

Naomi and Ruth: God Provides a Redeemer

Bible Lesson: Naomi and Ruth: God Provides a Redeemer - Ruth; Matthew 1:5

Main Teaching: God has faithfully provided a Redeemer for you!

Word Up: God Has a Plan

Supplies:

- Word Up Booklet – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Recording for "I Believe" and "Thanks be to God" - Worship (Sing About the King 3 CD)
- Optional Song Visual for "I Believe" – Worship (cefpress.com)
- Picture of the top and bottom of an embroidery – Small Group
- Hand Sanitizer (Must be at least 65% Ethanol), Small clear glass bowl, Bowl with water for safety, A piece of paper, Lighter - Object Lesson
- Flashcards for Bible Story "Naomi and Ruth: God Provides a Redeemer" – Bible Lesson
- Box of Clothes – Review Game
- Bowl of different colored beads and colored or labeled containers for each color – Missionary Story (Resource Pack)
- Color Sheet Week 5 – Small Group (Resource Pack)
- Quiet Time Sheet Week 5 for each child – Dismissal (Resource Pack)

Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):

- 15 min – Small Group
- 10 min – Worship / Rules / Word Up
- 10 min – Object Lesson
- 15 min – Bible Lesson
- 10 min – Review Game
- 5 min – Missionary Story
- 10 min – Small Group

INTRODUCTION

All through history, God has been crafting a story to display His glory. It's amazing to look back and see the lives He shaped to be a beautiful reflection of the Gospel. The story of Ruth is a great example of this. In this evangelistic narrative Bible lesson, children will learn about Ruth—a poor Moabite widow who followed her widowed mother-in-law to Israel. She was destitute and had no hope of deliverance on her own. But she was redeemed. Boaz took her into his own family and provided for her.

If you are a believer in Christ, your story is the same. You were a sinner living your own way—without hope. But you were redeemed and are now part of the family of God. Jesus died to redeem the boys and girls in your club. Clearly express God's love for each boy and girl and His desire for them to become part of His family. You can encourage the saved children to trust God is always working in their lives.

Take some time to praise God for His redemptive work in your own life. Look at what He is doing in the lives around you and thank Him for being your Redeemer. He is shaping your life to be a reflection of the Gospel! And as you teach, He's using you to shape the lives of the children.



SMALL GROUP

Say Memory Verse

Have kids say their memory verse from last week to their small group leader

God Sees the Whole Picture

Show the kids a picture of the back of an embroidery. (Have the kids try guessing what the picture on top is.) We can only see what is happening around us right now. We wonder why God allows some things to happen. To us God's plan seems messy and doesn't make sense. (Show the kids the top side of the embroidery now.) God knows and sees everything that happens now and in the future, so to God the picture is more like this. He knows what the picture will look like in the end, and he promises that everything will turn out for the glory of God. When we look at the back side now, all the stitches make sense, we can see that each was put there for a specific reason. You will not always understand why God is allowing things to happen, but there is a reason for everything. You should trust God's plan for your life, because he sees the whole picture.

WORSHIP

To learn songs and motions, go to YouTube and type in CEF and the name of the song in the search bar.

"I Believe"

"Thanks be to God"



RULES

Review the Up Rules reminding the kids that following the rules helps everyone be able to feel safe and learn. If there is a particular rule the children are having trouble with, do a skit to highlight that rule and why it is important.

WORD UP!

"God has a plan!"

Last week, we learned that God has a plan even if it doesn't make sense to us. Part of God's plan was to make a way for every single person to be redeemed, or rescued, from their sin. Our redeemer is Jesus! It sounds like God's plan is pretty amazing! **WORD UP! "God has a plan!"** (Say with children)

OBJECT LESSON

Invisible Fire

What you need:

- Hand Sanitizer (Must be at least 65% Ethanol)
- Small clear glass bowl
- Bowl with water for safety
- A piece of paper
- Lighter

What you do:

Put some hand sanitizer in the small bowl. Light this hand sanitizer on fire right before you start the object lesson. You shouldn't be able to see the fire. If you are having trouble making your fire invisible with hand sanitizer, you could try using methanol instead. When you put the paper over the flame it should catch fire. You can then drop it into your bowl of water to extinguish the fire.

