

RUTH

PLEASE NOTE!

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Introduction

The story of Ruth comes from the period of the Judges, which extended from the death of Joshua to the time of Saul. It was an era of political decay, moral degradation, and spiritual degeneration. In spite of the national apostasy of Israel, there were still those who remained true to the Lord God. The book of Ruth records the story of one such family.

God often used a famine as a judgment and a means to turn His apostate people back to Himself. During one of these famines, Elimelech took his family away from Bethlehem, the house of bread, into the land of Moab.

The Moabites were idolaters and enemies of Israel in spite of their distant blood relationship. They sprang from the offspring of Lot by his eldest daughter (Genesis 19:36-37). Moab was on the route of the children of Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land, but the Moabites blocked the way. It was Balak, the king of Moab, who hired Balaam to curse Israel. The children of Israel began to mix with the Moabites and indulged in the most grievous sins (Numbers 22-25). The Moabites were barred from participation in the life and worship of Israel (Deuteronomy 23:3-6), and became the natural enemies of Israel after they entered Canaan.

Even though Elimelech and his family stayed in Moab, they must have given some evidence of the true and living God. And through this family Ruth, the Moabitess (the central figure of the book) was led to the Lord and into the ancestry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It has been said that there is nothing in human literature more beautiful than Ruth's vow. It is sublime. Ruth chose God, and He chose her in the greatest plan of the ages - namely, the bringing of Jesus Christ into the world. When Ruth chose to follow Naomi she made a momentous decision for Jehovah and the true worship of Him. This noble girl made seven statements in a vow which she never broke.

- 1 She asked Naomi to desist in requesting her to leave her, for she was determined to follow.
- 2 She was determined to go where Naomi went.
- 3 She intended to live wherever Naomi lived.
- 4 She was leaving her people and choosing Naomi's people forever.
- 5 She was making a decision for God, leaving the idolatry of Moab permanently and putting her trust in Jehovah forever. This was a supreme decision for Ruth - the primary point and the highest affirmation of the seven statements made.
- 6 This was a decision for life - she would be buried with Naomi.
- 7 Ruth confirmed it all with an oath.

(Thoughts concerning Ruth's vow were taken from "Ruth, The Romance of Redemption" by J. Vernon McGee. Used by permission.)

In the fields of Boaz

The harvest was a time of great joy, a season with definite religious meaning. A good harvest brought real joy to the people and they expressed that joy in a sort of festival.

The barley harvest usually came in April. Reapers cut the grain with sickles or scythes, after which they bound it into bundles or sheaves. Gleaners followed after the reapers. There was a law regarding gleaning which showed God's great concern for the poor among His people.

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest” (Leviticus 19:9).

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleaning from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the Lord your God”(Leviticus 23:22).

After the grain was cut and tied into bundles it was carried to the threshing floor, a public place. The threshing floor was situated so as to get the full benefit of the winds. An area was levelled, stones removed, and the ground watered and rolled to make it hard and smooth. Here the sheaves of grain were placed. To separate the grain from the stalks, usually animals were driven over the grain.

After the grain had been tramped out, winnowing began. This was often done at night to get the full benefit of the winds. The grain was picked up with some instrument and pitched into the wind that the chaff might blow away.

Many people gathered at the threshing floor. Often whole families came together. Although Boaz was a rich man, he joined his workmen in this happy occasion. The labourers would work until the wind abated, often far into the night, then have a meal right at the threshing floor and retire for the night right there. The presence of the workmen through the night guaranteed safety from thieves.

Teaching Bible truths

We fall short of our responsibility as teachers if we only tell children Bible stories. It is essential that children learn the truths those stories were written down to teach us, and that we then take them a step further to show what that truth means to them in their daily lives. Of course, we cannot in one lesson cover all the teaching any particular story would provide, so in each of these lessons one central truth has been chosen. The teaching of the central truth has been woven throughout the narrative, but to help you in your preparation the teaching sections have been marked “CT”. These are also marked out in the lesson plan.

You will notice that the central truths are marked with a “U” or an “S” to show the kind of children the truth is applied to - unsaved or saved. This is also made clear in the text by using phrases such as, “If you have not trusted the Lord Jesus to forgive your sin ...” or, “Christian, you ...”.

The application of the truth has been highlighted with a line beside the text. You may feel it necessary to adapt the applications to better suit the children you teach. For example, the application may use a boy's name, yet you have only girls present. It could be that the application given is more applicable to older children, while yours are very young. Make the changes you feel are necessary. The important thing is that the Word of God is applied to their lives.

Making yourself available

When you present the Gospel message, there will be children who will respond to it independently. They may or may not at a later date tell you that they have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. There will, however, be others who would like some help. They may have questions to ask; they may need help or encouragement in knowing what to say.

As you teach the saved children, there may be times when they would like advice in a difficult situation; they may need clarification on how a particular lesson applies to their daily lives; they may find themselves

in a situation where they do not know what the Bible says they should do; they may want to share a difficulty so that you can pray for them, especially if you are the only Christian support they have.

For these reasons it is important that the children know you are available to talk. It is also important that they know when and where to go when they want to talk to you. Finally, it is essential that unsaved children do not confuse coming to the Lord Jesus with coming to you.

To help you meet these needs you will find written into the text of lessons 2, 3 and 5 examples of how to let the children know when and where they can speak to you if they wish. You will find these marked in the margin with “Make yourself available for personal counselling”. In lesson 2 you will be making yourself available to the Christian child, and in lessons 3 and 5 to the unsaved child. With lessons 1 and 4 examples are given of other times in the programme when you could give the children that information.

In all cases you should not make yourself available at the same time as giving the Gospel invitation, so that the children never get the impression that they cannot come to Christ without coming through you, or that they are saved simply by waiting to speak to you.

An example for use with the unsaved child

“Do you really want to live for the Lord Jesus, but don’t know how to come to Him? I will be glad to explain it from the Bible; come and see me. I’ll be standing by that tree when the meeting is over. Remember, I can’t take away your sin - only the Lord Jesus can do that - but I will be glad to help you understand better how you can come to Him. Just come and sit with me under that tree.”

An example for use with the saved child

“If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and you have never told me about it, please let me know. I’ll be standing beside the piano after the meeting is finished. I would like to know if you too have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, so that I can pray for you and perhaps help you.”

How children learn

Children (and indeed adults!) remember very little of what they only hear - about 10%. If they hear and see, the amount remembered rises to 50%. Your teaching will increase in effectiveness as you use **pictures** and **wordstrips** while you speak. To attain the maximum benefit - remembering 70% - the children need to do as well as hear and see. You can involve the children during the lesson by asking **questions** (examples are given in the lesson texts) and by organising older children to have verses ready to **read** out in the course of the lesson rather than reading them all yourself. To further reinforce the teaching, a **carry-over activity** has been suggested at the end of each lesson. During the time the children are working on these activities, you and your helpers have a natural opportunity to talk about what has been taught. **Review questions** are also provided (see note below).

Memory verses

A Scripture verse to teach the children is suggested for each lesson. If you are teaching the lessons as a series over five weeks it would be advisable to choose two or three verses to teach well, which the children will then remember. If you try to teach all the verses, the children may not really know any of them well.

Extra visual aids

On a piece of card print out the words of the central truth for each lesson; back it with flannel or pieces of flocked paper. (Use lower case letters, so that even the younger ones can read the words easily.) Put this card on the board at the beginning of the class or when you first teach the central truth in the lesson.

Guidelines for preparing wordstrips

Print clearly using lower case letters, except where capitals are necessary. Make the print large and bold enough to be easily seen. Make sure the words are not too close together.

If you have access to a computer you can easily and quickly produce good quality wordstrips, but remember to use a font that is clear for young readers.

Practise placing the flannelgraph figures

Practise using the visuals and changing the scenes before you go to teach. Become thoroughly familiar with all the figures and know when you need to use them in the lesson. Scenic backgrounds can be purchased to use with these lessons. We give suggestions before each scene, but they are by no means essential. All your teaching can be done on one plain flannel.

Additional helps

Along the left and right margins additional helps are provided, giving background information and optional ideas on how to add interest to your lesson.

These ideas are designed to incorporate different learning styles. For effective learning some children need to see or write, others need to hear or speak, others need to touch or handle, and still others need active participation.

You can use these ideas in your club as time allows.

Review questions

For each lesson some review questions are given. These can be used after the lesson or the following week, before teaching the new lesson.

Review time, if conducted in an orderly way, can be an ideal opportunity to reinforce what you have taught, while still being fun for the children. You can use this time ...

- 1 to find out how much the children are understanding and remembering.
- 2 to help you as a teacher to know what you need to emphasise more so that the children will remember better.
- 3 to provide a time of fun in the class. The children like competition and look forward to this part of the programme. But it is more than just a game: it is a time of learning.

In this textbook only questions on the lesson are included. It would be profitable to include questions also on the songs, verse and whatever else you teach. In this way the children realise that every part of the programme is important.

