

Lesson 73

God Blesses Ruth

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

Studying God's Word

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

Introduction

Slide #3

Slide #4

Refer to Lesson 71 Theme Poster. When the Israelites sinned by worshipping false gods, God sent the Midianites against them as punishment. The Israelites cried out for help, and God called Gideon to deliver them as a judge. Gideon wasn't courageous or mighty when God found him, but God promised to be with him and help him defeat the Midianites.

How many men did God reduce Gideon's army to? 300.

Yes, God wanted the Israelites to understand that the victory was his. With 300 men, Gideon surrounded the Midianite camp at night. They smashed their jars, blew their trumpets, and raised their torches. God caused the Midianites to panic and fight each other. God gave the victory, and the Israelites were free from the Midianites.

Refer to Lesson 72 Theme Poster. The next judge we learned about was Samson, who was set apart for God from birth to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines. Samson was a Nazirite, which meant he didn't eat or drink anything from grapes and he couldn't shave his hair. God gave Samson supernatural strength.

What are some things Samson did with his God-given strength? Allow discussion. He tore apart a lion, broke free from ropes, fought Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey, etc.

But Samson sinned by putting women he loved above his love and obedience to God. He told Delilah about his Nazirite vows, and she betrayed him to the Philistines. God left Samson, and Samson was captured, blinded, and imprisoned by the Philistines. When Samson was brought before a large crowd of Philistines who were mocking him and God, Samson prayed and asked God to strengthen him one more time. God answered his prayer, and Samson pushed down the pillars supporting the building they were in, killing about 3,000 Philistines!

Before we start today's lesson, there are a few terms you'll need to know. When a woman marries a man, what does she call her husband's mother? What do we call that relationship? Mother-in-law.

Yes! A mother-in-law is the mother of someone's husband or wife. The "in-law" part means that the family relationship is through marriage and not from birth.

And what is the new wife to the husband's mother? What is she called?
Daughter-in-law.

Right. The wife is now a daughter by marriage.

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

A widow is a woman who has lost her husband. Back in Bible times, it was hard to survive as a widow, especially if you had no children. Women couldn't go out and get a job to provide for themselves like they can now.

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. Today, we're going to look in the book of Ruth. We will read about a woman who became a widow and how God used her faithful daughter-in-law to help her. This account happened during the time of the judges in Israel's history. 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.

Ruth's Choice

Pass out the Class Notes.

Slide #5

Refer to the Map of Moab. Let's begin with some background. There was a famine in Israel. Remember, a famine is a severe shortage of food. Because of that famine, a man from the tribe of Judah named Elimelech moved from Bethlehem to Moab with his wife, Naomi, and two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. You can see the path they may have taken on this map. Show the path on the map from Bethlehem to Moab.

Moab was a country that wasn't always friendly with Israel, but there must have been peace between the two countries at this time for Elimelech to move there.

While in Moab, Elimelech died. Naomi was alone with her two sons. Then each son got married. They married women from Moab named Orpah and Ruth. Years later, both of Naomi's sons died. Now she was left alone with her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth.

What are these three women called now that their husbands have died?
Widows.

This was a sad and scary time for them. Remember, it was very difficult to survive as a woman without a husband back then. So, Naomi decided she should go back to her hometown of Bethlehem in Israel. She told her daughters-in-law to go back to their mothers' homes so they would be cared for. Orpah did as Naomi said and went back to her home. But Ruth loved Naomi and did not want to leave her alone.

Ruth 1:16-17

Slide #6

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Turn in your Bibles to the book of Ruth, chapter 1, in the Old Testament. It is after Joshua and Judges.

Who will read Ruth 1:16–17? Assign a reader.

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

Ruth loved Naomi. She promised to stay with her. Ruth also loved the true God—the same God Naomi worshipped.

How long did Ruth say she would stay with her mother-in-law? Look at verse 17. Until they died.

Yes! Ruth was willing to leave her people and their false gods and make Naomi's people, the Israelites, her people. She trusted Naomi's God and believed he was faithful to care for his people. Ruth remained loyal to Naomi and went with her back to Israel. And we'll find out how God would reward her faith.