Video Demonstration:

<https://youtu.be/BloohLzmtF8?si=MUvpLIKJORQ6dMVR>

What you say:

Maybe it doesn't seem like God is working in your life. Something bad happens, and you wonder how God can allow things like that in your life. You begin to think that maybe God doesn't even exist at all. What if I told you that this bowl was on fire, would you believe me? It's hard to trust things that you can't see, right? That's like God, it's hard to trust Him and his plan for your life if you can't see him. What happens to paper if it is put in a fire? (Allow response) So, if my bowl is actually on fire, when I put this paper over it, it should catch fire, right? That would give us evidence that the fire is there even if you can't see it. Let's try it out. (Catch the paper on fire and extinguish in bowl of water.) My bowl is on fire! Even though you can't see the fire, you know it's there because you can see the evidence. That's how God is for us. Even though we can't see God, there is evidence all around us that he does exist. We see a world that functions properly, this couldn't happen by chance. We see peoples' lives change when they trust in Jesus, that isn't just a coincidence. Evidence of God is everywhere! We know that He exists, and He tells us in his true book the Bible that He has a plan for all those who believe in Him.

WORD UP! "God has a plan!" (Say with children.) God is working in your life even when you can't see it.



BIBLE LESSON

INTRODUCTION

God never stops working! Can you say that with me? (Say with children.) God's people, the Israelites, kept ignoring God. They had disobeyed Him over and over again. They eventually became so wicked that not only were their enemies attacking them, but they also began fighting each other. It was a mess! But God never stops working. He was still at work to keep His promises to Abraham and the people of Israel. Do you remember what God promised Abraham? (Allow response.) God promised to send a Savior.

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

While God was using different people called judges to rescue the sinful Israelites from the consequences for their sin, there was a time when there wasn't much food. Can you pretend to be hungry and look for food? (Do with children.)

Flashcard 5-1

The Bible tells of an Israelite woman named Naomi. Naomi's family was hungry so they left the Promised Land and moved to the nearby country of Moab.

They were probably excited that Moab had plenty of food, but Moab was also a very evil place. The people who lived in Moab (Moabites) worshiped statues of made-up gods and did horrible things as they served their false gods.



The people in Moab aren't the only people who do bad things. You and I do bad things too. We may not do the same horrible things the Moabites did, but when you fight with your brother or sister because you only care about what you want or when you say you finished your homework so you can watch TV but you really didn't, those are bad things too. The wrong things we think, say, and do are called sin. You and I were born wanting to sin, and when we sin, it always hurts someone. But sin not only hurts you and others, it also hurts God. You don't have the power to stop doing these wrong things on your own. These things cause terrible problems in the world and they also cause a huge problem in your life. (Read Isaiah 59:2a.) The Bible says that your iniquities (sins) separate you from God. That is the punishment everyone deserves for sin. You and I have sinned.

The people of Moab sinned too. They worshiped statues of made-up gods and did many horrible things as they served these false gods. They even killed some of their own children because they believed it would make these false gods happy. Do you think God loved these people? (Allow response.) Yes, God loved the Moabites and He was about to do something to show His great love for all people.

After Naomi's family moved, Naomi's sons married Moabite women. Then something terrible happened. Naomi's husband and two sons died. Show me how you think Naomi felt. (Allow response.) Naomi was really sad. She decided to return to her home in the Promised Land. She told her sons' wives that it would be best for them to stay in Moab with their families who could take care of them. But Ruth, the wife of one of Naomi's sons, refused to leave Naomi. Ruth said, (have an older girl or female volunteer read Ruth 1:16).

Flashcard 5-2

Ruth chose to go to the Promised Land with Naomi and serve the one true God! Let's pretend to travel with them. (Do with children.) They returned to Naomi's home in Bethlehem. Naomi's friends were very excited to see her again.

But Naomi was not excited. She was upset with God because of all the things that had happened to her. Her family had died and now she was poor and had no way to earn money to buy the things she needed to live. Remember, this was during the time when most Israelites were not obeying God and they were doing many sinful things. Naomi and Ruth couldn't just expect people to be nice and help them because most people were being very selfish and not following God's way.

Flashcard 5-3

Because they were poor, Ruth decided to do something called “gleaning.” Before God had brought the Israelites into the Promised Land, He gave them a way to show His love for poor people, widows, orphans, and strangers. God had commanded the Israelites to leave a little grain behind when they gathered the food from their fields and gardens. People who needed help could gather the food left behind so they would have something to eat. This is called gleaning. Let’s pretend to pick up crops while we say “gleaning” four times. (Do with children.)

Ruth decided to glean in the fields so she and Naomi would have food to eat. She went to a field where men were harvesting grain and began picking up the grain they left behind.

