

## Lesson 73

# God Blesses Ruth

God blessed Ruth's love and faith by giving her a husband, Boaz.

# Studying God's Word

## Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

## Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving and give God thanks for his many blessings.

I'll start. Dear God, thank you for . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration  
I'm sorry prayers—Confession  
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving  
Please prayers—Supplication

## Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Who should we worship? The one true God.  
When can we trust God? All the time.  
What should we do if we love God? Obey him.  
What word means God does everything perfectly without mistakes? Wise.

## Bible Treasure Hunt

Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

K-1st Lesson continues next.

### **Pre-K Lesson**

### **K-1st Lesson**

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### **Review**

Refer to the Lesson 72 Flip Chart. Last time we learned about a man named Samson, who was set apart by God to help rescue the Israelites from the Philistines. God gave Samson great strength. But he sinned by letting a woman named Delilah become more important to him than God.

Delilah had someone shave Samson's hair off, and God took Samson's strength away. Samson was put in prison. Later, Samson was brought before a large crowd of Philistines, and he prayed for strength one more time. God gave him strength to push down the pillars that held up the building they were in, killing thousands of Philistines!

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. Today we're going to look at a book of the Bible called Ruth. The family we're going to read about lived during the same time as the judges. NOTE: According to the timeline, the lessons may seem out of order. We chose to cover Gideon and Samson first since they are both in the book of Judges. Ruth and Samuel were contemporaries but are found in different books.

We'll start today's lesson with a few words you'll need to know.

Show Family Pictures as you explain.

When a woman marries a man, what does she call her husband's mother?  
Mother-in-law.

Show Family Picture #1. A mother-in-law is the mother of someone's husband or wife.

And what does the husband's mother call the wife of her son? Daughter-in-law.

Show Family Picture #2. The wife is now a daughter because she has married into the family.

Last question: what is the word used for a woman whose husband has died? Widow.

Show Family Picture #3. A widow is a woman whose husband has died.

So, today we're going to talk about a widow and a daughter-in-law.

## **Ruth Stays with Naomi**

This true account begins when there was a famine in Israel. That means there was not enough food for everyone. One man, named Elimelech, took his wife, Naomi, and two sons and moved to the country of Moab where they found food and a place to live.

Refer to the Family Picture #3. But then Elimelech died, leaving Naomi to live as a widow.

Refer to Family Picture #1. Later, Naomi's sons got married.

Refer to Family Picture #2. Then some years later, both of Naomi's sons died. Now Naomi was left alone with her two daughters-in-law named Orpah and Ruth.

Refer to Family Picture #3. This was a sad and scary time for these three women. They were all widows now. It would be hard to live without their husbands. In those days women couldn't go out and get a job to earn money for food like they can now.

One day, Naomi decided to move back to her hometown. She told Ruth and Orpah to go back to their families where they would be cared for.

Orpah decided to go live with her own mother, but Ruth loved Naomi so much that she did not want to leave her alone.

Ruth 1:16

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's find out what Ruth did. We'll look in the book of Ruth in the Bible. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Ruth 1:16.

Where did Ruth say she would go? Wherever Naomi went.

Ruth promised to always stay with Naomi. Ruth also loved the one true God—the same God Naomi worshipped.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Together they traveled back to Bethlehem where Naomi was from. But these two women were poor and hungry and had no money.

How many of you believe God was in control and had a plan to help them? Show of hands.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Ruth decided to go and pick up grain that was left after the workers finished in the fields. As God planned it, Ruth ended up working in the field owned by a man named Boaz. He saw Ruth and told his servants to leave more grain for her so she would have plenty. Then Boaz spoke to Ruth and told her, "Stay here in my fields to collect food where you will be safe."

Ruth was surprised and asked, "Why are you being so kind to me?"

"Well," Boaz replied, "because I have heard about all you've done to help Naomi."

Hey! Things are looking up, aren't they? Do you see how God sovereignly brought Boaz and Ruth together?

Who remembers what sovereign means? God is in complete control of everything.

## **Boaz Redeems Ruth and Naomi**

It turned out that Boaz was a relative of Naomi's husband. Back in those days when a man died, like Naomi's husband, the closest relative, a cousin or an uncle, was supposed to make sure the widow was taken care of. This relative was called a redeemer. Say that with me: redeemer.

A redeemer is someone who buys something back or saves someone in big trouble. Naomi and Ruth were in trouble because they had no husbands to protect them or provide for them! They needed help, but they couldn't pay anyone to help them.