Slide #7

Refer to the Map of Moab. So, Ruth went with Naomi back to Bethlehem in Israel. See their path here on the map. Show the path from Moab to Bethlehem.

Back in Bethlehem, they were poor and hungry. They didn't have any way to make a living. They were in trouble! But Ruth was a hard worker. She suggested that she go and pick up grain that was left after the workers harvested in the fields. Back then, that was how poor people could get food. The workers in the fields were supposed to leave some grain so that poor people could collect it.

As the Lord planned it, Ruth ended up working in the field of a man named Boaz. Boaz was a close relative of Naomi's husband, Elimelech. Boaz noticed Ruth. He instructed his servants to leave more grain for her. Then Boaz told Ruth to stay and collect food in his fields, where his workers would protect her and share their water. Ruth wondered why Boaz would be so kind to her. She wasn't even from Israel, but from Moab. She was considered a foreigner.

Ruth 2:11–12

Slide #8

Let's find out how Boaz answered Ruth! Who will read Ruth 2:11–12?

Choose a reader.

What did Boaz know about Ruth? All she had done for her mother-in-law, how she left her family and country and came to a people she did not know.

Boaz had heard about all that Ruth had done to help Naomi. He prayed a blessing on Ruth. Who was Boaz praying to? Look in Ruth 2:12. The Lord, the God of Israel.

Right! And what did Boaz ask God for in verse 12? That he would reward and protect Ruth.

This is a great turn of events! Do you see how God sovereignly brought Boaz and Ruth together? Boaz was a relative of Naomi's husband. Boaz was impressed when he heard how Ruth had shown her love and faithfulness to her mother-in-law. He was impressed with Ruth's faith in the God of Israel. We will see that God would greatly bless Ruth and Naomi through Boaz. God would reward them just as Boaz had prayed.

Slide #9

Slide #10

Let's start the Class Notes. You will fill in the blanks to complete each statement. Who will read #1 and tell us what country Elimelech's family traveled to? Choose a reader. Moab. Have students complete #1.

Who will read #2 about the women Naomi's sons married? Choose a reader. Ruth. Have students complete #2.

And #3? What happened to Naomi's husband and sons in Moab? Choose a reader. Died. Have students complete #3.

Who will read #4? Choose a reader. Home. Have students complete #4.

And #5? What town did Naomi and Ruth travel to? Choose a reader.

Bethlehem. Have students complete #5.

Whose field did Ruth end up working in? Choose a reader. Boaz. Have students complete #6.

Boaz's Decision

Let's move on and see what happened after God brought Boaz and Ruth together.

Ruth 4:13-17

Slide #11

Slide #12

Slide #13

Turn to Ruth 4:13-17. Who will read for us? Choose readers.

Did you get all that? There is a lot of important information packed into those verses.

First, look at verse 13. What did Boaz do? He married Ruth, and they had a son.

Slide #14

Yes! Boaz married Ruth, and God gave them a son. In verse 14, the women of Bethlehem praised the Lord for giving Naomi a redeemer. Let's learn what this term "redeemer" means.

Redeemer: to buy back or free someone from distress

To redeem means to buy back or free someone from distress. A redeemer in Bible times was a male relative who had the responsibility to help a relative who was in trouble or in need. Naomi and Ruth were in desperate need because they had no husbands to protect them or provide for them!

Because he was related to Naomi's husband, Boaz was able to redeem her by marrying Ruth and bringing them both into his family. Boaz took responsibility

for the land that was Elimelech's. He bought it and used it to provide for Naomi and Ruth. God blessed Boaz's kindness and Ruth's faithfulness by giving them a son.

In verse 16, what does it say Naomi became to Boaz and Ruth's child?
His nurse.

No longer was Naomi afraid and alone. She had her daughter-in-law, Ruth, her relative Boaz, and now a precious baby to help care for! She would be the baby's grandmother!

What was the baby named? Obed.
This was a very special family. Look at the end of verse 17. Who was the grandson of Obed? David.

Obed grew up and had a son named Jesse, and Jesse was the father of David, who became king of Israel!

Slide #15

Slide #16

Look at #7 on your Class Notes. What is the term for a man who could help a relative in trouble? Choose a reader. Redeemer. Have students complete #7.