While Ruth was working, Boaz, the owner of the field, noticed her and asked his workers who she was. Boaz was very impressed when they told him who Ruth was and how she left everything behind in Moab to come to Bethlehem with Naomi. Boaz was a rich and powerful man who loved God. He was the boss in his fields and everyone had to do what he said. He decided to use his power and his money to show kindness to Ruth.

Flashcard 5-4

Boaz went to Ruth and told her she should glean in his field as long as she wanted. He even told her that he would protect her from anyone who might want to hurt her as she gleaned in the fields. Ruth was very surprised! Because she was from Moab, she was not expecting such kindness. Most Israelites and Moabites did not like each other.

Boaz gave her water and food and even told his workers to leave extra grain behind for her. Let’s pretend to pick grain, then drop some on purpose for Ruth to pick up. (Do with children.) God was using Boaz to show kindness to Ruth even though she was poor and not an Israelite.



God also shows kindness to you no matter where you are from or what you are like. You don’t have to earn God’s kindness; He freely gives it to you because He loves you. He is perfectly good and enjoys showing His goodness by being kind to you. (Read James 1:17.) Every good thing comes from our Creator God. He never changes. Because we are not perfect and we sin against God, He has every right to punish us, but God has chosen to show us His love. God shows His lovingkindness in many amazing ways! He created food, sunshine, and amazing animals to look at and enjoy. He made you with the ability to enjoy many wonderful things. What are some good things that you enjoy? (Allow response.) God enjoys showing you kindness no matter who you are or where you are from.

God used Boaz to show kindness to Ruth even though she was poor and from a different country.

Flashcard 5-5

That night Ruth went home, told Naomi what had happened, and showed her how much food she had gathered. Naomi was very surprised and excited that God was using Boaz to show them such great kindness. Naomi was also excited because Boaz was a close relative. God had put Ruth in just the right field! They agreed that Ruth should accept Boaz’s invitation to glean only in his fields and receive his protection and kindness. So Ruth kept going to his fields for the rest of the harvest time.

Can you guess who else was working this whole time? (Allow response.) God never stopped working in the lives of Naomi and Ruth. **WORD UP! “God has a plan!”** (Say with children.) Even during these difficult things that were happening in Ruth’s life, God was working!



Difficult things will happen in our lives because this world is messed up by sin. You might be sad because someone you love is sick or maybe they have died. Perhaps you are frustrated because you have a disability or difficulty that keeps you from doing things you really want to do. God knows that these things are difficult and He wants to give you hope by working in your life. If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior from sin, you can trust God is always working in your life. The Bible says, (read Romans 8:28-29). God knows that the best thing that could ever happen to you is for you to be more like Jesus. You will not always understand why God is allowing things to happen. You may not feel like He is working. But God has promised that He is using all the things in your life to do what is best for you. He is working in your life.

God was working. He had never stopped working in Ruth and Naomi's lives. He knew they needed food and protection so He was using Boaz to provide these things for them. But God also knew about a greater need they had. They needed a kinsman redeemer. A kinsman redeemer is someone who uses his close relationship to care and provide for family who can't take care of themselves. On their own, Naomi and Ruth were going to be poor and helpless for the rest of their lives and there was nothing they could do about it. Boaz was helping them now but if he ever stopped, they might starve or someone might hurt them. They needed someone to redeem them by making them part of his own family and then caring for them.

Naomi knew she and Ruth needed a kinsman redeemer. The best way for this to happen would be for someone from Naomi's Israelite family to marry Ruth. But Ruth was from Moab and she was very poor. Most Israelite men would not want to be kind to her or marry her. Can you think of a kind man who was also related to Naomi who might want to marry Ruth? (Allow response.) Let's see if you are right.

Naomi knew that Boaz would be able to redeem them if he was willing to marry Ruth. She told Ruth to go to Boaz and ask if he would redeem them by marrying her. How do you think Ruth felt about that? (Allow response.) Ruth decided to follow Naomi's instructions even though she knew most Israelite men would never want to marry her.

That night Boaz was camping in the field with his workers to guard the crops. Ruth quietly went to the place where he was sleeping. At midnight Boaz woke up and saw Ruth. He was very surprised when Ruth said, (read Ruth 3:9b). Ruth wasn't trying to trick him into marrying her because she was beautiful. She was asking him to marry her so she and Naomi would be redeemed from their helpless situation. Listen to what Boaz said, (read Ruth 3:10-11). Now Ruth was surprised. Boaz loved her but he had thought she would never want to marry him! He really wanted to marry her. Boaz was willing to redeem her. God had faithfully provided a redeemer for Ruth.