Since Boaz was a relative, he decided to help them. First, Boaz redeemed the land that had belonged to Naomi's husband. She couldn't take care of it herself, so he bought it to help provide for Naomi.

Ruth 4:13–14

But what about Ruth? Let's find out what happened to her. Read Ruth 4:13–14.

Refer to the Flip Chart. What did Ruth become? Boaz's wife.

Reread the verses as needed so students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

Right. Ruth and Boaz got married, and God blessed them by giving them a child. Was it a boy or a girl? A boy.

The women of Bethlehem praised the Lord and said Naomi was not left without a what? A redeemer.

Who was Naomi and Ruth's redeemer? Boaz.

Naomi was no longer afraid and alone. She had her daughter-in-law, Ruth, her relative Boaz—and she would be the baby's grandmother!

## **Jesus Redeems Sinners**

So, we learned that Boaz was a redeemer. He bought Naomi's land and provided for her and Ruth. This was the custom in those days. The closest relative, like a cousin or an uncle, would rescue, or redeem, his family members from trouble even though they had nothing to offer him to pay him back for his help.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Did you know that Boaz is like a picture of Jesus? Jesus is a redeemer, too! He redeems sinners! We are all sinners and deserve to be punished. We have nothing to offer Jesus. But Jesus bought us back from sin when he died on the cross. He took the punishment for sin that we deserve and promises eternal life in heaven to all who trust in him. Isn't that wonderful news? Jesus is our Redeemer!

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

## **K-1st Lesson**

### **Review**

Refer to the Lesson 72 Flip Chart. Last time we learned about a man named Samson, who was set apart by God to help rescue the Israelites from the Philistines. God gave Samson great strength. He was able to do many mighty things. But he sinned by letting a woman named Delilah become more important to him than God.

When Samson told Delilah the secret of his strength, she had someone shave Samson's hair off. Then God took Samson's strength away. Samson was captured, blinded, and put in prison.

Later when Samson was brought before a large crowd of Philistines, he prayed for strength one more time. God answered his prayer, and Samson pushed down the pillars that held up the building they were in, killing thousands of Philistines!

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. Today we're going to look at a book of the Bible called Ruth. The family we're going to read about lived during the same time as the judges. NOTE: According to the timeline, the lessons may seem out of order. We chose to cover Gideon and Samson first since they are both in the book of Judges. Ruth and Samuel were contemporaries but are found in different books.

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Show Family Picture #1. A mother-in-law is the mother of someone's husband or wife.

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Show Family Picture #2. The wife is now a daughter because she has married into the family.

Last question: what is the word used for a woman whose husband has died? Widow.

Show Family Picture #3. A widow is a woman whose husband has died.

So, you've probably guessed that we're going to talk about a widow and a daughter-in-law today.

## **Ruth Stays with Naomi**

This true account begins when there was a famine in Israel. Remember, a famine is when there's not enough food for everyone. A man named Elimelech moved his family to the country of Moab where there was more food. Elimelech lived in Moab with his wife, Naomi, and two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. Life seemed to go pretty well for them in Moab—they had food and a place to live.

Refer to the Family Picture #3. But things started going bad when Elimelech died, leaving Naomi to live as a widow.

Refer to Family Picture #1. Later, Naomi's sons got married. Chilion married Orpah, and Mahlon married Ruth.

Refer to Family Picture #2. Then some years later, both of Naomi's sons died. Now Naomi was left alone with her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth.

Refer to Family Picture #3. This was a sad and scary time for these three women. They were all widows now. It would be very difficult to survive without their husbands. In those days women couldn't go out and get a job to earn money for food and clothes like they can now.

How many of you have moms that go out to a job every day? Show of hands.

It's much easier now for women to get jobs, but it was very hard for Naomi and Ruth and Orpah.

One day, Naomi heard that the famine in Israel was over. So she decided to move back to her hometown of Bethlehem. She told Ruth and Orpah to go back to their families where they would be cared for. Orpah decided to

go back to her own mother, but Ruth loved Naomi so much that she did not want to leave her alone.

## Ruth 1:16–17

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We're going to find out what Ruth did. We'll look in the book of Ruth in the Bible. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verses.

Where did Ruth say she would go? Wherever Naomi went.

Ruth promised to go with Naomi. Ruth also loved the one true God—the same God Naomi worshipped.