Overview

Lesson	Central truth	Application	Memory verse
Ruth chooses the God of Israel Ruth 1:1-18	Make wise choices (as Ruth did)	Unsaved: Choose to “call upon God” (Psalm 55:16) Saved: Follow God’s directions - your choices affect others too	“As for me, I will call upon God, and the Lord shall save me” Psalm 55:16
Ruth the outsider Ruth 1:19 - 2:20	God is gracious	Unsaved: Take God at His word and experience His grace Saved: Be thankful to God for His grace and be gracious to others	“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” Ephesians 2:8-9
Ruth learns about the kinsman-redeemer Ruth 2:20 - 3:7	The Lord Jesus is the only Redeemer	Unsaved: Come to Jesus and trust Him to be your Redeemer	“Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works” Titus 2:14
Ruth finds a redeemer Ruth 3:8 - 4:12	The Lord Jesus was willing to be our Redeemer	Unsaved: Trust Him and then you will belong to God	Review Titus 2:14
Ruth enters the family of the redeemer Ruth 4:13-22	God’s plans are wonderful	Unsaved: When you trust Jesus as your Redeemer, you begin to discover God’s plan Saved: As you follow the Lord, He makes you like Jesus	“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil ...” Jeremiah 29:11

Lesson 1

Ruth chooses the God of Israel

Scripture for teachers

Ruth 1:1-18

Central truth

Make wise choices (*where applicable in the lesson, add "as Ruth did"*)

Application

Unsaved: Choose to "call upon God" (Psalm 55:16)

Saved: Follow God's directions - your choices affect others too

Note to teacher

During a time of famine, Elimelech took his family away from Bethlehem ("house of bread") into the land of Moab. Here he died; his two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, married girls of Moab, and later died.

Old and weary, Elimelech's widow, Naomi, longed to return to Bethlehem. When she heard that the famine was ended, she decided to go home. The two daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah, decided to go with her. Naomi commended the girls for their loyalty but urged them to turn back to their own people where they would find other husbands and other homes.

Orpah returned, but Ruth would not be dissuaded. Her vow, made in the crisis moment of her life, called one of the great gems of literature, was really her choice of the Lord God of Israel and His worship. When Naomi saw that Ruth could not be dissuaded, she permitted her to return to Bethlehem with her. Subsequent lessons will show how God redeemed Ruth and gave her a part in His plan of bringing His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ into the world.

Memory verse

"As for me, I will call upon God, and the Lord shall save me" Psalm 55:16

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5 and 1-6
- ◆ Wordstrip: "Make wise choices"
- ◆ Map showing Bethlehem and Moab

Lesson outline

Introduction

What can/can't a robot do?

Progression of events

- | | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 1 | Famine in Israel | CT |
| 2 | Elimelech hears there is food in Moab | CT |
| 3 | He and his family go to Moab | |
| 4 | Later ... | |
| | - Elimelech dies | CT |
| | - Chilion and Mahlon marry | |
| | - Chilion and Mahlon die | |
| 5 | Naomi hears the famine in Israel is over | |
| 6 | She decides to return | CTS |
| 7 | Her daughters-in-law accompany her | |
| 8 | Orpah returns to Moab | CTU |

Climax

Ruth makes her choice CTU

Conclusion

Naomi and Ruth journey towards Bethlehem CTU

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“As for me, I will call upon God, and the Lord shall save me”
Psalm 55:16

Background information

God - Elohim, meaning “the strong one”, is a plural which in Hebrew means three or more. It implies the triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

Lord - Jehovah, “the self-existent one”, the One Who is, the One Who shall reveal Himself, is the Saviour. Our salvation required a divine sacrifice. As Redeemer, Jehovah revealed His holiness, His hatred and judgment of sin, and His love for sinners.

Introduction

What kinds of things can a really strong person help you with? Perhaps to lift your bicycle into the back of the car, if you are taking it with you on a trip.

Use other ideas if you wish.

A strong person can help you to do things you are not able to do by yourself. In today’s Bible verse about God, His name really means “the strong One”.

Presentation

Ask a child to read the verse from your Bible, then repeat the verse with the class from the visual.

Explanation

As for me - here we make a choice. You must make a choice for yourself, I must make a choice for myself. “As for me” means that no matter what someone else does, this is my choice.

I will - I have made up my mind, and I will do it. No-one can make the choice for me.

call upon God - No matter what I need, I will call upon God, the strong One, the One Who can do anything.

the Lord shall save me - The Lord is another name for God. We call Him “the Lord God”, or “God”, or “the Lord”. The Lord means “the One Who is”. He always was, and He always will be. The Lord made everything in the world, but nobody made the Lord God. And the Lord will save me!

The suggestions for teaching the memory verse will need to be adapted according to the age of your group.

For smaller children, it may be enough to say that the Lord is another name for God.

Sometimes we call Him “the Lord God”, and sometimes “God” or “Lord”.

Application

Unsaved: If you have never received the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you must first of all call upon God to save you from your sins.

Saved: If you have received the Lord Jesus, you are God's child, and when you don't know what to do, ask God and He will show you. If you want to do something that is wrong, ask God to help you not to and He will. Whatever you need, call upon God for He is the One Who can help you. When you call upon God, it shows that you believe Him and want to do what will please Him.

Repetition

"Every other word"

After repeating the verse a few times, have the children say only every other word aloud, starting with "As". Clap the missing words. The next time start with the word "for".

If anyone says the wrong word aloud, they are "out". Continue until there is only one child left (or only three children left, for example, depending on the size of your group).

Repeat the verse properly again at the end, saying all the words aloud.

Lesson

Flashcard 1-1

What is this? Yes - it is a robot. What can it do? What can't it do?

Allow the children to answer.

You are different from a robot in many ways. One way is that you can make choices. God made you in that way. He made all people with the ability to choose. Let's think of some choices you have made already today.

Allow for discussion - eg to get up, to shower or not, what to have for breakfast, etc.

Sometimes choices can be hard. Elimelech and Naomi discovered that.

Flashcard 1-2

Show Bethlehem on a map.

CT

They lived in Bethlehem. They had land there and everything seemed to be going well. But it only seemed like that, for all over the land people were choosing to do what they wanted, rather than what God had said. They did not love and obey what God had commanded them, rather they did what they wanted. God was displeased and sent a famine. Crops failed and there was little food. You may choose your own way rather than God's, but God knows and He deals with it. The people should have known that but they didn't seem to care.

Life was difficult when the famine came.

"What will we do?" Elimelech and Naomi asked each other.

They had two sons, Mahlon and Chilion.

It was hard to watch them when they had scarcely enough to eat.

Show Moab on a map.

"I heard today that there's bread in Moab," was the news Elimelech brought home one day. "I just don't know!"

It was a hard choice - how could they be sure what was right? Naomi and Elimelech were Jews and should have known what God had said. He had promised to care for His people if they obeyed Him. He didn't want His people going to the country of Moab where the people worshipped other gods and where enemies of God's people lived. So what would be the right choice? Yes, to stay and depend on God to care. Is that what they did? No!

"I think we'll go to Moab - just for a short time," Elimelech decided. "At least we'll all get food there."

They made their choice. Was it a good one?

Allow children the time to discuss this and reach the conclusion that it was a bad choice because it was against what God had said.

It was against what God had said.

Yet, we find it so easy to choose wrong, don't we? We are born that way. Listen to what God says about lying.

Read Proverbs 12:22a from your Bible.

Yet, how many times have you chosen to lie? You did not do your homework, but you told the teacher you forgot it. You told your dad you had fed the dog, but you hadn't. You said you would tidy your room, but you didn't. Or perhaps you have chosen to use bad language. Is that God's way? No - another wrong choice. Going against God's way is easy but it is always foolish and bad. That was how it was for Elimelech and Naomi.

Soon they were packing up their belongings. They said goodbye to their relatives and friends.

"We'll be back soon," they may have said as they set off for Moab.

No visual

When they arrived it was just as they had heard - there was food! How they must have enjoyed their first meal. It seemed they had made the right choice. They set up home and everything seemed to be going well. Later, however, Elimelech died.

Naomi was very, very sad. But at least she had her two boys who were now grown up.

They could work and provide food.

Down there in Moab, they too had to make choices. Whom would they marry? They didn't go back to Bethlehem to find Israelite brides. They both chose to marry local girls, girls from Moab.

Flashcard 1-3

If Elimelech had stayed in Bethlehem, Mahlon and Chilion would never have faced this choice, but the big decision their father had made affected them too. Your choices will affect others.

If you choose to go to discos, your friend or your brother or sister may go too and get into bad company. If you choose to be mean to someone, others may join in too. If you choose to read the Bible and go to church because you love the Lord Jesus, your parents will see that following the Lord Jesus means a lot to you. Suppose you choose to be friendly to a new child in your class. She speaks and looks different because she is from another country. Who will be affected by your choice?

Allow children time to discuss this.

Yes, our choices make a difference to others! Your good choices will affect others. Your bad choices will too.

CT

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

If possible, indicate their journey on a map.

CT

Show card with central truth: "Make wise choices".

Because they lived in Moab, Mahlon and Chilion married Moabites, called Ruth and Orpah.

Then both Mahlon and Chilion died.

No visual

Naomi was heartbroken. How she missed her husband and sons! There was no-one to care for her. In those days there was no pension or help from the government.

One day in Moab she heard some news.

“There is food again in Bethlehem. The Lord has been kind to His people there.”