God has faithfully provided a Redeemer for you too! Even before you were born, God knew you would need help with your biggest problem—sin. He had a plan. **WORD UP! "God has a plan!"** (Say with children.) Your sin separates you from God and on your own you can't do anything to make things right with God. But God has already provided someone to help you. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be your Redeemer—the one who would take care of you. Jesus willingly paid the punishment your sin deserves. In fact, His payment made a way for anyone to be redeemed from their sin. Listen to this verse about Jesus. (Read Ephesians 1:7.) You can be redeemed and forgiven because Jesus bled and died for you. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid for your sin to bring you close to God. You can be forgiven and become part of God's family. Jesus came back to life after He died. Today He is ruling in Heaven as King of everything. He has the power to completely redeem you from sin. Because you are helpless to take care of your sin problem, **God has faithfully provided a Redeemer for you!**

God had faithfully provided a redeemer for Ruth and Naomi in their helpless situation.

CLIMAX

Boaz and Ruth got married. Now Ruth and Naomi had someone who would take care of them for the rest of their lives. God had faithfully provided a redeemer for them!

CONCLUSION

Flashcard 5-6

After Boaz and Ruth got married, they had a son named Obed. Naomi really enjoyed being a grandma and the family lived together in Bethlehem. Obed eventually grew up and had sons, grandsons, and great-grandsons. Over 1,000 years later another Son was born in Bethlehem who was related to all these people. Can you guess what His name was? (Allow response.) Jesus came from the family of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz! God used all their difficult circumstances as part of His plan to provide a Redeemer for the sins of the world.

All through the Bible we see how God faithfully worked in people's lives to do amazing things. Even when people were very sinful or had terrible problems, God faithfully worked to complete His plan to provide a Redeemer for the sins of the whole world.

INVITATION



Jesus is the Redeemer God provided. He already paid the punishment your sin deserves to bring you close to God. You could never earn God's kindness, but He freely gives it to any who will receive it as their own. (Read John 1:12.) You receive God's forgiveness when you believe on Jesus—trust Him completely as the only one who could pay for your sin and make you a child of God. Anyone, including you, can believe on Jesus. When you are a child of God, you are still part of your family but you also become a part of God's family. As part of God's family, you can know God cares for you and provides for you as His child. And one day you will go to live with Him forever. Will you believe on Jesus as your Redeemer who paid for your sin to make you part of God's family? Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you want to believe on Jesus as your Redeemer and become God's child, will you show me by raising your hand? (Acknowledge responses.) If you raised your hand or you have any questions about believing on Jesus, meet me (designate time and location). I'll bring my Bible and show you what God says about how your sins can be forgiven and you can become part of God's family.

REVIEW GAME

Teacher Dress-Up

Divide the children into teams and have them line up an age-appropriate distance from a box of clothing items such as shoes, socks, ties, necklaces, gloves, hats, scarves, t-shirts, pants, suspenders, sunglasses, wigs, etc. Assign a teacher to each team and have them stand on opposite sides of the box. Ask questions, alternating between the teams. When a child answers a question correctly, his team earns 2,000 points. Then the teacher says "Go" and the child runs to the box. He has 10 seconds to choose an item and hand it to his team's teacher, who puts it on. After all questions are asked, the teacher reading the questions chooses the "best dressed teacher" and awards 1,000 bonus points to his team.

1. Why did Naomi's family move to Moab? (There was no food in the Promised Land.)
2. Why was moving back to Bethlehem hard for Naomi and Ruth? (Their husbands were dead; they didn't have money to buy what they needed.)

3. What terrible problem does everyone have, including you, that separates them from God? (Sin.)
4. What did Ruth do during the harvest time to get food for herself and Naomi? (She went gleaning; she gathered the grain left behind in the fields.)
5. How did Boaz show kindness to Ruth? (He told her she could glean in his field as long as she wanted; he protected her; he gave her water and food; he told his workers to leave extra grain for her; he chose to be her kinsman redeemer; he married her.)
6. How does God show His kindness to you? (Answers will vary.)
7. Why could Boaz help Naomi and Ruth as their kinsman redeemer? (He was Naomi's relative; he could make them part of his family; he could care and provide for them.)
8. Who did God provide as your Redeemer from sin? (Jesus.)
9. Who was born through Ruth and Boaz's family? (Jesus; Obed.)
10. Because Jesus came as your Redeemer, what must you do to receive Him and become part of God's family? (Believe on Jesus as the only one who could pay for my sin and make me a child of God.)
11. If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, what can you know even if difficult things are going on in your life? (God is always working in my life; answers may vary.)
12. According to Proverbs 3:6, what will happen if you acknowledge God? What does that mean? (He will direct my paths; God will help me live the best way possible.)

