruth.*

*Ruth did as Naomi instructed. Boaz explained there was a closer family redeemer and first, Boaz had to give the other man the option to redeem Ruth and Naomi. Boaz gave Ruth some barley and sent her back to Naomi. Ruth told Naomi everything that had happened. Naomi responded, “He won’t rest until he takes care of this today.”*

*Boaz went to the gate of the town to wait for the family redeemer. When the redeemer arrived, Boaz asked him to sit down along with 10 of the town’s elders.*

*He told the man, “Naomi has returned home. She is selling a piece of land that belonged to her husband. I wanted to tell you so you could buy it back here in the presence of the elders. If you want to redeem it, do. If you do not, tell me and I will redeem it.”*

*The man responded, “I want to redeem it.”*

*Then Boaz added, “When you redeem the land from Naomi, you must marry Ruth from Moab.”*

*The redeemer changed his mind. The man did not want to marry Ruth and told Boaz, “Take it, because I can’t redeem it.” To make the deal official, the redeemer removed his sandal and told Boaz to buy the land.*

*Boaz immediately told the elders of the town that he was redeeming the land Naomi had and was marrying Ruth.*

*So Boaz married Ruth and they had a baby boy named Obed. The women of the town told Naomi, “Praise God. He has not left you without a family redeemer. God will always care for you.”*

*God had not forgotten Naomi and her family. Later, Obed had a son named Jesse. Then Jesse had a son named David. David was a king of Israel and was a part of the family of Jesus.*

### CHRIST IN CONTEXT:

The Book of Ruth is a beautiful picture of redemption and grace. God extended grace through Ruth to Naomi and redeemed Ruth and Naomi through Boaz. While Boaz redeemed Naomi and Ruth’s earthly inheritance, he could not redeem anyone from sin. God extended grace and redemption by sending His Son, Jesus, to be our Redeemer. He paid the price for our sin and secured our future with God.

### DON'T FORGET TO SEND HOME THESE FAMILY RESOURCES EACH WEEK:

- “Explore the Bible at Home” (Printables)
- Explore the Bible: Kids Family Cards

## BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Jump In: variety of building supplies such as: blocks, large craft sticks, chenille stems, index cards, plastic interlocking blocks, sturdy tape; *Bible Timeline for Kids*; “Christ the Redeemer” (Slide)
- Examine the Text: “Bridges Around the World” (Poster Pack), “Bridge Descriptions” (Printable), tape, adult scissors, “Ruth” (Books of the Bible Posters), “Text Truth 10” (Slide), Family Cards, Bibles
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: “Psalm 23:1” (Poster Pack), small dry erase boards, dry erase markers, (Optional: music)
- Prayer: none

Need an Opening Activity? Choose one of the activities in the *Activities* section and adapt it to introduce the session.

### JUMP IN

- Greet your kids as they arrive. Ask your kids to form groups of three or four. Instruct the kids that they are going to build a bridge. Allow kids to use any of the supplies that you gathered.
- Begin: “Who can remember what book of the Bible we are studying? Did you know that Ruth is one of two books in the Bible that is named after a woman? Let’s look at our timeline and learn a little more about Ruth.”
- Refer to the timeline. Ask a kid to read the “Who was Ruth?” section.
- Continue: “You made some amazing creations with your supplies. What is the purpose of a bridge? A bridge connects a road or path across an obstacle. Did you know that we all sin and because of our sin we can’t have a relationship with God? God knew that we would sin. However, **God is always at work**. God had a plan and part of that plan was Ruth. Ruth is an ancestor of Jesus.”
- Display the “Christ the Redeemer” slide.
- Continue: “Our object this week is statue of Jesus. It is in Brazil, which is in South America. When we see our object, we can remember that we all sin. Jesus is our “bridge” that connects us to God. We can look at our object and be thankful that God had a plan and part of that plan included Ruth. We can remember that **God is always at work!** Let’s learn more!”

### EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Display the “Bridges Around the World” poster. Using the “Bridge Descriptions,” give each child either a length or year and ask them to decide what year each bridge was built and how long each bridge is.
- Say: “There are so many cool bridges found around the world. A bridge connects a road or path across an obstacle. Our biggest obstacle, or problem, is that we all sin. We all make bad choices. Thank goodness God had a plan. That plan included Jesus. But before Jesus, there was Ruth.”
- Display the “Ruth” poster.
- Continue: “Let’s take our Bibles and find the Book of Ruth. Is Ruth in the Old or New Testament? Find Ruth 3 in your Bible. Our ‘Ruth’ poster tells us that ‘Ruth was written to tell the story of David’s great-grandmother and her husband Boaz. Through Ruth and Boaz, we see a glimpse of the redemption God will provide through Jesus.’”
- Tell the Bible story in your own words. A Bible story page has been provided for you to use as a guide.
- Ask a volunteer to read Ruth 3:11-13. Ask: “What did Boaz promise to do? He promised to redeem Ruth and Naomi. When it says Boaz was going to redeem Ruth, it meant he was going to take responsibility for

the care of Ruth and Naomi. He had the opportunity to buy Naomi's land, but he also had to marry Ruth. Boaz was willing to do this, except there was another man who was a closer relative than him."

- Ask a volunteer to read Ruth 4:6-8. Ask: "Did the closer relative want to redeem Ruth? No, he gave permission to Boaz to redeem Naomi's land and marry Ruth."
- Display the Text Truth.
- Continue: "Naomi knew that Boaz was a family redeemer. Ruth asked Boaz to redeem Naomi's land and to take care of them. This was all part of God's plan. **God is always at work.** This is our Text Truth this week. Just as God had a plan to save Ruth and Naomi, God had a plan to save us, too! We must admit we sin, believe in Jesus, and ask Jesus to forgive us for our sin. Jesus is our Redeemer. Jesus is our bridge, so that we can have a relationship with God."
- Distribute the Family Cards to each boy and girl.
- Conclude: "This week, take your cards and tell your families about Ruth. Our object this week is a great reminder of God's love for us and how **God is always at work.**"

### PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 10 video.
- Ask: "Who did Joel meet? What did Aaron do before he became a pastor? How did God work in Ruth's life?"

### MEMORY VERSE

- *Bonus Verse Option: The Memory Verse activity each week is focused on the monthly Memory Verse, Psalm 23:1. If your kids quickly memorize the Memory Verse, you may opt to challenge them to learn an additional weekly Bonus Verse. This week's Bonus Verse is Titus 2:14.*

- Display the "Psalm 23:1" poster. Say the verse several times using short segments. Ask your kids to repeat the segments after you. Instruct your boys and girls to form their groups of three or four again.
- Give each group a small dry erase board and a dry erase marker. Ask the kids to write one word of the verse and then pass it to the next kid. Continue play until the whole verse has been written on the small board. Ask each group to stand when they have completed the activity. Encourage them to say the verse repeatedly to help their team members.

### PRAYER

- Remind kids that our object is a great reminder that God had a plan for Ruth. God's plan was for Boaz to care for and love Ruth. God had a plan for us too. God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. God worked in Ruth and Naomi's life. God is working in our lives, too! **God is always at work.**
- Pray with your group.

## APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

### TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Review: painter's tape, "Review Questions" and "The Gospel" (Printables), "Christ in Context: Ruth" (Poster Pack)
- Tech Connect (Optional): a device with the LifeWay Kids app

### EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids find today's pages, "Boaz, the Family Redeemer."
- Invite kids to read "Jesus' Family Tree."
- Guide kids to examine the Bible pictures to discover "What's Different?"
- Ask a volunteer to read "What Is a Family Redeemer?"
- Review today's object, "Christ the Redeemer."
- Assist boys and girls in completing "Name That Object" to reveal a message about redemption. (*Answer: Jesus gave His life to redeem us from our sin.*)

### REVIEW

- Using the painter's tape, make long paths for kids to cross. Ask your kids to form two groups. Ask questions from the "Review Questions." Instruct them to cross the "bridge" as quickly as possible if they know the answer to the questions. Allow the first child across to answer the question. Continue play. Review sessions 9 and 10. Continue play with questions from other sessions to play the game longer.
- Display the "Christ in Context: Ruth" and read it aloud.
- Use this opportunity to share the gospel with your group. Use the "The Gospel" printable for a guide.