Should she go back? Naomi must have thought a lot before she made her choice. What would she have thought about? It had been ten long years since she had left Bethlehem. What would it be like there now? It would be a long journey. Even in Bethlehem she would be poor, so poor.

“I will go back,” she decided. Perhaps she realised that coming to Moab had been a bad choice.

She told her daughters-in-law, “I have decided to return to Bethlehem.”

“We’ll go with you,” they replied.

I’m sure Naomi was nervous about returning. She had been quite well-off, an attractive woman with a family when she left Bethlehem. She was returning with nothing; she looked much older; she looked very worn and sad - but return she must.

Was she right or wrong? Yes, I am sure she was right. She realised that she and her husband had made a big mistake, she would go back to her own land and to her own people.

Flashcard 1-4

CTS

Perhaps there is a Christian boy or girl here today and you have made wrong choices. You have chosen bad company, you have chosen to disobey your parents, you have chosen to stop reading the Bible. You are a disobedient Christian and today God has shown you how wrong and foolish you have been. If you are truly sorry about making those wrong choices, tell God you are. Tell Him now in the quietness of your heart that you are turning from those wrong things. You may even have to put things right and say sorry to your Mum, Dad, sister or friend, but do it. Come back to God. He will forgive you. Listen to His promise in the Bible.

Read Isaiah 43:25 from your Bible.

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

If you would like to talk to me, or pray with me about this, I will be ... (*designate place*). God will help you make wise choices in the future. Choose to come back to God today. Return as Naomi did.

Before they had gone far on the 85 kilometre (53 mile) trek to Bethlehem, Naomi turned to Ruth and Orpah and said, "You must go back to your own people and family."

She felt there would be no life for them in Bethlehem. No-one would want to marry them. They would always be outsiders. She kissed Ruth and Orpah and thanked them for all their kindness. Then they all began to cry, it was a hard goodbye.

Ruth and Orpah said to Naomi, "But we are going to go with you."

Naomi shook her head. "I have no sons for you to marry - there will be no-one to take care of you. Go back, my daughters, why will you go with me? I can do nothing for you. The hand of the Lord is against me."

Flashcard 1-5

Now it was Ruth and Orpah's turn to make a hard choice. Would they go back, or would they go with Naomi?

Suddenly Orpah kissed Naomi again and turned back along the road she had come.

She went back to her people and to the idols they worshipped. It was a hard choice. She went to her own people and lost the chance to get to know more about the one true God, of Whom she had learned a little.

Perhaps you are like Orpah. You know something of the one true God. You know that His only Son has died for sin. He can take all your sin away and make you a new, better person. But you have chosen not to listen. If you go on like that you will never know God, you will never be one of His people, you'll never be in Heaven.

That will be your own choice, a wrong, foolish choice, like Orpah's. Ruth and Naomi probably watched as she walked away.

Flashcard 1-6

Now it was Ruth's turn. She held on to Naomi.

Gently Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. Go with her."

What would Ruth's decision be? Let's see from God's Word.

Read Ruth 1:16-17 from your Bible.

Ruth looked straight into Naomi's eyes. "Oh don't, don't tell me to leave you - nothing shall make me leave you. I'm coming with you.

CTU

Show card with central truth: "Make wise choices".

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

Where you go, I will go and I will live where you live. Your people will be my people and your God shall be my God. I'm going to die where you die and I will be buried beside you. If anything but death parts you and me, may God punish me very severely. Nothing but death will part us. Don't, don't ask me to go!"

Naomi did not argue about it. She was very thankful for such a daughter-in-law. Ruth had heard of the true, living God from Naomi and from her husband, and now she made her choice. She wanted the only true God to be her God, she wanted to be with His people. God had worked in Ruth's life so that she realised this was the right way, the only way for her. It would not be easy, but it was the right choice.

CTU

Perhaps you are not a child of God, you have never come to the Lord Jesus and trusted Him to make you right with God. Has God been showing you today, that you should trust the Lord Jesus? You know you may be teased, you may be the only Christian in your family.

Show card with central truth: "Make wise choices".

You know there will be changes in your life when the Lord Jesus takes charge; but this is the right choice, the one which God commands. Will you say, "As for me, I will call upon God and the Lord shall save me" (Psalm 55:16)?

As we leave Ruth and Naomi we ask what will happen when they get to Bethlehem? Will the people be glad to see her again? How will Ruth "the outsider" get on?

There were many choices for the people in today's story - choices for Elimelech and Naomi, Mahlon, Chilion, Orpah and Ruth to make.

CTU

Perhaps you think, "I'll not choose." By not choosing you do choose - you choose the wrong way.

Show card with central truth: "Make wise choices".

Be like Ruth, trust God. You might say something like this. "Lord I've gone my own way and often made wrong choices. I am very sorry. I am trusting the Lord Jesus to take away all my sin. Lord, please be my God today and forever."

"I will call upon God, and the Lord shall save me" (Psalm 55:16). This is God's way.

This is the right choice!

Review game

Question mark game

Make a large question mark (at least 45 cm/ 18 inches high) from corrugated or other heavy

Review questions

- 1 How are we different from a robot? (We can think and choose.)
- 2 Why are we like that? (God made us this way.)
- 3 Where did Elimelech and Naomi live at first? (Bethlehem.)
- 4 Why did they leave? (There was famine and they heard there was food in Moab.)

- 5 Why was this a foolish choice? (Moab was full of false gods.)
- 6 Who were Orpah and Ruth? (The Moabites Naomi's sons married.)
- 7 What sad things happened in Moab? (Elimelech, Mahlon and Chilion died.)
- 8 How could a Christian's choice affect other people? (Various answers. Examples in the text include: going to discos can encourage your friend to go too and get into bad company; being mean to someone and others join in; reading the Bible and going to church shows your parents that following the Lord Jesus means a lot to you; etc.)
- 9 What wise choice did Naomi make? (To return to Bethlehem.)
- 10 What choice did Orpah make? (To stay in Moab.)
- 11 What choice did Ruth make? (To go to Bethlehem; she chose Naomi's God and Naomi's people.)
- 12 What is the most important choice a person will ever make? (To trust the Lord Jesus and live for Him.)

Carry-over activity

Case study

Mary (ten years old) and Olga (eight) were sisters and had both been to a Christian camp. Mary had trusted the Lord and the two sisters had started going to church. But Olga was not yet saved.

Last Saturday Mary had finished off a last piece of homework, while Olga watched cartoons.

"We have to tidy our room. Let's get it over and done with," she suggested.

They did the job together until Olga went off in a huff, because she didn't want to empty the wastepaper basket. Mary stuck at the job until it was done.

After lunch they went to the park and met some friends. They had ice cream together. Alex had no money so Olga bought her an ice cream.

"We'd better get moving," Mary said. "We have to be home by 4.30 pm - Dad said so."

Olga didn't want to leave the fun, but Mary said, "We'll see you all next Saturday - some time, some place."

Olga gave in without a fuss and the two girls headed home.

Questions

- 1 What was the most important choice Mary had ever made?

card to use throughout the series. Paint or cover it with coloured paper.

Bore or cut several small round holes in it.

Photocopy the questions on page 45 and cut them apart. Roll each slip and place it in one of the holes.

Gauge the number of questions to use according to your situation. You may copy all the questions, but let the children choose only a few, as time and interest permit. Or select only a few to put in the board.

Keep the review time short and moving, with the children choosing and answering quickly.

If the child does not know the answer to his question, either let the class answer or fill in yourself.

- 2 Why was it the most important choice?
- 3 Why was it a good choice to go to church?
- 4 Did Olga make any good choices?
- 5 What choice made by Mary, influenced Olga?

Lesson 2

Ruth the outsider

Scripture for teachers

Ruth 1:19 - 2:20

Central truth

God is gracious

Application

Unsaved: Take God at His word and experience His grace

Saved: Be thankful to God for His grace and be gracious to others

Note to teacher

Naomi, accompanied by Ruth, returned to Bethlehem, where she lamented her desolate condition. Driven by their dire need, Ruth went into the field to glean and was led by the Lord into the field of Boaz, Elimelech's rich relative. Here she found grace with Boaz, and adequate provision. When Ruth returned home and told Naomi, Naomi began to see the hand of God in Ruth's life.

Memory verse

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” Ephesians 2:8-9

Visuals

- ◆ Flashcards: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4 and 2-5
- ◆ Wordstrip: “God is gracious”
- ◆ Picture of a mother hen with chicks

Lesson outline

Introduction

Have you ever been away from home for a long time?

Progression of events

- 1 Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem
- 2 Naomi - “Call me Mara” CT
- 3 Naomi and Ruth settle in
- 4 Ruth goes to glean in Boaz's field
- 5 Boaz greets his men CT
- 6 Boaz tells Ruth to stay in his fields CTS
- 7 Boaz gives Ruth food CTS

Climax

Ruth tells Naomi about her day in the fields

Conclusion

Naomi - “The Lord has not stopped being kind to us!” CTS, CTU

Teaching the memory verse

Memory verse

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” Ephesians 2:8-9

Introduction

What is a gift? Is it something you earn? Is it something you pay for?

Let the children answer.

Presentation

Ask a child to read the verse from your Bible, then repeat the verse with the class from the visual.

