

RUTHEL



Ruth

Youth Bible Study

by Pat Kampenga

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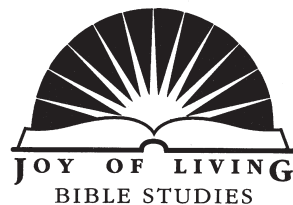
Joy of Living Ruth Youth Bible Study

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Youth Bible Study

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Before you begin

An ideal curriculum for home-school, Bible class, Sunday School or personal Bible Study, **Joy of Living Youth Curriculum** is flexible and easy to use. Each lesson covers the same scripture passage as the adult **Joy of Living Study**.

Age:

This course encourages students of various ages to develop a habit of personal Bible study. Since the study requires reading the Bible and writing answers to the questions, the minimum age should be about 6 years old. Although the questions are geared to about age 10, older students will profit by gaining a basic knowledge of the Bible. Students over the age of 14 may be mature enough to study the adult **Joy of Living** course.

The lessons:

The study is divided into weekly units. Each week is divided into three sections:

- a suggested class schedule including craft and game ideas
- leader's lesson sheets (these contain the answers for the lesson completed by the students during the previous week)
- student questions for the next lesson (these are passed out at the end of the class)

Students complete the written lessons at home and are encouraged to do a few questions each day rather than trying to complete all the questions in one day. This will aid the students in developing a pattern of daily Bible Study. The "HARD" and "RISKY" questions are to inspire the student to think and reason and help them dig deeper into God's Word.

For homeschool or personal Bible study:

The curriculum may be used in a variety of ways. Following are a few suggestions:

- Lessons may be completed by the individual student and graded for accuracy. Discussion time is optional, although it is encouraged.
- Students within the same family or group may work on the lessons together. A discussion time with a parent or other adult is suggested.
- Adults may work one-on-one with the student(s) while they complete the lesson.
- Lessons may be used as part of family devotions. Read the portions of scripture aloud and use the questions to prompt discussion of the Bible passage.

For use with groups:

There is great flexibility in implementing this curriculum. Since each class has its own needs, space, finances, and time frame the class schedule is supplied as a general outline and can be changed to suit specific situations and needs.

Each class session has free time, recreation/snack time, question discussion time, and craft time.

Remember - Keep the pace moving to avoid boredom and trouble, while providing continuity.

Suggested time SCHEDULE to be adapted to individual group:

- 15 - 20 min. - unstructured free time
- 15 - 20 min. - game/snack time
- 15 - 20 min. - discussion time
- remaining time for craft

Helpful Hints for Groups

Facility/Equipment

- Whatever the class size, access to a gym or large game room is worthwhile for team play and group activities.
- If the church has the room, a separate cupboard for supplies is a plus.
- Access to a TV/VCR is helpful but not necessary.
- A volleyball or similar ball is good to have on hand for a variety of games.

Discussion Time

- Use the counting off system to divide the class into groups for discussion time. (Avoid, if possible, separating into groups according to age or family.)
- Each discussion group should have an adult leader. Older children should not be used (unless absolutely necessary) as leaders or sitters; they are there for fellowship and learning, too.
- With many of the questions there is no right or wrong answer. The questions are to encourage the student to think and reason and to dig deeper into God's Word. However, since discussion time is also a form of teaching, the leaders are given answers on their question sheets to aid them in the discussion, with occasional commentary insights added in brackets.
- As you discuss the lesson be careful not to belittle a student's opinion or idea. Even if the answer is wrong you can encourage the student by saying something similar to, "I like to see that you're thinking, do you think perhaps....(then give the correct answer)" or "I can see that you are thinking about the question, does anyone else have thoughts on this question?"

Teachers/Leaders/Helpers

- The number of leaders and helpers is determined by the size of the class. The ideal situation is one discussion leader per every 5 children.
- In addition to the main leader, it is helpful to have a game leader, and craft leader.
- Responsibilities are determined within each class structure.
- Parent volunteers may be requested when extra help is needed. If there is a large number of children, the parents have to volunteer only once or twice the entire year.
- Scheduling parents to bring treats is a financial bonus. Keeping cost to a minimum is being a good steward of God's resources.

Game Time

Although board games, puzzles, hidden pictures, crosswords, coloring, and quiet activities do not keep the attention of active children, they should not be ruled out as alternative game time activities. Ball games, races, or tag games are suggested and favored to holding everyone's interest.

