

metrocalvary @children's ministry

# RUTH

**Series:** History of Israel – The Land

**Reference:** Ruth 1-4

Today's Theme Verse: "...Your people shall be my people, and your

God my God." (Ruth 1:16c)

**Theme:** The Redeemer

#### Lesson:

We are setting aside some time to think about some of the heroes of the faith we read about in the Bible. As we look at these heroes we want to see that what makes them heroes is that they trusted in the Lord and they pointed us to Jesus; the greatest of all heroes. Today we are thinking about Ruth. Ruth put her faith in the Lord. We will also learn about Boaz. Boaz points us to Jesus.

The Book of Ruth tells the story of an Israelite family living in Bethlehem in Judea. Because of a famine, this family, a man and his wife and there two sons, moved to Moab to find food. While in Moab the two sons each married a Moabite woman. Then the father died and the two sons died. When the woman, Naomi, decided to return to Bethlehem, one of her daughters in-law insisted on going with her. Her name was Ruth and she was a loyal friend to Naomi. Ruth said, "... Your people shall be my people, and your God my God" (Ruth 1:16c).

When Ruth arrived in Bethlehem, she probably felt like an outsider. She had no friends and no family there, except for Naomi. People acted differently in Bethlehem; maybe they even talked differently than where Ruth had grown up in the land of Moab. How alone Ruth must have felt! She was a stranger in a strange land.

Ruth and Naomi arrived in Bethlehem having no money. How were they to survive? How would they be able to get food? Both Ruth's and Naomi's husband were dead, and they had no one to help them.

Oh, but they had God to help them. He saw their difficulty. God knew Ruth and Naomi were alone and poor. He knew they would die without His help. He had a plan to save them.

A man named Boaz was a part of that plan. He was a kind man and wealthy man, who owned many fields. One day, Ruth went to one of the fields belonging to Boaz and asked if she could pick up the grain the farmers had missed. Boaz not only told her she could, he even had his farmers leave out extra grain for her to gather. He also told Ruth he would protect her from any evil men that would want to harm her.

Ruth was amazed that Boaz would show kindness to her, a stranger. She felt like she didn't deserve it. But that was just the beginning of his kindness. Ruth was even more amazed when Boaz offered to marry her. He wanted to make this poor outsider a part of his rich family. What love and loyalty Boaz showed Ruth.

Just as Boaz loved Ruth, so God loves us – even more! He wants to make us part of his family. But we are outsiders. Our sin separates us from God. It makes us strangers to Him. The bad things we do get in the way; a holy God can't be in the presence of sin.

But God has a plan to save us. Remember how he had a plan to save Naomi and Ruth from being poor and alone? He sent Boaz to help them. To us, He sent Jesus. Jesus is God's Son, and God sent Him to earth to redeem us. The word, redeem, means to buy back, to pay a price. Jesus is **The Redeemer**.

In order for Boaz to marry Ruth, he had to pay a price. He had to buy back a piece of land. That was Ruth's redemption price. In order for Jesus to make us part of God's family, He had to pay a much bigger price. He had to pay the penalty for our sin. Ephesians 1:7 tells us, "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace." Jesus Christ, <u>The Redeemer</u>, had to die on the cross: that was our redemption price. What love that showed!

We don't deserve the love and kindness of Jesus, just as Ruth felt she didn't deserve the kindness of Boaz. The kind of love Jesus has for us is amazing. And because of it, we are no longer strangers to God. The sin that separated us from God has been forgiven. We have been redeemed, bought back. Our salvation has been paid for with the blood of Jesus. We are a part of God's family. First John 3:2 says, "we are God's children now."

If you haven't received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, your Redeemer, put your faith in Him today. If He is your Redeemer, love Him for all He's done for you.

- I. Naomi had a difficult life, but she trusted in God and God was faithful to provide for her.
  - A. List some of the difficulties that Naomi had.
    - 1. Leave her homeland in search of food. Ruth 1:1-2
    - 2. Her husband died. Ruth 1:3
    - 3. Her sons married Moabite women. Ruth 1:4
    - 4. Her sons died. Ruth 1:5
  - B. What are some of the difficulties that your family has experienced? How have you trusted in God? How has He provided for you?
- II. Naomi wanted her daughters-in-law to stay in Moab where they might be able to find a new husband. The chances of them finding a husband in Judah was slim because they were foreigners and Naomi could not give them any more sons to marry. They had a choice to make.
  - A. What choice did Orpah make? Ruth 1:14-15
  - B. What choice did Ruth make? Ruth 1:16-17
- III. Ruth chose to follow Naomi back to Judah. In doing so, she chose to follow God. She showed her loyalty to God by being loyal to Naomi.
  - A. Each person must either repent and follow God, or continue in sin and follow the world. Have you started following God?
  - B. If not, then your loyalty is to something else. What is stopping you from repenting and putting your trust in God? You can make the decision today to follow God.
- IV. Boaz protected Ruth and took care of her.
  - A. What are some of the ways that Boaz cared for Ruth?
    - 1. Ruth 2:8-10
    - 2. Ruth 2:15-16
    - 3. Ruth 2:23
  - B. Boaz wanted to marry Ruth and make her part of his family so she would no longer be a foreigner in a strange land. But he had to redeem her first *(pay the price)*. What did Boaz have to do in order to marry Ruth?
    - 1. Check with the nearest relative. Ruth 4: 1-6
    - 2. Buy Naomi's land. Ruth 4:9-10
- V. Trace the genealogy of Ruth in Ruth 4:17-22. In it you will see that Ruth is the great-grandmother of King David, Israel's greatest king. Jesus is from the line of David. This means that Ruth is a great great great... grandmother of Jesus!

VI. Just as Boaz loved Ruth, so God loves us – even more! He wants to make us part of his family. But we are outsiders. Our sin separates us from God. It makes us strangers to Him. A holy God can't be in the presence of sin. But God has a plan to save us. Remember how he had a plan to save Naomi and Ruth from being poor and alone? He sent Boaz to help them, to redeem them. To us, He sent Jesus. Jesus is God's Son, and God sent Him to earth to redeem us. The word, redeem, means to buy back, to pay a price. Jesus is **The Redeemer**. In order for Boaz to marry Ruth, he had to pay a price. He had to buy back a piece of land. That was Ruth's redemption price. In order for Jesus to make us part of God's family, He had to pay a much bigger price. He had to pay the penalty for our sin. Ephesians 1:7 tells us, "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace." Jesus Christ, The Redeemer, had to die on the cross: that was our redemption price. What love that showed! We don't deserve the love and kindness of Jesus, just as Ruth felt she didn't deserve the kindness of Boaz. The kind of love Jesus has for us is amazing. And because of it, we are no longer strangers to God. The sin that separated us from God has been forgiven. We have been redeemed, bought back. Our salvation has been paid for with the blood of Jesus. We are a part of God's family. First John 3:2 says, "we are God's children now." If you haven't received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, your Redeemer, put your faith in Him today. If He is your Redeemer, love Him for all He's done for you.

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Listen to the Lesson! Make a Mark For each time you hear:

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#### PRAYER REQUESTS



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