Explanation

For by grace - “Grace” means “getting something we haven’t earned, something we don’t even deserve”. It is God’s kindness. The Bible says that “There is none who does good, no, not one” (Romans 3:12b). We are all sinners (Romans 3:23). All those wrong things you do - lying, cheating, being mean, thinking bad things - are all sins. Sin is breaking God’s rules (1 John 3:4). God says sin must be punished and the punishment is death (Romans 6:23). This kind of death means being separated from God (not being able to go where God is) for God is pure and holy, and no sin can ever come where He is. But God loves us, and because of His grace (God’s kindness) He did something for us that we didn’t earn, or didn’t even deserve.

you have been saved - Because God love us, He sent His own dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die in our place. When the Lord Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment for our sins, so we could be saved from taking the punishment for our own sins. We don’t have to be forever separated from God.

through faith - “Faith” means “to believe, to trust in”. The Lord Jesus took the punishment for **your** sins. He died in **your** place.

To really show that it is not what we do that saves us, but what the Lord Jesus Christ did for us, God added ...

and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast - It isn’t anything you have done, or can do, that will save you from sin, so no-one can boast about what he has done.

Application

Unsaved: To be saved from your sins, you must believe that He died for **you**, and receive Him as your own Saviour.

Saved: Thank God for this wonderful gift of salvation through His Son.

Repetition

“Alternate phrases”

After the explanation, for variety divide the class in two groups, and let each group alternate saying a phrase:

“For by grace - you have been saved - through faith, - and that not of yourselves; - it is the gift of God, - not of works, - lest anyone should boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9.”

Repeat several times, alternating which group starts, and also letting all say it together.

Lesson

Have you ever been away from home for a long time?

Allow children to share their experiences.

How did you feel when you came home? How do you think Naomi felt as she and Ruth trekked towards Bethlehem?

It was harvest time now, and as Naomi and Ruth came near Bethlehem, they could see many fields of golden grain!

Flashcard 2-1

The people of Bethlehem were curious when they saw these two women coming towards the town. Who was the woman who looked so old, weary and unhappy, and the young stranger who was with her?

As the two travellers came nearer, someone asked, "Is this Naomi?" Those who had known her ten years before just couldn't believe it. "Is it really Naomi?" they asked.

Naomi replied, "Don't call me Naomi," (that means cheerful and friendly), "call me Mara." (Mara means bitter and unhappy.) "Call me Mara, for God has been unkind to me."

Naomi was thinking only of the sadness that had come into her life. She thought God had stopped being kind to her. Perhaps she didn't understand that it was because God loved her that He corrected her and He never stopped being kind.

CT

Often those who are God's children have disappointments and sad or difficult times. Often they cannot understand why, but we can be sure that God has not stopped being good and kind. The Bible says God is like that and He does not change. The Bible tells us that God is gracious (Psalm 145:8-9). "Gracious" means that God loves us even though we don't deserve His love. If a tramp came to your home and your Mum gave him a lovely meal, she would have been kind to him. But if he broke a window in your home and she still gave him a lovely meal, she would have been gracious to him. Grace is showing love to someone who has been bad and mean to you, love that is not deserved. That is what God's love is - no-one deserves it. You do not, I do not, Naomi did not. Naomi could not see that God was gracious.

She said, "I left Bethlehem with my husband and two sons. Now they are all dead. The Lord has brought me home without anything."

Naomi and Ruth found somewhere to live (perhaps it was Naomi's old home), but they were poor. Naomi must have thought of the time when the harvesters had worked Elimelech's land. Now she had the land but no harvest! She couldn't afford to have men working. How would she and Ruth get enough to survive?

Show card with central truth: "God is gracious".

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

Flashcard 2-2

There was a lot of activity in the harvest field. The barley was ripe for cutting. God had commanded the Israelites that after the reapers had cut the grain and put it into bundles for their masters, the poor people could go in and glean (pick up what they could find). Ruth knew that she had to do something for herself and her mother-in-law.

“Let me go into the barley field, wherever they let me glean, and I will bring us food to eat” (from Ruth 2:2).

Naomi may have wished it could be different but she allowed Ruth to go. Ruth headed for the fields. Men and women were cutting barley and tying it into bundles. She really felt an outsider. Which field should she go to? She hadn't a clue. She just went into a field - one seemed the same as another to her. Rather fearfully she followed the reapers, picked up every stalk of barley she could find. She knew she was being watched, for she was a stranger and a foreigner.

Suddenly Boaz, the owner, came into the field. He greeted his workers, “The Lord be with you.”

They answered, “The Lord bless you.”

Wasn't that a good way to greet each other? It tells us something about Boaz, doesn't it? He loved the Lord God. Ruth was in his field gleaning. In Boaz's field. Wasn't that wonderful? Did it happen by accident? No - God made sure that Ruth came to this field. He loved Ruth and wanted to show kindness to her. Ruth was an outsider and many of the people would have been amazed to think that God loved her, a Moabitess.

Flashcard 2-3

The Jews did not deserve God's love, Ruth did not, and you and I do not. But God loves those who do not deserve His love (Exodus 34:6). We see God's grace every day. Do you remember what “grace” means? God gives us food, clothes, friends, life. We see His grace most of all in the gift of His only Son Who came to rescue sinners. We don't deserve what the Lord Jesus did for us when He died on the cross. All we deserve from God is punishment for being disobedient. But God gave His Son to die for sinful people like us (Romans 5:6-9).

Ask the following questions:

- 1 *What kind of person might some people die for?*
- 2 *What kind of people did Jesus die for?*
- 3 *What did God show when His Son died?*

Remember, God's love is amazing - amazing to us and to Ruth. She couldn't have been gleaning in a better place!

See Leviticus 19:9 and Leviticus 23:22.

CT

Show card with central truth: “God is gracious”.

Read (or have an older child read) the verses from your Bible.

Boaz noticed the stranger among the gleaners.

“Who is that young woman?” he asked his servant who was in charge of the reapers.

“Why, that’s the girl from Moab, who came back with Naomi. She has worked all morning and has taken only a little rest.”

Boaz went to Ruth.

“Don’t go anywhere else to glean. Stay by the women who are working for me. Wherever they go, follow them. I have ordered the young men that no-one is to bother you. And when you are thirsty you can get water from the jars the young men have filled” (from Ruth 2:8-9).

Ruth could not believe that this rich and important man would be so kind to her. Of course, it was God Who worked it all out. What a wonderful day that was for Ruth. She received more and more kindness.

CTS

Show card with central truth: “God is gracious”.

God is just like that - He gives, and gives to people who do not deserve His love at all. He gave His Son to die. He sends the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of people who are disobedient and sinful. The Holy Spirit shows these people how wrong they are, He helps them see that Jesus Christ died for them, He makes them want to be saved. Why does God do this? Because He is kind and gracious. If you are a Christian today, it is only because God has been gracious to you. You too were an outsider. You did not belong to God’s people, just like Ruth. She was puzzled and amazed.

“Why are you kind to **me**?” she asked, “I’m just a stranger here” (from Ruth 2:10).

Boaz replied, “I have heard of all you have done for your mother-in-law, how you left your father and mother to come here. May God reward you, the God under Whose wings you have come to trust” (from Ruth 2:11-12).

Have you ever seen a mother hen with her chicks? Little chickens are safe under the mother hen’s wings. That is where they belong. Ruth had come to trust in God’s kindness. She trusted God to protect her and look after her, and He would not let her down.

Flashcard 2-4

Then Boaz invited Ruth to eat with him and his workers. That day was full of surprises! At mealtime she sat with his workers and he passed her roasted corn! She saved some for Naomi.

After the meal Boaz instructed his workers, “Make sure no-one harms her, and on purpose drop extra grain for her so she has all she needs.”

If possible show a picture of a mother hen with chicks.

Wasn't Boaz a good, kind man? He was a man who loved and feared God and had known God's love in his own life. When you come to know God through Jesus Christ and you see how gracious God has been to you, you will want to be kind to others (Ephesians 4:32).

Boys and girls who love the Lord Jesus should be the kindest, most forgiving people in the class at school. If you love the Lord Jesus you can be kind even to the unpopular people. When others call you names, you don't need to shout back. You can forgive, for God has forgiven you far, far more. Christian boy and girl, ask God to help you be kind to others, even to those who are unkind to you. Boaz was a great example of kindness.

Flashcard 2-5

I am sure Ruth could hardly wait until she got home that evening. She hurried back into the city. Naomi was anxiously watching and waiting.

"Where did you glean?" Her eyes widened when she saw the amount of grain Ruth had. "Where did you work? God bless the man who was so kind to you."

Ruth couldn't get a chance to answer! She gave Naomi the parched grain - that special treat she'd saved from lunch time.

"The man who owns the field where I worked today is Boaz."

Naomi knew of him and was very happy at how things had worked out.

"The Lord has not stopped being kind to us!" she exclaimed.

At last Naomi realised that God is always kind and gracious to His own people, to those who belong to Him. If you are a Christian, thank Him that you are always in His care.

You don't deserve it, but it is true! At times you will not see His care, but God is **always** loving and gracious to you. Do you know that love of God in your life? Yes, you know about it, but do you really know Him - the Lord Jesus. If you do, He is always with you to prove God's love for you, on good days and bad days. If you know Him, you can thank Him for His love. You will be able to show others His love and kindness.