Suggestions for obtaining craft ideas & supplies:

Garage/yard/rummage sales

library craft books

children's magazines

YMCA, Park & Recreation Dept., churches (almost every city has a summer program for children, which includes a craft time; they may have leftover craft supplies they would like to donate)

Supplies to have on hand for crafts not in kits:

glue, glue sticks, glue gun

scissors (at least 1 pair for every 2 students)

paint (tempera-washable)

paint brushes

paper towels

newspapers

construction paper

crayons

colored markers

colored pencils

paper cups, napkins (snack time)

various items to pass in relay races

balls, basketball, nerf, etc.

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Ruth — Game & Craft List

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RUTH — WEEK ONE

NO LESSON DISCUSSION

15 - 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: BARNYARD

Divide into two teams, A and B. Each player is given the name of a farm animal, such as chicken, rooster, pig, cow, horse, etc. Use the same farm animals for each team, so there will be a player on each team with the same animal.

The teams stand on opposite ends of the play area. The leader holds the game ball and chooses which team (A) will be first to toss it. A player from Team A must toss the ball into Team B's area while calling a farm animal.

A team member from Team B must catch the ball before it bounces a second time. If it is not caught, the Team B player with the farm animal called is eliminated from play, but sits on Team A's side. If the ball is caught before the second bounce, the Team B player who caught it calls a farm animal while tossing the ball back to Team A's play area. The game continues in this way until time is called, or one team is out of players.

15 - 20 minutes discuss class rules

to end of class CRAFT: FOOD DAY

MATERIALS:

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| white bread, 1 slice per child | toaster |
| graham crackers | toaster oven |
| small marshmallows | microwave oven |
| HERSHEY'S Chocolate Bars | measuring cups |
| shredded wheat biscuits | spoons |
| 1/4 cup coconut | measuring spoons |
| 1 tbs. brown sugar | muffin tin |
| jelly beans | foil |
| margarine | mixing bowl |
| milk | food coloring |
| new, unused paint brushes | small bowls |
| paper towels | |

(continued on next page)

PAINTED TOAST: Pour about 2 tablespoons milk into bowl. Add a drop or two of food coloring. With clean, unused paint brush, paint a design onto white bread. Toast, spread with margarine, and eat. Repeat for each serving.

S'MORES:

Place 1 graham cracker half on paper towel; top with half a chocolate bar and 4 small marshmallows. Microwave at HIGH 10 - 15 seconds or just until marshmallow begins puff. Immediately top with second graham cracker half; gently press together. Repeat for each serving.

BIRD'S NEST:

Crumble 2 shredded wheat biscuits into a mixing bowl. Stir in 1/4 cup coconut, and 1 tablespoon brown sugar. Pour 1/4 cup melted margarine into bowl and stir. Line 6 muffin cups with foil. Press shredded wheat mixture onto the bottoms and up sides of cups. Bake 10 minutes in 350 degree oven, or until slightly brown. Cool nests in cups. Remove nests from cups by lifting up on the foil; then peel off foil. Fill with jelly beans. Save or eat. Cups may also be filled with canned fruit, yogurt, or pudding if desired. Makes 6 servings. Repeat as needed for class size.

RUTH — LESSON 1

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God’s Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it’s ok to write “I don’t know.”
- c. Think about what God’s Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verse on your paper.

Read Ruth chapter 1, verses 1 - 22.

1. Why did Elimelech leave Bethlehem and where did he go?
2. Does the Bible say he asked God for guidance or direction?
3. What do these verses say about asking for God’s help?

Proverbs 3:5

James 1:5

4. **RISKY:** What do you learn about Moab from these verses?

Genesis 12:5; 19:29,30,36,37 “He [Abram] took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot. He gathered up all his wealth—the cattle and slaves he had gotten in Haran. And they set out for Canaan and came there at last... So God heeded Abraham’s plea and kept Lot safe. He removed him from the rain-storm of death that engulfed the cities... After that Lot left Zoar, fearful of the people there. He went to live in a cave in the mountains with his two daughters. And so it was that both girls became pregnant from their father. The older girl’s baby was named Moab. He became the father of the nation of the Moabites.”

Deuteronomy 23:3,4 “No Ammonite or Moabite may ever enter the sanctuary, even after the tenth generation. There is a reason for this law. These nations did not welcome you with food and water when you came out of Egypt. They even tried to hire Balaam, the son of Beor from Pethor, Mesopotamia. They wanted him to curse you.”

Judges 3:28-30 “‘Follow me,’ He ordered. ‘For the Lord has given Moab, your enemy, into your hands.’ So they followed him down and, taking possession of the fords of the Jordan that led to Moab, they allowed no one to cross over. At that time they struck down about ten thousand Moabites, all vigorous and strong; not a man escaped. That day Moab was made subject to Israel, and the land had peace for eighty years” (NIV).