### TECH CONNECT (OPTIONAL)

- Prior to Small Group, download the LifeWay Kids app. Use the activity labeled "Explorer Plus" in the Explore the Bible: Kids section of the app.

## ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.



### BRIDGE

*Tools: large craft sticks, permanent marker, "Bible Books" (Books of the Bible Posters)*

- *Before group, write the names of each Bible book on the large craft sticks. Make two sets. Display the "Bible Books" poster on a focal wall.*
- Give each group a set of craft sticks. Tell your kids that the names of the Bible books are written on the craft sticks. Instruct your kids to put the sticks in order from one wall to the opposite side. They may need to make two bridges, one Old Testament and one New Testament. Instruct them to cross the room with the craft sticks touching tip to tip. Encourage your kids to use the "Bible Books" poster for help, if needed. Assist groups as needed. Review the books by saying each Bible book in order.
- Say: "The Bible tells us all about God's plan for us. **God is always at work!** We can learn all about His amazing love for us when we read the Bible. I want to encourage you to read the story of Ruth with your families this week!"



### REDEEMER

*Tools: a large, clear area to play*

- *Option: Give each kid a squirt of hand sanitizer before and after playing the game.*
- Ask kids to form two groups. Let the kids race around the room and try to tag the opposite team. Instruct your kids that when they are tagged, they must freeze. Tell your boys and girls that they can redeem a frozen team member by telling them, "You are redeemed!" Remind your kids that they should tag friends softly and if they are too rough, they will not be able to play.
- Say: "God had a plan for Ruth and Naomi. God's plan included Boaz caring for and loving Ruth. God had a plan for us, too. Ruth was a part of that plan. Ruth is an ancestor of Jesus. Jesus is our Redeemer. God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. **God is always at work!**"



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

*Tools: copy paper, black markers, colored pencils in spring colors*

- Give each kid a piece of copy paper. Inform your kids that they are going to create a piece of artwork using their name. Instruct your kids to place the paper horizontally. Ask your kids to write the first letter of their name in a capital letter using a black marker. Tell them they need to write it large. Ask your kids to turn their paper to the right and write the next letter of their name in a capital letter. Ask your kids to turn the piece of paper to the right again and write the third letter of their name. Continue turning the paper to the right each time until each child has written each letter of their name. The letters will be written on top of each other. When they are finished, ask the kids to use the colored pencils to color in all the white spaces. It should make a very pretty design.
- Option: For younger kids, ask them to write their name in block (*or regular*) letters across the page without turning the page for each letter.
- Say: "God had a plan for Ruth. Boaz saved Ruth and Naomi. Ruth is a part of Jesus' family. God had a plan for us, too. God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us. When you look at your name paper you can remember that God is working in your life too. **God is always at work!**"



## MEET DR. PEPPER

*Tools: "Dr. Pepper Photos" and "Tanzania True/False" (Printables)*

- Read today's mission story:
  - ▶ As a missionary doctor, Larry Pepper cares for the sick and hurting, and he always makes sure that what he is doing demonstrates the love of God to others. The gospel is the reason he and his wife, Sally, are living and working in Western Tanzania.
  - ▶ When Dr. Pepper was a kid, he wanted to be an astronaut. When Dr. Pepper grew up that's exactly what he did! He didn't believe he would ever leave his work at NASA, until he began to realize that he cared more about who he was as a flight surgeon instead of who he was as a follower of Jesus Christ. One day, Dr. Pepper was sitting in his living room when He made a very important decision. He chose to become a missionary.
  - ▶ Since becoming a missionary, the Peppers have lived in several countries in Africa. Now, they live in a part of Tanzania where many people need good healthcare but most importantly, they are in need of a Savior. Most people there do not believe that Jesus is God's Son and that He came to save people from their sins.
  - ▶ Dr. Pepper and his wife, Sally, have seen how helping people who are hurting can give them opportunities to share the gospel too. God has used the Peppers to start a church and make disciples.
- Ask kids to stand. Read the statements about Tanzania one at a time. Direct kids to sit if they think the statement is true, or stay standing if they think it's false.
- Close in prayer, asking God to help the people of Tanzania to hear about Him.