Have you ever realised that Christ died for **your** sin? Have you trusted Christ to forgive all your sins? God invites you - you don't deserve it, but He does. You don't deserve to be forgiven. You do not deserve to be God's child, but if you turn from sin and come to the Lord Jesus you will be welcomed, forgiven and loved for ever. "The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out [never turn away]" (John 6:37b).

CTS

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

You may take time to allow a few older children to act out a situation like this.

CTS

Show card with central truth: "God is gracious".

CTU

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

Naomi knew something else about Boaz - something Ruth didn't yet know. We'll learn about Naomi's secret next time.

You may pray with the children and then make yourself available as follows.

Perhaps you really want to come to the Lord Jesus, but you don't know how. I will be glad to show you from the Bible. You may talk with me (*designate place*) at the end of the club.

Review game

Question mark game

Photocopy the questions on page 46 and use with the "question mark board" (see page 16).

Review questions

- 1 Why did Naomi want to be called Mara? (Mara means "bitter" and Naomi felt it described her better.)
- 2 What is grace? (Love that we don't deserve.)
- 3 Why don't we deserve God's love? (We have disobeyed Him.)
- 4 What did Ruth do, so that she and Naomi could have food? (She went to glean.)
- 5 Whose field did she go to? (Boaz's field.)
- 6 How did it happen that Ruth worked in his field? (God made it happen.)
- 7 How did Boaz show kindness to Ruth? (He spoke kindly, he told her to stay in his field, he gave her lunch.)
- 8 Why should Christians be the most kind and forgiving people? (They know what it is like to be forgiven by God.)
- 9 Who said, "The Lord has not stopped being kind to us"? (Naomi.)
- 10 The Lord Jesus made a promise to whoever comes to Him. What is the promise? (He will never turn them away.)

Lesson 3

Ruth learns about the kinsman-redeemer

Scripture for teachers

Ruth 2:20 - 3:7

Central truth

The Lord Jesus is the only Redeemer

Application

Unsaved: Come to Jesus and trust Him to be your Redeemer

Note to teacher

Ruth gleaned in the fields of Boaz until the harvest was ended. Then Naomi, who knew that Boaz was in the position of a kinsman-redeemer and fulfilled the requirements, evidently explained the laws and customs of the Israelites to Ruth. Ruth, at Naomi's suggestion, presented herself to Boaz to let him know she was willing for him to be her kinsman-redeemer.

See also background information - "The levirate marriage" (page 31).

Memory verse

"Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works"
Titus 2:14

Visuals

- ◆ Flashcards: 2-5, 3-1, 3-2, 3-3 and 3-4
- ◆ Wordstrip: "The Lord Jesus is the only Redeemer"

Lesson outline

Introduction

Jason's dad would like a new job - but is he qualified?

Progression of events

- 1 Naomi tells Ruth, "Boaz is our kinsman"
- 2 Naomi explains Jewish law CT
- 3 Ruth continues to glean through barley and wheat harvest
- 4 Harvest time ends
- 5 Naomi is concerned about Ruth's future CT
- 6 Naomi explains to Ruth that she must go to the threshing floor CT
- 7 Ruth agrees to go

Climax

Ruth goes and lies at Boaz's feet

Conclusion

She waits CTU

Lesson

Jason's dad was a bit tired of being a plumber.

"I'd like a change," he said.

Seven year old Jason thought hard. "Why don't you go to the hospital and work there?" he suggested. "You could be a doctor. I think you'd be a nice doctor."

"The problem is," explained Jason's dad, "you have to study and do exams to be a doctor. I'm not qualified."

If you are going to do a job, you have to be qualified. Naomi, in our Bible story, was looking for someone to do a very special job, but would he be qualified?

Flashcard 2-5

"The Lord is so good!" exclaimed Naomi. "You have been working in Boaz's field, Ruth. Boaz is a close relative, in fact he is our kinsman-redeemer."

"What does that mean?" asked Ruth, puzzled.

"Kinsman means relative," explained Naomi. "A redeemer is someone who pays a price. Let me explain. Since Elimelech, Mahlon and Chilion are all dead, our family name will die out. I hate to think of that, but the Lord Jehovah has a special way to solve the problem. A man who is related can buy Elimelech's land and marry you. He pays a price to do that. He would be called our redeemer."

That was the "job" Naomi was looking for someone to do.

Ruth must have thought, "But no-one would want to do that for us. I'm an outsider from Moab. I can't see anyone being a redeemer for me."

CT

"Redeem" is a very important word in the Bible. It means to pay a price for something in order to own it. The Bible teaches that, like Ruth, we are outsiders. We are outside God's family, we don't belong to God's Kingdom or people. We are born like that, because we are all born sinners. If we go on like that we will be outsiders for ever, outside Heaven too. We need someone to pay a price so we can belong to God. We need a redeemer, just as Ruth did.

Naomi was very glad that Ruth worked in the fields of their kinsman-redeemer Boaz.

Flashcard 3-1

Every day Ruth went early into his fields to glean. She followed after the young women who were tying the grain in bundles. No-one bothered her. Every day she brought home as much grain as she could. She worked hard through the barley and wheat harvests - more than three months (Ruth 2:23).

No doubt Ruth and Boaz saw each other often during these days. Boaz was more and more attracted to Ruth, and more and more she respected and admired him. Each day the workers carried the grain to the threshing place.

There they beat it with clubs until the grain fell off the stalks. Then they would throw it into the air.

The breeze would blow away the chaff, the outside part of the grain that was no good, and the good part of the grain would fall on the ground. Then the workers could scoop it up. When the workers came to the threshing place, it was almost like a celebration. Whole families came and they would eat and sleep there until they had finished threshing the grain.

When the harvest was over, Boaz must have wondered what Ruth would do.

Flashcard 3-2

But it was Naomi who was really concerned. All the time Ruth had been working in the fields, Naomi thought about it.

Where would they get food now? Would anyone care for them? Would she sell Elimelech's land? Would someone be their kinsman-redeemer?

We have learned that we too need a redeemer, someone who would pay to buy us back to God. Why couldn't an angel do it? It was human beings who had sinned, so it had to be a human being. Why couldn't Moses, King David or John the Baptist do it? It had to be a perfect human being. There was only One Who qualified - God's only Son (Philippians 2:7).

He left Heaven and became a human being. He was a real living man Who ate, drank, grew tired and thirsty. He did not stop being God. As God and man, He alone could pay the price to set many, many people free from sin. He is the only One qualified to be the Redeemer Who would make outsiders belong to God.

Ruth was an outsider and Naomi knew that. With all her heart Naomi wished happiness for Ruth and wanted her to become one of the Israelites.

Flashcard 3-3

One evening, Naomi said to Ruth, "My daughter, shall I not find security for you?" (from Ruth 3:1).

Ruth understood what Naomi meant - she would follow the custom of the Israelites to find a husband to love and care for Ruth. She was talking about the kinsman-redeemer again. Kinsman means relative. Can you remember what the kinsman-redeemer would do?

Review this.

CT

Show card with central truth: "The Lord Jesus is the only Redeemer".

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

The person would need to have enough money and be willing to buy the land and marry Ruth. Ruth was a Moabitess, so perhaps the relative would not want an outsider for a wife. Boaz was qualified to do it - if he was willing.

Naomi explained it all to Ruth and then told her plan.

“Now, Boaz is our near kinsman. Tonight he will be on the threshing floor. Wash yourself and put on your best clothes. Then go to the threshing place and wait until Boaz has finished his work and has had something to eat. Watch to see where he goes to rest. Then, go to him and remind him that he is our kinsman-redeemer. Find out whether he is interested. He will tell you what to do.”

I am sure the plan seemed strange and scary to Ruth, but she knew Boaz was not harsh or cruel. He was kind and feared God.

Let’s think of Boaz again. Why could he be the kinsman-redeemer?

CT

He was related to Elimelech and he was rich enough to pay. That reminds us of the Lord Jesus. He became “related” to us by becoming a human being. Could He pay the price to buy us back to God? It wasn’t a large sum of money. No, He had to give His life. He came to Earth to “give His life a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). He gave His precious blood when He died on the cross. We are bought with “the precious blood of Christ” (1 Peter 1:18-19). It was an awful price, which the Lord Jesus alone could pay. Yes, He is the only Redeemer, the only One Who can make you belong to God for ever. He is qualified to be our Redeemer.

Read (or have an older child read) the verses from your Bible.

Show card with central truth: “The Lord Jesus is the only Redeemer”.

Would there be someone to pay the price so that Ruth would no longer be an outsider? Ruth was willing to find out.

“I will do all that you say,” she answered Naomi.

No doubt she felt very nervous as she put on her best clothes and went to the place where the harvesters were threshing the grain.

Flashcard 3-4

As the breeze dropped, the workers began finding places to lie down and rest. Many of them would sleep at the threshing place all night. Ruth watched to see where Boaz would go to rest.

When all was quiet she went to him - but Boaz was asleep. Without disturbing him, Ruth lay down near his feet to wait. Ruth was going to let him know that she needed a redeemer. No doubt she was thinking what a difference that would make. She would no longer be an outsider. She would belong to the Israelites.