Reread the verses as needed so students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

How long did Ruth say she would stay with her mother-in-law? Until they died.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Together they traveled back to Bethlehem. But these two women were in big trouble! They were poor and hungry and had no money. Ruth decided to go and pick up grain that was left after the workers finished in the fields. Back then, that was how poor people could get food; the field workers were supposed to leave some grain so that poor people could collect it.

How many of you believe God was in control and had a plan to help them? Show of hands.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Just as God planned it, Ruth ended up working in the field owned by a man named Boaz. He noticed Ruth picking up grain and told his servants to leave more grain for her so she would have plenty. Then Boaz spoke to Ruth and told her, "Don't go to anyone else's fields. Stay here in my fields to collect food so my workers can protect you and share their water with you."

Ruth was surprised and asked, "Why would someone like you show me such kindness, especially since I'm from a different country?"

"Well," Boaz replied, "because I have heard about all that you've done to help Naomi." Then he prayed a blessing on Ruth, asking the Lord to protect her and reward her.

Hey! Things are looking up, aren't they? Do you see how God sovereignly brought Boaz and Ruth together?

Who remembers what sovereign means? God is in complete control of everything.

## Boaz Redeems Ruth and Naomi

It turned out that Boaz was a relative of Naomi's husband. Back in those days when a man died, the closest relative was supposed to make sure the widow



was cared for. This relative was called a redeemer. Say that with me: redeemer.

A redeemer is someone who buys something back or saves someone from distress. Naomi and Ruth were in distress, which means big trouble. They were widows, so they had no husbands to protect them or provide for them! They needed help. But they had no way of paying anyone to help them.

Since Boaz was a close relative, he knew he could do something to help them. First, Boaz redeemed the land that had belonged to Naomi's husband. She couldn't take care of it herself, so he bought it to help provide for Naomi.

Ruth 4:13–14

But what about Ruth? Let's find out what happened to her. Listen carefully as I read Ruth 4:13–14. Read the verses.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What did Ruth become? Boaz's wife.  
Right. Ruth and Boaz got married, and God soon blessed them by giving them a child. Was it a boy or a girl? A boy.  
The women of Bethlehem praised the Lord and said Naomi was not left without a what? A redeemer.  
Who was Naomi and Ruth's redeemer? Boaz.

Naomi was no longer afraid and alone. She had her daughter-in-law, Ruth, her relative Boaz—and she would be the baby's grandmother!

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We learned that Boaz was a redeemer. He bought Naomi's land and provided for her and Ruth. This was the custom in those days. The closest relative would rescue, or redeem, his family members from distress and trouble even though they had nothing to offer him to pay him back for his help.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Did you know that Boaz is like a picture of Jesus? Jesus is a redeemer, too! He redeems sinners! We are all sinners and deserve to be punished. We have nothing to offer Jesus. But Jesus bought us back from sin. He paid the price when he died on the cross. He took the punishment for sin that we deserve and promises eternal life in heaven to all who trust in him. Isn't that wonderful news? Jesus is our Redeemer!

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

## Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

## Basket Toss

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

## Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)  
Two beanbags  
Three laundry baskets or boxes  
Masking tape

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

## Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

## Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)  
Three chairs set out for bases  
Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

## Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

## Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)  
Game Board  
Dice, numbered cards, or spinner  
Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

## Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

## Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)  
Six to ten empty water bottles  
Softball or other small playground ball  
Masking tape  
Optional: dried corn or beans

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a "lane" from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

# Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

## Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape
- Ten sheets of paper
- Markers

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

## Racetrack

Who will reach the checkered flag first? Teams will race to the finish by answering review questions.

## Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- White board or chalkboard
- Markers/chalk
- Optional: paper cutouts for each team (cars, animals, circles, etc.), tape/poster putty

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Draw a racetrack on the board. It may be as simple as a straight horizontal path or a curvy circle. Label "Start" and "Finish" (with a checkered flag) at either end of the track. Add numbers along the track (e.g., 1–10) at equal intervals between Start and

Finish. The numbers will be used as placement points for the racers as they progress along the track.

Divide the class into teams. You may draw a different symbol (e.g., stick figure, circle, X or O) to represent each team at the Start, or use paper cutouts as team markers and stick them to the board with tape/poster putty.

Ask the first team a review question. If they answer correctly, move their marker or redraw their symbol along the track at #1. If they answer incorrectly, give the next team a chance to answer and move to the first number. If they do not know, give the answer and ask that question again later. Continue to alternate asking review questions and moving teams' markers along the racetrack according to the numbers along the track. The first team to reach the Finish wins!

## Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

### Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and "wild" written on index cards
- One beanbag
- Masking tape
- Two baskets or containers for cards

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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