1 Kings 11:33 “For Solomon has turned away from me. He worships Astoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians. He worships Chemosh, the god of Moab. He also worships Milcom, the god of the Ammonites. He has not followed my paths. He has not done what I consider right. He has not kept my laws and commands as his father, David, did.”

Nehemiah 13:1 “On that same day the laws of Moses were read to the people. They found that the Ammonites and Moabites should not be allowed to worship at the temple.”

Psalms 108:9 “But Moab and Edom are hated. And I will shout in triumph over the Philistines.”

5. After many years, what did Naomi hear about her homeland in Ruth 1:6?

6. What did Naomi want for her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth?

7. What are Ruth’s words in Ruth 1:16, which are very famous now?

8. **CHALLENGE:** Do you think this may have been hard for Ruth? Look over the verses listed in question 4 to help you with your answer.

9. **HARD:** When did Elimelech move his family to Moab? And when did Naomi and Ruth return to Bethlehem?

Read Ruth chapter 2, verses 1 - 23.

1. From whose field did Ruth gather leftover grain, and who is he?
2. Although Ruth is a hard worker, she is a stranger in the land. How does Boaz show kindness in Ruth 2:8,9?
3. What does Ephesians 4:32 say about kindness?
4. Using your dictionary, what is the meaning of refuge?

In the Bible, one word can tell a story. When the writer of the book of Ruth used the word “wings,” the readers knew what he was saying. He was painting a picture of a mother bird protecting her baby birds by spreading her wings over them. They are completely covered by her wings. That’s how God wants His children to know about His protection when they come to Him.

5. What does Psalm 46:1 say about God’s protection?
6. How does the reader know from Ruth 2:10 and 13 that Ruth was grateful for Boaz’s kindness?
7. **RISKY:** Did Naomi bless the owner of the field before or after she found out his name?
8. Ruth was kind to Naomi. Boaz was kind to Ruth. What does Matthew 7:12 say that shows you how to get others to be kind to you?
9. **PERSONAL:** Has someone been unkind to you lately? What should you do to help that person be nice to you?

RUTH — WEEK TWO

DISCUSSION — LESSON ONE

15 - 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: WHICH IS IT?

Form a circle; chose one player as IT who stands in the center of the circle holding a **ball**. IT tosses, or bounces, the ball to a player in the circle. Before the ball reaches the player, IT says quickly “bird, beast, or fish,” then repeats one of the words, e.g. “beast.” Then IT counts to 10. The receiver must name a beast and throw the ball back to IT before IT reaches 10. Should the receiver fail to name a beast within the count of 10, he changes places with IT and the game continues. No two players may call the name of the same bird, beast, or fish.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 1

to end of class CRAFT: PAPER MOSAIC

MATERIALS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| colored paper | X-acto knife |
| scissors | glue |
| black construction paper, 5” x 7” | pencils |
| spray varnish/sealer (optional) | |

The instructions are for squares of 1/4” in size; you can make the squares larger, or you can try using several sizes for different types pictures. Also, larger squares may be easier to handle for fingers that are not accustomed to working with small pieces of paper. Cut the colored paper into 1/4” strips and then cut the strips into 1/4” squares. Draw a design on the black paper. Be sure to keep it simple. Or, use a simple stencil. Cover the outline with paper squares first, then glue the squares down one by one, following the outline and leaving a little space around each square. To make handling the squares easier, squirt a small amount of glue onto a piece of paper, dip the tip of your finger into the glue. Place your glued finger on a square. When it is lifted up, use your other hand to flip the square over and place it into position on your paper. Fill in the design and background. Cut the squares in order to fit into any tight, or irregular spots. Spray with sealer if desired. Let dry.

RUTH — LESSON 1 ANSWERS

Read Ruth chapter 1, verses 1 - 22.

[This information does not appear in the student questions. It is intended for teaching purposes if desired. Joshua 24:13,16,18,31 and Judges 2:15-18 give the history of the time during which the story of Ruth takes place. In The Simplified Living Bible Text we read:

“I gave you land you had not worked for. You took cities you did not build. These are the cities where you are now living. I gave you vineyards and olive groves for food. They are yours, though you did not plant them. And the people said, ‘We would never forsake the Lord! We would never worship other gods! For the Lord our God is the one who saved our fathers. He brought them from their slavery in the land of Egypt. He is the God who did mighty miracles. He did them before the eyes of Israel, as we traveled through the wilderness. He saved us from our enemies when we passed through their land. It was the Lord who drove out the Amorites. And he drove out the other nations living here in the land. Yes, we choose the Lord! For he alone is our God.’ Israel obeyed the Lord while Joshua and the other old men were still living. These men had seen the amazing deeds the Lord had done for Israel.”