CTU

You too need to come to the Lord Jesus and trust Him to be your Redeemer. What a difference He will make. He will free you from the punishment you deserve for your sin. He will free you from being a slave to sin (John 8:36). Sin will not be your master, the

Read the verse from your Bible.

Lord Jesus will be in charge. You'll not be an outsider, you will belong to God's family for ever and ever.

Won't you trust Him now to be your Redeemer? Ruth had to go to Boaz, you must come to the Lord Jesus, not with your feet, but in your heart. Tell Him you need Him to be your Redeemer and that you want to be freed from sin and its punishment. Thank Him for paying the price. He promises that if you come, He will not turn you away (John 6:37).

How would Boaz react to Ruth? We don't know, for now he's fast asleep, but we'll find out next time.

Review questions

- 1 Why was Naomi so excited about Ruth gleaning in Boaz's field? (He was their kinsman-redeemer.)
- 2 What could he do for them? (He could buy back Elimelech's land and marry Ruth.)
- 3 What does "redeem" mean? (To pay a price and so buy back.)
- 4 What job was done on the threshing floor? (The wheat was beaten, so that the grain fell out, then thrown in the air. The breeze took away the chaff, leaving the good grain.)
- 5 What was Naomi's plan? (Ruth would go to the threshing floor, sleep at Boaz's feet, ask him to be her kinsman-redeemer.)
- 6 Why is Jesus the only One qualified to be our Redeemer? (He became man, sinless, and was also God.)
- 7 Who said, "I will do all that you say"? (Ruth.)
- 8 Why couldn't an angel be our redeemer? (It was human beings who had sinned, and so the redeemer needed to be human.)
- 9 Why couldn't Moses or David be our redeemer? (They too were sinners.)
- 10 What did Jesus pay in order to redeem us? (He gave His life, His precious blood.)

Background information

The levirate marriage

When Naomi spoke of security for Ruth, she was referring, no doubt, to marriage. Boaz was a goel and thus it was his duty to marry the widow of a kinsman - provided he was interested. The law of the levirate marriage is given in Deuteronomy 25:5,7-10.

Naomi apparently was satisfied that Boaz had made the proper overtures. If Ruth had been an unmarried woman, Boaz could have continued his suit. But Ruth was a widow, and now it was up to her to take the initiative and let her intentions be known to the kinsman, the goel.

Read the verse from your Bible.

Review game

Question mark game

Photocopy the questions on page 47 and use with the "question mark board" (see page 16).

"Unger's Bible Dictionary" gives the Hebrew word "goel" as the term for the nearest blood relative, implying certain obligations, and has as its primary meaning coming "to the help or "rescue of" one.

"Zondervan's Pictorial Bible Dictionary" gives

“one who has the right to redeem”.

The step that Naomi proposed was perfectly in keeping with the law and with the events of the harvest time. The threshing-floor was a public place, and all incidents there took place in the open. Ruth was instructed by Naomi to go to the place where Boaz had retired and to take her place at his feet. There she was to pull his long mantle over her to let him know that she sought shelter and protection.

Ruth could have gone before the elders of the city to demand that Boaz take Mahlon’s place in a levirate marriage, but how much more modest was the procedure suggested by Naomi. Here Boaz was quietly given the opportunity of rejecting or accepting the office of goel. When Ruth called him a near kinsman, Boaz understood and complimented Ruth for the wise and modest way in which she had conducted herself.

Since Boaz had evidenced interest in Ruth, undoubtedly he had given the matter much thought. The gallantry of his own character is evident in the instructions given to Ruth. He was aware that there was another kinsman who had a prior claim. He asked Ruth stay until the morning and then to return home before she could be recognised, promising that he would make the necessary contact immediately.

Lesson 4

Ruth finds a redeemer

Scripture for teachers

Ruth 3:8 - 4:12

Central truth

The Lord Jesus was willing to be our Redeemer

Application

Unsaved: Trust Him and then you will belong to God

Note to teacher

Ruth, in obedience to Naomi's instructions, had gone to the threshing floor to present herself to Boaz. Since Ruth was a widow, under the Israelite law she had to present herself to the next of kin to let him know she was willing to marry him. (If Ruth had never been married, Boaz could have taken the initiative.) Having made the situation known to Boaz, Ruth waited while he went to the gate of the city to contact the other kinsman, who had first claim upon the estate. Boaz, in an honest and honourable way, gave the other man his chance, reminding him that if he redeemed Elimelech's land he must also marry Ruth. The other kinsman relinquished his right to Boaz, who then became the kinsman-redeemer. The transaction was sealed with the withdrawal of the other kinsman's shoe before the ten witnesses, who prayed God's blessing upon the marriage of Ruth and Boaz.

See also background information - "The other kinsman" (page 37).

Memory verse

Review Titus 2:14

Visuals

- ◆ Flashcards: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3 and 4-4
- ◆ Wordstrip: "The Lord Jesus was willing to be our Redeemer"

Lesson outline

Introduction

Introduction questions

Ruth waits at Boaz's feet

Progression of events

- 1 Boaz awakens
- 2 Ruth - "Are you willing?"
- 3 Boaz - "Yes" CT
- 4 Boaz explains there is a closer kinsman
- 5 Ruth stays on the threshing floor
- 6 She returns to Naomi CT
- 7 Boaz goes to the city gate
- 8 Boaz meets the other kinsman

Climax

He refuses to be the redeemer CTU

Conclusion

The sandal is handed over CTU

Lesson

You may wish to dress an older child as Ruth and meet her on her way to the threshing floor. Ask her some questions like, "Where are you going? Why are you going there? What is Boaz like? How do you feel right now?"

Do you think Ruth was able to sleep as she lay near Boaz's feet at the threshing place? I am sure she was nervous.

"What will Boaz do when he sees me? Will the other workers gossip about me? What if he won't redeem Elimelech's land - we'll have no one to care for us? But if he does ..." Now, that was a happy thought!

In the middle of the night Boaz stirred. Suddenly, he sat up.

Somebody was lying near his feet.

"Who are you?" he whispered.

Flashcard 4-1

Ruth sat up, and trembling, replied, "I - I am Ruth. You are the nearest relative of Naomi and me, you have the right to protect us and redeem our land. Will you - will you spread your cloak over me - to show that you are willing to do this?"

What would Boaz's answer be? (Ruth 3:10-11.)

His answer was, "Yes." Yes, he was willing to redeem the property. Yes, he was willing to marry Ruth. Boaz was willing to be their kinsman-redeemer!

CT

It was wonderful, but it is far, far more wonderful that God's Son was willing to become our Redeemer. Before the world was created, He had agreed with His Father to come and be the Redeemer. It meant leaving Heaven, becoming a man, suffering poverty and pain and dying on a cross.

These were huge steps down for Him. It is impossible to understand why He did it. We certainly did not deserve it, yet He loved us and was willing to be our Redeemer, just as Boaz was willing.

Boaz had not, however, finished talking to Ruth. What he said next must have made her heart sink.

"It is true that I am your near kinsman, but there is someone who is an even closer relative. It would be only right to give him the opportunity to buy Elimelech's land and claim you as his wife. Perhaps he will want to be your kinsman-redeemer."

I am sure Ruth was a bit confused and still wished that it would be Boaz. She listened quietly as Boaz spoke again.

"Stay where you are tonight and wait. In the morning, I will talk with the other kinsman. If he will redeem you, then that is the way it must be. But if he will not, then I will be your kinsman-redeemer."

Spreading the cloak over her would be a sign that he was willing to protect and care for her.

See 1 Peter 1:20.

Show card with central truth: "The Lord Jesus was willing to be our Redeemer".

Ruth did as Boaz told her to do. She waited where she was until very early in the morning.

Flashcard 4-2

Before she left to go home, Boaz told her to spread out her shawl. He filled it with grain and told her to take it to Naomi.

She hurried home in the first dim rays of dawn. She could hardly wait to tell Naomi. Ruth knew in her heart that Boaz loved her and would keep his word (Ruth 3:18).

You can be just as sure about the love of the Lord Jesus, the only Redeemer. He loves sinners, people who are outsiders from God. The Bible says that He willingly left Heaven (Philippians 2:7-8). It was because of His great love that He had agreed with God His Father to come to the Earth; and He kept that agreement. Actually, you can even be more sure about Him, than Ruth was about Boaz!

CT

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

Flashcard 4-3

Naomi was waiting anxiously. The words must have tumbled out as Ruth told what had happened.

“Boaz told me not to go home without something for you, so he gave me all this grain.”

Naomi was very pleased with all she heard from Ruth.

“Just wait patiently,” she advised Ruth. “Boaz won’t rest until he has finished what he started out to do.”

Meanwhile, Boaz had left the threshing place and hurried to the city gate of Bethlehem.

Flashcard 4-4

It was the custom to do business and hold meetings there. Boaz sat down to wait.

After a while, who should come by but the other kinsman.

Boaz called, “Greetings! Come and sit down.”

The relative came and sat by Boaz. Boaz also called ten older men (elders), leaders of the people.

It was the custom when important matters were to be decided, to have ten men as witnesses.

Boaz explained, “Naomi, who has returned from Moab, is selling Elimelech’s land. You are the nearest relative, so you have the first right to redeem it.”

The other man said, “I will redeem it.”