MISSIONARY STORY

You can be a Missionary!

Set Up:

Have a bowl of different colored beads. Have a smaller container for each color of bead in the bowl. Mark these containers with which color should go in each.

What you say:

Should you be a missionary? We're going to play a sorting game with these beads to answer that question. (Have a child come up.) All these beads represent people who don't know about Jesus. You are going to be a missionary, and tell them about God's love for them. You're going to do this is by placing the right color of bead in the right color of container. I'm going to give you 20 seconds, to do that. Let's see how many people you can tell about Jesus. Well, it looks like you were able to get quite a few, but look at how many people there are who still need to hear about Jesus. Our method of telling these people about Jesus isn't working too well. I think we're going to need a new method. God didn't only want one person to be a missionary. God gave everyone what is called their sphere of influence. These are the people you interact with regularly. It could be people at your school, at church, cousins, or people you do sports with. There's a lot of people we interact with, and not all those people know about Jesus. What would happen if we each looked for opportunities to tell the people in our spheres of influence about Jesus. Let's try to tell these people about Jesus again, but this time I need 4 kids. (Have 4 kids come up) Each of you are going to tell your sphere about Jesus. (Assign each a "sphere" and give them 20 seconds to sort out their color.)

Look at how many more people we were able to reach when everyone was telling the people in their sphere about Jesus. If you have believed in Jesus, then you should be a missionary to the people in your life.

Video Demonstration:

<https://youtu.be/yS7dLhX3hvg>

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Color Sheet and Discussion

Review the story of Naomi and Ruth as kids color the picture. Talk about how God used Boaz as a Redeemer for Ruth and Naomi. Ask, "Who is the redeemer God provided for us? What do we need to be redeemed from? How was Jesus able to redeem us?"

DISMISSAL

Hand out a Quiet Time Sheet (Week 5 in the Resource Pack) to each child. As children are getting picked up, try and connect with the parents and let them know that this week we talked about how Jesus can redeem us from our sins.

Naomi and Ruth: God Provides a Redeemer

This page has been designed for you to photocopy and place in you Bible as a ready reference.

<p>Lesson Outline</p> <p>I. INTRODUCTION God never stops working!</p> <p>II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS While God was using different judges to save His people, there was a time without much food.</p>	<p>A. Flashcard 5-1 (Ruth 1:1-18)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Naomi and her family moved to Moab to find food. The people of Moab aren't the only ones who do bad things. [Isaiah 59:2a] Naomi's sons and husband died. When Naomi decided to go back to the Promised Land, Ruth refused to leave her. 	<p>B. Flashcard 5-2 (Ruth 1:19-22)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ruth and Naomi went to Bethlehem. Naomi and Ruth were in a terrible situation. 	<p>C. Flashcard 5-3 (Ruth 2:1-3)</p> <p>Ruth went out gleaning to get food for herself and Naomi.</p>	<p>D. Flashcard 5-4 (Ruth 2:4-17)</p> <p>Boaz noticed Ruth and told her he would protect her.</p> <p>☕ God shows kindness to you no matter who you are or where you are from. [James 1:17]</p>	<p>E. Flashcard 5-5 (Ruth 2:18-4:12)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Naomi was excited because Boaz was a close relative. ☕ You can trust God is always working in your life. [Romans 8:28-29] God knew Ruth and Naomi needed a kinsman redeemer. Naomi knew Boaz would be able to redeem them if he was willing to marry Ruth. Ruth went to Boaz, asking him to marry her and redeem her and Naomi. Boaz wanted to marry Ruth but he thought she wouldn't want to marry him! Boaz was willing to redeem Ruth. Boaz was willing to redeem Ruth. ☕ God sent His Son, Jesus, to be your Redeemer—the one who can free you from sin. [Ephesians 1:7] <p>III. CLIMAX (Ruth 4:1-3a) Boaz and Ruth got married. Now Ruth and Naomi had someone who would take care of them for the rest of their lives. God had faithfully provided a redeemer for them!</p>	<p>IV. CONCLUSION</p> <p>Flashcard 5-6 (Ruth 4:13b-22; Matthew 1:5)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ruth and Boaz had a son. Over 1,000 years later, Jesus came from the family of Ruth and Boaz. <p>☕ Will you believe on Jesus as your Redeemer today? [John 1:12]</p> <p><small>Scripture verses in parentheses are background text. Bracketed verses should be quoted or read from God's Word.</small></p>
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God's Faithfulness: Return to Canaan Coloring Sheet, Lesson 5