“So the nation of Israel went out to battle against its enemies. But when they did, the Lord blocked their path. He had warned them about this. In fact, he had vowed that he would do it. But when the people were in this plight, the Lord raised up judges. They were chosen to save the Israelites from their enemies. Yet even then Israel would not listen to the judges. They broke faith with the Lord by worshipping other gods instead. How quickly they turned away from the true faith of their ancestors! They refused to obey God’s commands. Each judge rescued the people of Israel from their enemies during his lifetime. For the Lord was moved to pity by the groaning of his people under great suffering. So he helped them as long as that judge lived.”]

1. Why did Elimelech leave Bethlehem and where did he go? Verse 1,2: “This happened long ago when the judges ruled in Israel. A man named Elimelech, from Bethlehem, left the country of Israel. He did this because there was a famine there. He moved to the land of Moab.”
2. Does the Bible say he asked God for guidance or direction? No.
3. What do these verses say about asking for God’s help?

Proverbs 3:5 “If so, then trust the Lord with all your heart. Don’t ever trust yourself.”

James 1:5 “If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him. He will gladly tell you. He is ready to give wisdom to all who ask him. He will not scold you.”

4. **RISKY:** What do you learn about Moab from these verses?

Genesis 12:5; 19:29,30,36,37 “He [Abram] took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot. He gathered up all his wealth—the cattle and slaves he had gotten in Haran. And they set out for Canaan and came there at last... So God heeded Abraham’s plea and kept Lot safe. He removed him from the rain-storm of death that engulfed the cities... After that Lot left Zoar, fearful of the people there. He went to live in a cave in the mountains with his two daughters. And so it was that both girls became pregnant from their father. The older girl’s baby was named Moab. He became the father of the nation of the Moabites.” [Lot was the father of the Moabites; Lot was the nephew of Abraham.]

Deuteronomy 23:3,4 “No Ammonite or Moabite may ever enter the sanctuary, even after the tenth generation. There is a reason for this law. These nations did not welcome you with food and water when you came out of Egypt. They even tried to hire Balaam, the son of Beor from Pethor, Mesopotamia. They wanted him to curse you.” [The Moabites were forbidden to worship with the Israelites because the Moabites refused to help the Israelites, even though the Israelites were relatives, and Abraham had helped their ancestor Lot many generations before.]

Judges 3:28-30 “‘Follow me,’ He ordered. ‘For the Lord has given Moab, your enemy, into your hands.’ So they followed him down and, taking possession of the fords of the Jordan that led to Moab, they allowed no one to cross over. At that time they struck down about ten thousand Moabites, all vigorous and strong; not a man escaped. That day Moab was made subject to Israel, and the land had peace for eighty years” (NIV). [Moab was Israel’s enemy. God had given Israel victory in battle over Moab and made the Moabites their slaves.]

1 Kings 11:33 “For Solomon has turned away from me. He worships Astoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians. He worships Chemosh, the god of Moab. He also worships Milcom, the god of the Ammonites. He has not followed my paths. He has not done what I consider right. He has not kept my laws and commands as his father, David, did.” [The Moabites worshipped a pagan god. This god, Chemosh, required babies and children to be sacrificed to him. His belly was a burning fire in which the children were tossed for sacrifice.]

Nehemiah 13:1 “On that same day the laws of Moses were read to the people. They found that the Ammonites and Moabites should not be allowed to worship at the temple.” [The Moabites were a group of people forbidden to worship in the Israelite temple.]

Psalms 108:9 “But Moab and Edom are hated. And I will shout in triumph over the Philistines.” [This says it all: Moab was hated.]

5. After many years, what did Naomi hear about her homeland in Ruth 1:6? “When she heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there” (NIV).