Who will read #8? Choose a reader. Marry. Have students complete #8.
What was the name of the child for #9? Choose a reader. Obed. Have students complete #9.

And #10? Who came later into this family? Choose a reader. David. Have students complete #10.

Matthew 1:1

Slide #17

Slide #18

King David was related to someone VERY special. Listen as I read Matthew 1:1. Read the verse.

Did you hear that? Jesus Christ is called the Son of David. Jesus Christ was part of David's family. Let's add that to your Class Notes in #11. Jesus. Have students complete #11.

Ruth's great-grandson was King David, who was in the line of Jesus Christ, the Messiah! Ruth was faithful to the God of Israel, and God blessed her faithfulness in a very special way by including her in the line of Jesus, the Messiah.

Boaz had agreed to buy Naomi's land, work it, and provide for both her and Ruth because he was a close relative. This was the custom in those days. The closest relative would rescue, or redeem, his family from a bad situation. In this case, Boaz redeemed Ruth. He married her, and they eventually became the great-grandparents of King David. His family would one day lead to Jesus Christ, who is the Redeemer of sinners.

Christ's Sacrifice

Let's look at a few verses that describe Jesus as our Redeemer.

Ephesians 1:7

Slide #19

Turn to Ephesians 1:7 in the New Testament. Who will read that? Choose a reader.

Who is this verse referring to when it says, "In him we have redemption"? Jesus.

How does this verse say Jesus redeemed us? Through what? Through his blood.

Because Jesus shed his blood on the cross for us, what do we receive? The forgiveness of our trespasses.

Trespasses is another word for sin, so this verse tells us that we are redeemed, or saved, from our sins by Jesus' sacrificial death in our place. Notice that Jesus redeemed us according to the riches of his grace. It's not because of anything we did but because of God's mercy that we are saved.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Who will read the definitions of gracious and merciful from the Attributes of God Poster? Choose volunteers to read. Gracious: gives great gifts to his children even when they are not deserved. Merciful: kind to those in misery; withholds deserved punishment.

Slide #20

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Do you see the similarities between Boaz saving Ruth and Naomi and Jesus saving us? When Boaz saved Ruth and Naomi by showing mercy and compassion to them, it was a picture of what Jesus would do for us one day. Boaz showed kindness to Ruth and Naomi and saved them from their hopeless situation. He redeemed them. And Jesus showed kindness to us by dying on the cross. If we turn to him, Jesus will redeem us from our hopeless situation so that we will not be separated from God forever, but have eternal life with him.

Galatians 4:4-5

Slide #21

Turn back one book to Galatians and find chapter 4. Who will read verses 4 and 5? Choose a reader.

What is this verse telling us? Allow discussion.

God sent his Son, Jesus, to redeem those under the law. Who is under the law? All people.

We are all under the law of sin and death because of the curse. The curse came in the garden of Eden when Adam and Eve committed the first sin by disobeying God. But Jesus redeemed us. What do those who turn from their sins, believe in Jesus, and trust him to save them receive? Look at the end of verse 5. Adoption as sons.

This is great news! Just as Boaz saved Ruth and Naomi and they became a new family, Jesus saves us and we are adopted by the Father into his family—we become children of God! We are no longer lost and helpless;

we are treated as beloved children of God! This Old Testament account of Boaz and Ruth is a wonderful picture of Jesus saving us.

Slide #22

Let's finish our Class Notes. Who will read #12? Choose a reader. Saved. Have students complete #12.

Application

Slide #23

Slide #24

Refer to the Map of Moab. Our lesson started when a family of four left Israel and headed to Moab because of a famine. Naomi had no idea what was in store for her. She experienced great sadness when she lost her husband and sons. Yet God provided Ruth, her faithful daughter-in-law, to come with her back to Israel when the famine was over.

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Naomi and Ruth were in trouble, and Boaz saved them from the poor situation they were in. Not only that, but because Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz were all faithful to God, he blessed their family with a baby—Obed. Their family would one day lead to Jesus Christ—the Messiah and Redeemer.

Just like Boaz rescued Ruth, Jesus Christ has rescued sinners. We have nothing to offer him. We deserve only one thing—hell—because of our sins. But Jesus offers forgiveness for sins through his perfect sacrifice on the cross. Jesus is our Redeemer. He took the punishment for sin and offers eternal life to everyone who trusts in him.