Boaz had something more to explain. “When you buy the land, then you must also marry Ruth, the wife of Elimelech’s son who is dead.” (From Ruth 4:5.)

The other kinsman was quiet. This was something different. If he married Ruth and if they had a son, that son would have Elimelech’s property.

Boaz and the ten elders waited for his decision.

Others gathered around too. What do you think he will say?

Finally the kinsman spoke. “I cannot redeem it. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.” (From Ruth 4:6.)

How many were left who could be Ruth’s kinsman-redeemer?

Allow children to respond.

CTU

Show card with central truth: “The Lord Jesus was willing to be our Redeemer”.

Just one. God chose to send His Son because He was the only One Who could pay the price of sin. An angel could not do it. Another person could not do it. The Lord Jesus is God and man. He was sinless. Only the Lord Jesus died on the cross for you. Only the Lord Jesus came back to life and is King for ever. Perhaps you know you are an outsider from God’s family, but you don’t want to be. You want to belong to God. You see that only the Lord Jesus can do this for you, but you have some questions. Please come and speak to me (*designate place*) at the end of the meeting and I will explain more from the Bible. Remember, Jesus is the only Redeemer - just as Boaz was the only one who could redeem the land and marry Ruth.

To show that he gave up his rights, the kinsman took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz. Boaz took it gladly.

It was a sign that he had the right to be the kinsman-redeemer. Of course he also had the word of the ten elders. He spoke to them.

“You are all witnesses that today I have bought Elimelech’s land, and Ruth, the Moabitess, will be my wife.”

The elders and the people answered, “Yes, we are witnesses.”

CTU

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

It was all agreed. Boaz was the kinsman-redeemer - he had the sign of the sandal, and the word of the elders to prove it. Is there proof that Jesus Christ is the only Redeemer? Yes! That is what is written in the Bible.

Read Acts 4:12.

The resurrection is a sign that the Lord Jesus paid completely for our sin. You cannot try to pay, or make up to God, for the wrong you have done. Jesus Christ paid it all. You must depend on Him to be your Redeemer. He loves you. He willingly left Heaven for you. He willingly became a human being and He willingly died on the cross. He loves to bring outsiders into God’s family. He wants you

Show card with central truth: “The Lord Jesus

to belong to God forever. Tell Him now that you don't want to be an outsider. Thank Him for paying the price for your sin and ask Him to be your Redeemer for ever. Remember, there is salvation in no-one else (Acts 4:12).

Boaz was the only one there at the gate who was willing and able to be Ruth's kinsman-redeemer.

She was at home waiting. Don't miss the last part of the story!

Choose an appropriate song for the children to sing thoughtfully, then give the following information to the children.

Perhaps you really want the Lord Jesus to be your Redeemer, but you have questions about it. I will be happy to answer those questions from the Bible. I will be *(designate place)* at the end of club. Come and speak to me there.

Review questions

- 1 Why did Ruth lie at Boaz's feet? (She was going to ask him to be her kinsman-redeemer.)
- 2 When she asked Boaz, what was his answer? (Yes.)
- 3 Why was Jesus willing to come to be our Redeemer? (He loves us.)
- 4 What was rather disappointing for Ruth? (There was a closer relative.)
- 5 When Ruth went home, where did Boaz go? (To the city gate.)
- 6 Why did the other relative refuse to be Ruth's redeemer? (He did not want to marry her.)
- 7 How many people are qualified to be your Redeemer to bring you into God's family? (One - Jesus.)
- 8 What did the other relative do to show the matter was settled? (He gave Boaz his sandal.)
- 9 What is the proof that the Lord Jesus really has paid for sin? (His resurrection.)
- 10 How many elders witnessed what happened at the city gate? (Ten.)

Background information

The other kinsman

There was another kinsman who had the opportunity to redeem Ruth. Some commentators say he represents the law and that the elders speak of the Ten Commandments, witness to the fact that the law was unable to redeem.

Dr. McGee in "Ruth, the Romance of Redemption" says, "Law is even closer to man, just as the other kinsman was closer than Boaz. But in the final analysis the law could not redeem without

was willing to be our Redeemer".

Review game

Question mark game

Photocopy the questions on page 48 and use with the "question mark board" (see page 16).

endangering its own inheritance, which was its high standard. If it did come down to the low plane where man could abide by its precepts, it would no longer be law, but would be a system of compromise with a very low standard. The law demands a standard to conform to the character of God. This high plane is above man and condemns man (cf. Galatians 3:10).”

All her flawless character and good deeds could not save Ruth. She was a Moabite, shut out from the congregation of the Lord. Salvation by works cannot save a lost soul, for “by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight”(Romans 3:20). Salvation by works is like the other kinsman who had to relinquish to Boaz his right to redeem. Salvation by faith in Christ Jesus is the only way (Acts 4:12).

Lesson 5

Ruth enters the family of the redeemer

Scripture for teachers

Ruth 4:13-22

Central truth

God's plans are wonderful

Application

Unsaved: When you trust Jesus as your Redeemer, you begin to discover God's plan

Saved: As you follow the Lord, He makes you like Jesus

Note to teacher

Boaz married Ruth, and thus God placed her in the family of Israel and into the genealogy of Christ. To them was born a son Obed, who became legal grandson to Naomi, heir to Elimelech's estate, and grandfather to King David. The lesson then bridges the gap to the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, takes up His death, resurrection, ascension, and His promise to come again.

See also background information - "The kinsman-redeemer" (page 44).

Memory verse

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil ..." Jeremiah 29:11

Visuals

- ◆ Flashcards: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5 and 5-6
- ◆ Wordstrip: "God's plans are wonderful"

Lesson outline

Introduction

Boaz hurries to Naomi's home

Progression of events

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|-----|
| 1 | A wedding in Bethlehem | CT |
| 2 | The birth of a son | |
| 3 | The unfolding of a plan | CT |
| 4 | The coming of the Redeemer | CTS |
| 5 | The death of the Saviour | CT |

Climax

The resurrection CTU

Conclusion

The promise of His coming CTU

Lesson

Boaz did not stay a minute longer than necessary at the city gate. I'm sure he hurried to Naomi's home. He arrived with the good news. Yes, he would be the kinsman-redeemer. He would buy Elimelech's land and, best of all, he would marry Ruth.

Plans moved ahead for the wedding - somewhat different from the weddings we are familiar with.

No visual

On the wedding day, Boaz and his friends went in procession in the evening to Naomi and Ruth's home. Ruth, Naomi and other relatives were waiting. An older man blessed the couple and then Boaz led his beautiful bride through Bethlehem to his own home. All along the way guests lined the streets, many of them held fire torches. When the bride and groom passed by where they were standing, they joined in the procession. Then there was a great feast in Boaz's home - it probably went on for days. Was Ruth still an outsider? No! Boaz was her kinsman-redeemer. Now she belonged to the Israelites. I am sure she was excited and amazed. Imagine all this happening to her! It was as God had planned. His plans are wonderful because He is wise, gracious and kind. He has the power to make sure His plans happen.

You and I are born outsiders to God's family because of our sin. God planned a way that we could belong. His Son became one of us. His Son paid to buy us back. Have you trusted Jesus Christ to do that for you? If so, you will want to thank God for this wonderful plan.

I am sure Ruth thanked God for all His kindness. Now that she was married to Boaz she did not have to go into the fields and glean. She stayed at home. Boaz too was thankful to God. He loved his wife and together they had a happy home. After some time a little baby boy was born to them.

Flashcard 5-1

Everybody was delighted, especially Naomi, for this baby was to have Elimelech's family name. The women in Bethlehem were happy for Naomi too.

They said, "Blessed be the Lord, He hasn't left you without a family. Your daughter-in-law Ruth, who loved you and is better to you than seven sons, has given you a little grandson" (from Ruth 4:14-15).

Then the women gave the baby a name. Could you guess what name?

Allow the children to guess.

CT

Show card with central truth: "God's plans are wonderful".

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

You'll never guess. It was Obed. Any Obeds here?! "Obed" means "worshipper". It was all part of a bigger plan.

When Adam and Eve sinned, God promised to send a Saviour. His plan was to send Him to the Israelites, to a Jewish family. Now, listen. Obed was the father of Jesse.

Flashcard 5-2

Jesse had eight sons. When the younger son, David, was just a shepherd boy, God chose him to be king over the Israelites. God's plan was that His Promised One, the Saviour, would come through David's family.

However, several hundred years later, it seemed as if the Jews would be totally wiped out. The land was invaded, many were taken prisoner. Would God have to change His plan? No! That is why His plans are so wonderful. When God plans something He carries it out. He made sure some Jews were kept alive.

At the time God had planned, His Son came into the world as a little baby. He was born in Bethlehem, right in the city where Ruth and Boaz had lived many years before. In the New Testament, God has recorded the names of all those in the family line of this Special Baby, God's Son, and Ruth and Boaz are there (Matthew 1:5, Luke 3:32). Imagine that - Ruth, the outsider, in the family line of the Saviour! It was God's great plan.

If you love the Lord Jesus, God has a plan for your life too. Some people think God is a "kill-joy" and spoils people's lives. That is not true at all. Listen to these words from the Bible.

Read Jeremiah 29:11 from your Bible.