6. What did Naomi want for her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth? Verses 8,9: “But after they had begun their homeward journey, she changed her mind. She spoke to her two daughters-in-law. She said, ‘Why don’t you go back to your parents’ homes instead of coming with me? And may the Lord reward you. You have been faithful to your husbands and to me. And may he bless you with another happy marriage.’ Then she kissed them. And they broke down and cried.” [It was the Levirate marriage law that required one brother to marry another brother’s widow. The purpose was to carry on the dead man’s name, property, inheritance, etc.]
7. What are Ruth’s words in Ruth 1:16, which are very famous now? “But Ruth replied, ‘Don’t make me leave you. I want to go wherever you go. I want to live wherever you live. Your people shall be my people. And your God shall be my God.’”
8. **CHALLENGE:** Do you think this may have been hard for Ruth? Look over the verses listed in question 4 to help you with your answer. [According to the verses in question 4, Moabites were not liked. In fact, they were hated. They couldn’t worship in the temple, they were denied rights as citizens of Israel, even though they were related. Ruth’s desire to believe, trust, and obey Naomi’s God shows the powerful witness this family must have been in order to influence Ruth to leave her family for an unknown future.]
9. **HARD:** When did Elimelech move his family to Moab and when did Naomi and Ruth return to Bethlehem? During a famine they moved to Moab, Ruth 1:1. At the beginning of the barley harvest Ruth and Naomi returned to Bethlehem, Ruth 1:22.

Read Ruth chapter 2, verses 1 - 23.

1. From whose field did Ruth gather leftover grain, and who is he? Boaz. A relative of Elimelech.
2. Although Ruth is a hard worker, she is a stranger in the land. How does Boaz show kindness in Ruth 2:8,9? “Boaz went over and talked to her. ‘Listen, my child,’ he said to her. ‘Stay right here with us to glean. Don’t think of going to any other fields. Stay right behind my women workers. I have warned the young men not to bother you. When you are thirsty, go and help yourself to the water.’”
3. What does Ephesians 4:32 say about kindness? “Instead, be kind to each other and tenderhearted. Forgive one another just as God has forgiven you because you belong to Christ.”
4. Using your dictionary, what is the meaning of refuge? “Safety or shelter. A place of safety or shelter” (HOLT).

In the Bible, one word can tell a story. When the writer of the book of Ruth used the word “wings,” the readers knew what he was saying. He was painting a picture of a mother bird protecting her baby birds by spreading her wings over them. They are completely covered by her wings.

That's how God wants His children to know about His protection when they come to Him.

5. What does Psalm 46:1 say about God's protection? "God is our refuge and strength. He is a tested help in times of trouble."
6. How does the reader know from Ruth 2:10 and 13 that Ruth was grateful for Boaz's kindness? "At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She exclaimed, 'Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner? May I continue to find favor in your eyes my lord.' she said. 'You have given me comfort and have spoken kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servant girls'" (NIV).
7. **RISKY:** Did Naomi bless the owner of the field before or after she found out his name? [**Both**] Verses 19: "'So much!' Naomi exclaimed. 'Where in the world did you glean today? Praise the Lord for whoever was so kind to you.' So Ruth told her mother-in-law all about it. And she mentioned that the owner of the field was Boaz." Verse 20: "'Praise the Lord for a man like that! God has been kind to us and to your dead husband!' Naomi cried excitedly. 'Why, that man is one of our closest relatives!'"
8. Ruth was kind to Naomi. Boaz was kind to Ruth. What does Matthew 7:12 say that shows you how to get others to be kind to you? "Do for others what you want them to do for you. This is the meaning of the laws of Moses and the words of the prophets."
9. **PERSONAL:** Has someone been unkind to you lately? What should you do to help that person be nice to you? [Be kind to them first.]

RUTH — LESSON 2

Before you begin your lesson:

- a. Pray for God’s Holy Spirit to help you answer the questions.
- b. Some questions may be too hard; it’s ok to write “I don’t know.”
- c. Think about what God’s Word is telling you for today.
- d. With some questions, it might be helpful to write the scripture verse on your paper.

Read Ruth chapter 3, verses 1 - 18.

Leviticus 25:24,25: “In every contract of sale there must be a rule that the land can be bought back at any time by the seller. If anyone becomes poor and sells some of his land, then his nearest relatives may buy it back.”

The dictionary says these words mean:

kinsman “Male relative” (HOLT).

redeem “To buy back; regain possession of (something) by payment in money or action” (HOLT).

redeemer “Person who saves or redeems” (HOLT).

1. What did Naomi tell Orpah and Ruth in Ruth 1:9?
2. How is this like what Naomi says to Ruth in Ruth 3:1?
3. Who does Naomi suggest?
4. Boaz was called a kinsman-redeemer. He was the relative (kinsman) who could buy back (redeem) the land Elimelech left when he journeyed into Moab. Jesus Christ is our kinsman-redeemer today. What do these verses say about Him?

