



## K-1<sup>st</sup> 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.*

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

- 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, 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.

- 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!

### Jesus Redeems Sinners

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!



1

Naomi and Ruth were in trouble.



2

Ruth got food from Boaz's fields.



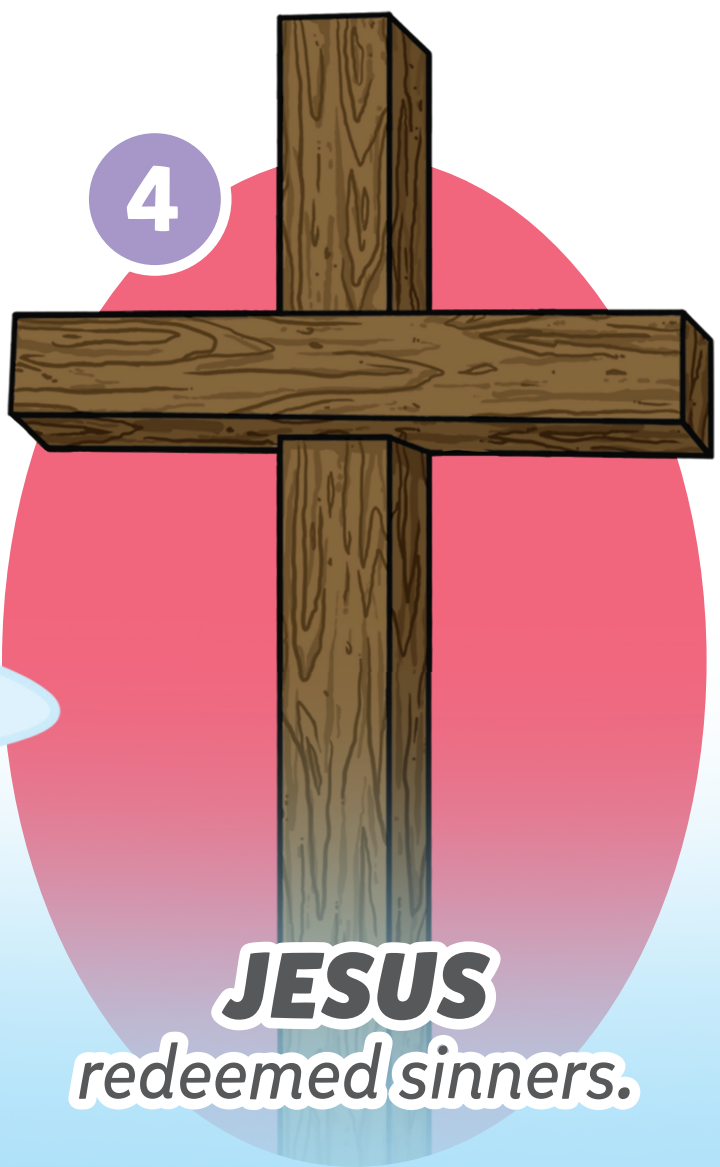
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Boaz redeemed Ruth and Naomi.



4

**JESUS**  
redeemed sinners.







## K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson

### Review

Okay! Let's start with a quick review of what we've been learning.

Refer to Lesson 73 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, we learned about Ruth, who lived during the time of the judges. Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, were in trouble because they had no husbands to care for them. They were poor and needed food. But God is sovereign; he's in control of everything. God arranged for Ruth to work in Boaz's field. Boaz was their redeemer. He was able to buy Naomi's land, marry Ruth, and take care of both women.

In our lesson today, we'll hear about a young man who heard someone calling his name. But it turned out not to be who he thought it was. We're going to play a quick game to get us started. I need a volunteer. Who thinks they can guess who is calling their name without seeing who it is? Choose a volunteer to come to the front. Put a blindfold on him and have him sit in a chair facing the wall.

Now I will point to someone, and all you have to do is say (volunteer's) name three times, but don't say anything else. We all have to be very

quiet so he can figure out who is calling him. Ready? Point to a student to call out the name of the blindfolded volunteer three times. Remove the blindfold and ask the volunteer to guess who it was. Then reveal the person who did the calling.

It can be hard to tell who is speaking when we can't see them. Let's find out what the young man in our lesson did when he heard someone calling his name in the middle of the night.

### Samuel's Birth

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. Our lesson begins near the end of the time of the judges, about 300 years after God helped Joshua and the Israelites get the promised land.

? Refer to Lessons 71 and 72 Flip Charts. We talked about two of the judges already who helped fight enemies. Do you remember who they were? Gideon and Samson.

Right. The judge who was leading Israel at this time was a priest named Eli. He served in the tabernacle of the Lord in a town called Shiloh. This was the place where people came to worship the God of Israel. They came to offer sacrifices to God and to celebrate feasts every year.

At one of these feasts, Eli, the priest, saw a woman who was praying. Her name was Hannah. She was deeply troubled and sad because she had no children and wanted a son very badly. She cried and promised the Lord that if he gave her a son, she would give him back to God to be his servant. God answered Hannah's prayer and gave her a son. Hannah named him Samuel.

When Samuel was still a young boy, Hannah kept her promise to give her son back to the

Lord. She brought Samuel to the tabernacle and left him with Eli so he could stay and serve God as Eli's helper.

It must have been hard for Hannah to give up her son like that. But she visited every year and brought him new clothes, and God also blessed Hannah with other sons and daughters.

Eli, the priest, was glad to have Samuel there because he was a great help. But Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were not helpful at all; they were wicked men. As priests, they were supposed to love and serve God, but they were greedy and selfish. They stole offerings that were supposed to be for God! God was not pleased with Hophni and Phinehas, and neither was their father, Eli.

Eli knew his sons were doing evil things and leading the people into sin. Eli tried to tell them to stop sinning, or God would have to punish them. But Hophni and Phinehas would not listen to their father's warning.

Samuel, however, was obedient. God knew he would make Samuel a judge, a priest, and a prophet someday. Let's see how it all began.

### Samuel's Calling

God first spoke to Samuel when he was a young man, probably a young teenager. He was still living with Eli and serving in the tabernacle. Let's find out how the Lord got his attention.

? Who has the Bible? Will you please bring it up? Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We will be acting out what happened in 1 Samuel chapter

3. I need two volunteers for a skit. Choose students to be Eli and Samuel. Set up the scene as directed.

### God Calls Samuel Skit (Based on 1 Samuel 3:1-18)

As you read the skit, have an assistant direct the students as they repeat their lines and act out their roles. When finished with the skit, continue the lesson.

### God's Judgment

So, Samuel received his first message from the Lord, and Eli believed it. But how would this punishment, or judgment, come on Israel and Eli's family?

The Bible tells us the Israelites were fighting against the Philistines. The Israelites asked Eli's sons to take the ark of the covenant into battle. They wanted to use it like a good luck charm, hoping it would help them win. But that wasn't God's plan. The Israelites lost the battle—30,000 soldiers died, Hophni and Phineas were killed, and the Philistines stole the ark of the covenant.

God judged the people of Israel for their sin, letting them lose against the Philistines. God also judged Eli's sons, who were doing wicked things and leading the people into sin. After the battle, Eli heard that his sons had been killed and the ark was captured. He was so shocked at the news that he fell over and died!

God's message to Samuel happened like he said it would. People now knew that Samuel was God's new prophet. Samuel was chosen by God to be not only a prophet, but also a priest and the last judge of Israel. He was the only man to be all three—prophet, priest, and judge.