Lesson Review

We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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.

Box Toss

Students will answer review questions then toss the beanbag at the holes in the box to gain points for their team.

Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- Medium-sized cardboard box
- Scissors or knife
- Four beanbags
- Masking tape

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use scissors or a knife to cut two or three holes in the bottom of the box. Make sure they are large enough for a beanbag to easily pass through. Label each hole with a point number: 5, 10, and 15. Use masking tape to make a tossing line several feet away from the box.

Divide the class into teams. Have the teams line up behind the line across from the box. Give each team two beanbags. Alternate asking each team a review question. Students who answer correctly will toss the beanbags at the target holes in the box to earn points for their team. If they answer incorrectly, they may toss the beanbags for fun without the points counting. Students will go to the end of the line after tossing the beanbags. Keep score for both teams. Continue play until all questions have been answered correctly and students have all had a chance to toss the beanbags.

Draw Dice

Teams will answer questions and complete a simple drawing to win. Who will finish their drawing first?

Materials

- Review Questions (included in lesson)
- One drawing area for each team (paper, white board, etc.)
- Pencils or white board markers

One die

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a sheet of paper and a pencil, or divide the white board in half. Draw a mouse on the board as an example.

Ask the first team a question from the lesson. If they answer correctly, have them roll the die.

To begin drawing their mouse, each team must wait until they get a six. They will then draw the mouse's body on their paper or the board. After they have drawn the body, as they give correct answers to the questions, they can continue to draw the other parts of the mouse according to the numbers they roll.



They can draw according to the numbers below:

6 = body

5 = nose

4 = whiskers

3 = eyes

2 = ears

1 = tail

Continue giving each team a turn to answer a question and roll the die. Repeat the questions as necessary. The first team to finish their mouse wins.

You may choose to draw a simple object from the lesson, such as a crown, an open Bible, a fish, etc. Be sure to assign numbers (as above) to each part of the object to be drawn before the game begins.

Four in a Row

Students will answer questions and add a marker for their team onto the grid. Which team will be the first to get four in a row?

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)
Masking tape
Red and black paper circles or other markers for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a 16-section grid on the floor. The grid should be four sections wide by four sections long. Each section should be equal in size. Use eight red circles and eight black circles cut from construction paper or other markers for the two teams.

Divide the students into two teams. Give each team eight markers. They will take turns answering the questions. If they answer correctly, they can put a marker in a square on the grid. The first team to get four markers in a row wins the game.

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.

Pick a Point

Answer the questions correctly to earn the right to pick a point.

Materials

Review Questions (included in lesson)
Small paper strips
Cup or basket

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Write various numbers in increments of 5 or 10 on strips of paper to use as point cards. Put the point cards into the cup or basket. Divide students into teams of 4–5 students each. Have each team take turns answering a review question. After each correct answer, let a member of the team draw a point card from the cup.

The number of points on the cards will vary, so the score will have nothing to do with how skilled one team might be. Keep track of each team's points. If time allows, repeat the questions!

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.

Limited License to Reproduce

A limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable, nonsublicensable license is hereby granted to a single local church or organization to print copies of the PDF materials in the Teacher Digital Resources if 1) you are the original purchaser; 2) you are using the copies for noncommercial purposes (such as for teaching in class) exclusively within your single local church or organization (multi-campus churches, and national/regional denominations are not covered under this license); and 3) you follow the instructions provided in the curriculum pertaining to the printable materials.

This license is for the specific purchaser of the product and does not include affiliated groups or organizations, or other churches or groups in the same denomination as the purchaser, not identified as the actual purchaser. There is no limit to the number of printed copies for use within the single local church or organization which is the actual purchaser. None of the material in this curriculum may be reproduced for any commercial promotion, advertising, or sale of a product or service, or to share with any other persons, churches, groups, or organizations.

The media (audio/video) portions are copyrighted and duplication is prohibited. This license is for materials in the Teacher Digital Resources only and does NOT include reproduction rights for pre-printed teacher books, student guides, student take home sheets, or posters, except on an emergency basis when purchased quantities are not sufficient for a given week.

Bible Version

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.