Ephesians 1:7

1 Peter 1:18,19

Romans 8:29

5. **PERSONAL:** Do you have this kinsman-redeemer? Why not ask Him to save you now? Then you, too, will have this blessed hope: “And all who trust God’s Son to save them have eternal life” (John 3:36a).
6. What does Naomi tell Ruth to do in Ruth 3:3,4?
7. Was Ruth obedient to Naomi, even though she didn’t understand everything?
8. **PERSONAL:** Do you obey when you are asked to do something? Or do you need to know why you are being asked?
9. What did Ruth call Boaz in Ruth 3:9?

Deuteronomy 25:5-10: “A man’s brother might die without a son. If so, his widow must not marry outside the family. Instead, her husband’s brother must marry her and sleep with her. The first son she bears to him shall be counted as the son of the dead brother. That way his name will not be forgotten. But the dead man’s brother might refuse to do his duty in this matter. He might refuse to marry the widow. If he refuses, then she shall go to the city elders. She shall say to them, ‘My husband’s brother refuses to let his brother’s name continue. He refuses to marry me.’ The elders of the city will then call him. They will talk the matter over with him. He still might refuse. If so, the widow shall walk over to him in the presence of the elders. She shall pull his sandal from his foot and spit in his face. She shall then say, ‘This is what happens to a man who refuses to build his brother’s house.’ Ever after this house shall be called ‘the home of the man who has his sandal pulled off!’”

10. What surprise did Boaz tell Ruth in Ruth 3:12?

Read Ruth chapter 4, verses 1 - 22.

1. Where did Boaz go and why?
2. Who does Boaz call to join him and this man and why?

3. Who was this man and was he willing to buy the land?
4. Was he willing to marry Ruth and why?
5. **CHALLENGE:** How was the contract between Boaz and the other kinsman sealed?
6. Although Ruth and Naomi were not blood relatives, Naomi adopted Obed as her own son because of the Levite law. What do these verses say about the adoption God makes?

Galatians 4:5

Ephesians 1:5
7. Salmon was Boaz' father. But what do these verses say about his mother?

Matthew 1:5

Joshua 6:25
8. **CHALLENGE:** Read the genealogy found in Ruth 4:18-22 and Matthew 1:3-14. What names are listed in both?
9. Who is the last one listed in Matthew 1:6?

Rahab was not only a gentile, she was a woman other women turned away from and ignored. Ruth was not only a gentile, she was a Moabite and therefore not allowed by Mosaic law to even go to the Lord's temple. But both these gentiles chose to believe in and follow the one true God. And because they did this they are listed among Jesus' ancestors. They were important to God. He had a special place in His story for them.

10. **PERSONAL:** God has a special place in His story for you too. God loves you and He wants you to love Him and be part of His family. Are you part of His family? If not, why not follow the steps Ruth took in Ruth 3:4,4 before she went to Boaz at the threshing floor?

a. Wash yourself clean.

Psalms 51:7 “Sprinkle me with the cleansing blood. Then I shall be clean again. Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he can be depended on to forgive us. He will cleanse us from every wrong. It is proper for God to do this because Christ died for our sins.”

b. Be anointed by the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to come upon you.

1 Samuel 16:13 “So David stood there among his brothers. And Samuel took the olive oil he had brought. He poured it on David’s head. And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him. And the Lord gave him great power from that day onward. Then Samuel went back to Ramah.”

1 John 2:27 “But you have received the Holy Spirit. He lives within you. So you don’t need anyone to teach you what is right. He teaches you all things. He is the Truth, and no liar. So, as he said, you must live in Christ and never leave him.”

c. Put on your new clothes, or be the new person God wants you to be.

2 Corinthians 5:17 “When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!”

Ephesians 4:24 “Yes, you must be new and different people, holy and good. Dress yourself with this new nature.”

d. Believe, accept and claim Jesus as your own.

Matthew 10:32 “Someone might say he is my friend in front of many people. If so, I will say he is my friend before my Father in Heaven.”

John 1:12 “But to all who received him, he gave the right to become God’s children. All they needed to do was to believe in him.”

RUTH — WEEK THREE

DISCUSSION — LESSON TWO

15 - 20 minutes free time — games, fellowship

15 - 20 minutes snack and group recreation: CARRY AND RETRIEVE RELAY

Mark start and end goal lines with chalk or masking tape. Mark a circle for each team one step beyond end goal line. Form two teams and line up behind the start line. First player in each team is given a blown-up **balloon** and **two sticks**.

At the signal, the first player in each team is to carry the balloon between the two sticks to the circle at the end goal line. Player leaves sticks and balloon in circle, runs back to team line and tags second player, who runs to circle, retrieves sticks and balloon, and races back to his team and gives all to third player. Third player returns sticks and balloon to circle, races back to team and tags fourth player.