God's plans for His children are the very best. It is good to ask God to help you make the right choices, as you grow up. His plans for you are always good. His biggest and best plan for you is to make you more and more like the Lord Jesus. What could be better than that? His plan is to use all the things that happen in our lives to make us think, act and react as His Son would. It is exciting to think, "God has a plan for me." If you belong to Him, it is true, just as it was for Ruth to be in this special family line.

Flashcard 5-3

God chose Mary, from king David's family line, to be the mother of His Son (Galatians 4:4.) He had no human father. God was His father, but Joseph, Mary's husband (also of David's family line) would be His father while He was here on Earth. He became a baby, to be our "Kinsman", so that He could be our Redeemer.

When the baby Jesus was very tiny, Mary and Joseph took Him to the temple.

See 1 Samuel 16:1-13.

CT

Show card with central truth: "God's plans are wonderful".

See Luke 2:1-7.

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

CTS

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

See Luke 2:25-35.

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

An old man, called Simeon, lived there. While Mary and Joseph were there, God told Simeon to go out into the temple. Immediately Simeon knew Who the Baby was. Listen to what he said.

Read Luke 2:29-30 from your Bible.

Many years before, God had promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Promised One, the Messiah. He had seen part of the most amazing and wonderful plan of God.

When was God's plan to send a Redeemer made?

Allow children to respond.

It was because all people are "outsiders", outside God's family. The Redeemer would come and pay a price so they could belong.

Would it work out? Everything seemed to go well. The Baby Jesus escaped Herod's attempt to kill Him. When He grew up He never gave in to Satan, He never sinned. But then ... the plan seemed to collapse! It certainly seemed like that to the disciples.

Flashcard 5-4

CT Show card with central truth: "God's plans are wonderful".

Jesus Christ was killed like a criminal. The Jewish leaders thought their plot had worked. The Romans thought He was just like all the other people they nailed to crosses. The amazing thing is that what they were doing was all part of God's plan - but they did not know that. God had already said in the Old Testament that His Son would die (Isaiah 53). It was part of the plan made before there was a world (1 Peter 1:20). God's only Son was punished by His Father for our sins. There on the cross God treated Him as an outsider. He left Him to take our punishment. That was the price the Lord Jesus had to pay as He suffered and died on the cross.

Friends took His body and placed it lovingly in a tomb. His enemies sealed and guarded it, but that made no difference to God's plan.

After three days, early in the morning, Jesus Christ left the tomb and an angel rolled away the stone to let people see it was empty.

CTU

Only a living Redeemer can bring outsiders like you and me into God's family.

Flashcard 5-5

He can do it.

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

Read John 1:12 from your Bible.

What must you do to be a child of God? You must "receive Him" and "believe in His name". Do you see God's wonderful plan? Won't you receive the Lord Jesus now, believe that He paid for your sin? Then you will be a child of God. What a plan!

The Lord Jesus went back to Heaven, but we are still waiting for God to carry out another part of His plan. We read of it in the Bible.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 from your Bible.

Flashcard 5-6

Jesus Christ will return to Earth. All those who have ever received Him as Saviour will be with Him forever. Those who have not, will be outsiders for ever, outside Heaven for ever.

What will it be for you? Answer honestly to yourself. If you are truly sorry for your sin and all the wrong things you have done, receive the Lord Jesus.

Read John 1:12 again.

You will be a child of God - not an outsider. You will know that God has good plans for all of your life, just as He had for Ruth. He will make you God's child and day by day you will become more and more like the Lord Jesus.

Thank God for the lessons learned from the story of Ruth and praise God for His wonderful plans. Then make yourself available to concerned children. You may say something like this.

Perhaps God has spoken to you and you know you should turn from sin and wrong and receive the Lord Jesus. But you have questions about it. I will be (*designate place and time*) and I will be happy to answer your questions from the Bible.

Review questions

- 1 When did Ruth stop being an outsider? (On her wedding day.)
- 2 Why can God make sure His plans happen? (He has the power to do that.)
- 3 What was the name of Boaz's and Ruth's son? (Obed.)
- 4 What family tree were Ruth and Boaz part of? (The family tree of Jesus.)
- 5 What is God's biggest and best plan for each Christian? (To make each Christian like Jesus.)
- 6 Who was the old man in the temple who saw the baby Jesus in the temple? (Simeon.)
- 7 Why did the Lord Jesus die? (He was punished for our sins.)
- 8 What happened on the third day after the death of the Lord Jesus? (He came back to life.)
- 9 When do you begin to discover God's wonderful plans for you? (When you trust Jesus as Saviour.)
- 10 God has promised a spectacular event that has not yet happened. What is it? (The return of the Lord Jesus to Earth.)

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

CTU

Review game

Question mark game

Photocopy the questions on page 49 and use with the "question mark board" (see page 16).

Background information

The kinsman-redeemer

The law of the land is given in Leviticus 25, where it speaks particularly of the redemption of property in verses 23-28 and the redemption of persons in verses 47-49. In each case, something or someone needed to be redeemed (bought back); the redeemer must be a kinsman willing to redeem; and a price must be paid.

The Lord stated that the land was His. The Israelites were not to let the family inheritance finally pass out of the possession of the family. The land could be mortgaged and the mortgagee could hold it until the Year of Jubilee, when it was to be returned to the rightful owner or heir. However, between the time of mortgaging and the Year of Jubilee the land could be redeemed by a kinsman who was able and willing to pay the price of redemption.

It was Elimelech's estate that was in need of a redeemer, and Boaz met the qualifications. He was a blood relative of Elimelech, willing to redeem and able to pay the price. But Boaz made it clear that the redemption of the estate also involved the redemption of Ruth. As the widow of Mahlon, she was the only one who could raise up an heir for the estate (Deuteronomy 25:5-6), but the Mosaic law rejected her (Deuteronomy 23:3). Boaz redeemed the estate and married Ruth. Wedded to him, bearing his name and all the rights that went with it, Ruth entered the nation of Israel and the congregation of the Lord, whom she had already chosen to worship and serve.

As an outsider to the congregation of the Lord - regardless of her flawless character and good works - Ruth is a picture of the sinner without Christ. (When Adam sinned man lost his estate; sold unto sin and an outsider to God, he stands in need of a Redeemer.)

As the only example in the Old Testament of a Hebrew goel, Boaz stands as a clear type of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who entered the human family that He might be our Kinsman, Who loved us and willingly paid the price (that He alone was able to do) for our redemption - our Kinsman-Redeemer.

"Unger's Bible Dictionary" gives the Hebrew word "goel" as the term for the nearest blood relative, implying certain obligations, and has as its primary meaning coming "to the help or "rescue of" one.

"Zondervan's Pictorial Bible Dictionary" gives "one who has the right to redeem".

Review game

Lesson 1

1	How are we different from a robot?
2	Why are we like that?
3	Where did Elimelech and Naomi live at first?
4	Why did they leave?
5	Why was this a foolish choice?
6	Who were Orpah and Ruth?
7	What sad things happened in Moab?
8	How could a Christian's choice affect other people?
9	What wise choice did Naomi make?
10	What choice did Orpah make?
11	What choice did Ruth make?
12	What is the most important choice a person will ever make?

Review game

Lesson 2

1 Why did Naomi want to be called Mara?

2 What is grace?

3 Why don't we deserve God's love?

4 What did Ruth do, so that she and Naomi could have food?

5 Whose field did she go to?

6 How did it happen that Ruth worked in his field?

7 How did Boaz show kindness to Ruth?

8 Why should Christians be the most kind and forgiving people?

9 Who said, "The Lord has not stopped being kind to us"?

10 The Lord Jesus made a promise to whoever comes to Him. What is the promise?

Review game

Lesson 3

1 Why was Naomi so excited about Ruth gleaning in Boaz's field?

2 What could he do for them?

3 What does "redeem" mean?

4 What job was done on the threshing floor?

5 What was Naomi's plan?

6 Why is Jesus the only One qualified to be our Redeemer?

7 Who said, "I will do all that you say"?

8 Why couldn't an angel be our redeemer?

9 Why couldn't Moses or David be our redeemer?

10 What did Jesus pay in order to redeem us?

Review game

Lesson 4

1 Why did Ruth lie at Boaz's feet?

2 When she asked Boaz, what was his answer?

3 Why was Jesus willing to come to be our Redeemer?

4 What was rather disappointing for Ruth?

5 When Ruth went home, where did Boaz go?

6 Why did the other relative refuse to be Ruth's redeemer?

7 How many people are qualified to be your Redeemer to bring you into God's family?

8 What did the other relative do to show the matter was settled?

9 What is the proof that the Lord Jesus really has paid for sin?

10 How many elders witnessed what happened at the city gate?

Review game

Lesson 5

1 When did Ruth stop being an outsider?

2 Why can God make sure His plans happen?

3 What was the name of Boaz's and Ruth's son?

4 What family tree were Ruth and Boaz part of?

5 What is God's biggest and best plan for each Christian?

6 Who was the old man in the temple who saw the baby Jesus in the temple?

7 Why did the Lord Jesus die?

8 What happened on the third day after the death of the Lord Jesus?

9 When do you begin to discover God's wonderful plans for you?

10 God has promised a spectacular event that has not yet happened. What is it?

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of Steps for Counselling the Child Who Wants to Come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).