Play continues until all players have had a turn. The team whose players are back in original order first wins. If balloon is dropped, player picks it up and resumes play. No need to return to starting place.

15 - 20 minutes discuss LESSON 2

to end of class CRAFT: WORDLESS WITNESS BRACELET *

MATERIALS

15 inches of leather cord

one bead each:

clear, black, red, white, blue, green, yellow

Knot one end of cord, then string on clear bead. Tie another knot 5 inches from clear bead, then string on beads in color order above; knot cord next to last bead. String un-knotted end through clear bead to form circle (you may need to use a pencil to poke it through) and knot end.

**As adapted from Child Evangelism Fellowship Wordless Book, first designed by Charles Spurgeon in 1866.*

(See page 23 for Meaning of Wordless Witness Bracelet.)

Meaning of Wordless Witness Bracelet

| | |
|---------------|---|
| CLEAR | Represents Christ's call to repent and put our faith in Him alone; John 14:6. |
| KNOT | Represents your birth — physical, spiritual; John 3:6a; 1:13. |
| BLACK | Represents spiritual darkness because of sin before our new birth; Romans 3:23. |
| RED | Represents the blood Jesus shed to pay the penalty for sin; Romans 5:8. |
| WHITE | Represents the forgiveness and cleansing to those who trust in Christ; Acts 3:19. |
| BLUE | Represents public profession declared by baptism; Acts 2:41. |
| GREEN | Represents spiritual growth which occurs as we pray, worship, read the Bible, etc.; 2 Peter 3:18. |
| YELLOW | Represents heaven and glory with Christ; Revelation 21:1-3. |
| KNOT | Represents the end of life when every person will stand before God; Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10. |

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RUTH — LESSON 2 ANSWERS

Read Ruth chapter 3, verses 1 - 18.

Leviticus 25:24,25: “In every contract of sale there must be a rule that the land can be bought back at any time by the seller. If anyone becomes poor and sells some of his land, then his nearest relatives may buy it back.”

The dictionary says these words mean:

kinsman “Male relative” (HOLT).

redeem “To buy back; regain possession of (something) by payment in money or action” (HOLT).

redeemer “Person who saves or redeems” (HOLT).

1. What did Naomi tell Orpah and Ruth in Ruth 1:9? ““And may he bless you with **another happy marriage.**””
2. How is this like what Naomi says to Ruth in Ruth 3:1? ““One day Naomi spoke to Ruth. ‘My dear, it is time that I found a husband for you,’ she said. ‘It is time you were **happily married.**””
3. Who does Naomi suggest? Boaz.
4. Boaz was called a kinsman-redeemer. He was the relative (kinsman) who could buy back (redeem) the land Elimelech left when he journeyed into Moab. Jesus Christ is our kinsman-redeemer today. What do these verses say about Him?

Ephesians 1:7 “He has so much kindness! He took away all our sins through the blood of his Son. This saved us.”

1 Peter 1:18,19: “God paid a ransom to save you from the impossible way your fathers tried to take. The ransom he paid wasn’t gold or silver as you very well know. But he paid for you with the precious blood of Christ. He was the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.”

Romans 8:29 “From the very beginning God knew who would come to him. He decided that they would become like his Son. That way his Son would be the First with many brothers.”

5. **PERSONAL:** Do you have this kinsman-redeemer? Why not ask Him to save you now? Then you, too, will have this blessed hope: “And all who trust God’s Son to save them have eternal life” (John 3:36a).

[This information does not appear on the student questions. It is for teaching purposes if desired. In Bible times, a threshing floor was usually found on top of a hill so that it could catch the blowing wind. It was necessary to use the wind to blow away the chaff, that part of the grain that was not usable. The threshing floor was made of hard packed clay, which had a smooth surface. The floor was round, with great big rocks surrounding it. The sheaves of grain would be spread out on the floor, and trampled over by oxen pulling a sled. Then the people would pick up the grain and put it into a large piece of cloth and toss the grain into the air. The wind would come along and blow away the chaff leaving the grain in the cloth. When the wind died down, the threshing stopped and a religious feast began. Since the threshing floor was round, those staying through the night would lay with their heads towards the center of the circle with their feet poking out, like spokes on a bike.]

6. What does Naomi tell Ruth to do in Ruth 3:3,4? “Now do what I tell you. Take a **bath** and put on some **perfume**. **Dress up in some nice clothes**. Then go down to the threshing-floor. But don’t let him see you until he has finished his supper. Notice where he lies down to sleep. Then go and **lift the cover off his feet and lie down there**. He will tell you what to do about getting married.” [This is not strange advice Naomi gives Ruth. It is not a romantic act. In fact, this was in line with Israelite custom and law. “It was common for a servant to lie at the feet of his master and even share a part of his covering. By observing this custom, Ruth would inform Boaz that he could be her kinsman-redeemer—that he could find someone to marry her or marry her himself” (LAB notes). This was family business, with a hope of something romantic developing, which is seen later in the story. The highlighted portions will be mentioned again in the last **PERSONAL** question.]
7. Was Ruth obedient to Naomi, even though she didn’t understand everything? Yes, verse 5: “And Ruth replied, ‘All right. I’ll do whatever you say.’”
8. **PERSONAL**: Do you obey when you are asked to do something? Or do you need to know why you are being asked?
9. What did Ruth call Boaz in Ruth 3:9? Kinsman-redeemer (NIV). Close relative in other translations.

Deuteronomy 25:5-10: “A man’s brother might die without a son. If so, his widow must not marry outside the family. Instead, her husband’s brother must marry her and sleep with her. The first son she bears to him shall be counted as the son of the dead brother. That way his name will not be forgotten. But the dead man’s brother might refuse to do his duty in this matter. He might refuse to marry the widow. If he refuses, then she shall go to the city elders. She shall say to them, ‘My husband’s brother refuses to let his brother’s name continue. He refuses to marry me.’ The elders of the city will then call him. They will talk the matter over with him. He still might refuse. If so, the widow shall walk over to him in the presence of the elders. She shall pull his sandal from his foot and spit in his face. She shall then say, ‘This is

what happens to a man who refuses to build his brother's house.' Ever after this house shall be called 'the home of the man who has his sandal pulled off!'"

10. What surprise did Boaz tell Ruth in Ruth 3:12? "But there is one problem. It's true that I am a close relative. But there is someone else who is closer to you than I am."

Read Ruth chapter 4, verses 1 - 22.

1. Where did Boaz go and why? Verse 1: "So Boaz went down to the market. There he found the relative he had spoken of. 'Say, come over here,' he called to him. 'I want to talk to you a minute.' So they sat down together." [The town gate was the center of life. All legal matters were settled there.]
2. Who does Boaz call to join him and this man and why? Verse 2: "Then Boaz called for ten of the chief men of the village. He asked them to sit as witnesses."
3. Who was this man and was he willing to buy the land? The close relative spoken about in Ruth 3:12 and 4:1. Yes.
4. Was he willing to marry Ruth and why? No. Verse 6: "'Then I can't do it,' the man replied. 'For her son would become an heir to my property too. You buy it.'"
5. **CHALLENGE:** How was the contract between Boaz and the other kinsman sealed? **He gave his sandal to Boaz.** Verses 7, 8: "In those days there was the custom in Israel that a man who gave up a right to buy something was to pull off his sandal. Then he was to hand it to the person he was giving his right to. This made the transfer of his right public and legal. So, as the man said to Boaz, 'You buy it,' he drew off his sandal." [This was as legal as signing a contract is today in America. But he didn't spit in the man's face. Boaz was acting on behalf of Ruth. (See Deuteronomy 25.) This action was a symbol to show that Boaz had a right to the land and Ruth; it now belonged to him.]
6. Although Ruth and Naomi were not blood relatives, Naomi adopted Obed as her own son because of the Levite law. What do these verses say about the adoption God makes?

Galatians 4:5 "God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law. God did this so that he could adopt us as his very own sons."

Ephesians 1:5 "His plan has always been to adopt us into his own family. He would do this by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And he did this because he wanted to!"

7. Salmon was Boaz' father. But what do these verses say about his mother?

Matthew 1:5 "Salmon was the father of Boaz. Rahab was his mother. Boaz was the father of Obed. Ruth was his mother. Obed was the father of Jesse."

Joshua 6:25 "Thus Joshua saved Rahab. He also saved her relatives who were with her in the house. They still live among the Israelites because she hid the spies sent to Jericho by Joshua."

8. **CHALLENGE:** Read the genealogy found in Ruth 4:18-22 and Matthew 1:3-14. What names are listed in both? Perez, Hezron, Ram (Aram), Amminadab, Nashon, Salmon, Boaz, Obed, Jesse, David.

9. Who is the last one listed in Matthew 1:6? Jesus Christ.

Rahab was not only a gentile, she was a woman other women turned away from, ignored. Ruth was not only a gentile, she was a Moabite and therefore not allowed by Mosaic law to even go to the Lord's temple. But both these gentiles chose to believe in and follow the one true God. And because they did this they are listed among Jesus' ancestors. They were important to God. He had a special place in His story for them.

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