

# PRE-K / K

FUN + FRIENDS + FAITH



## MAY 15

### First Service

## LEADER Bible Study

The story of Ruth is an incredible story. We see how gracious and good God is. We see the providential care God has for a woman who was not Jewish. She was from Moab—a descendant of Lot, not a child of Abraham. Yet, she became a recipient of God's promise to Abraham because salvation is a gift and is received by faith.

Ruth was married to a Hebrew man who died. She returned to Israel from Moab with her mother-in-law. Ruth was an outsider, a woman without a husband in a land that was not her own. Ruth was vulnerable, but what we see so beautifully in her story is that God protected her and provided for her. In the middle of a famine, God provided food to sustain Ruth. God did more than that; He ultimately provided a husband who redeemed her and saved her from destruction.

Ruth is a picture of what it looks like to trust God in the hard seasons of life. The story of Ruth is the story of you and me. We are outsiders who have no hope in a world cursed by sin. But God did not leave us that way. He provides for us, sustains us, and ultimately redeems us through Jesus.

Ruth brought nothing to her relationship with Boaz but her own need. Boaz saw Ruth, loved her, and redeemed her. From this loving act of redemption, it was from the family of their great-grandson that Jesus would come into the world and in His great love for people, redeem all who put their trust in Him alone.

God shows us His desire to redeem all those who belong to Him by including Ruth in the lineage of Jesus. Remember that in Jesus, we have hope no matter how hopeless our situation looks. Jesus is more than just a friend. He is our kinsman-redeemer.

## GOD PROVIDED FOR RUTH

Ruth 1-4

### PLACES TO KNOW

Moab: Ancient kingdom on a narrow strip of land east of the Dead Sea which today is part of Jordan.

### CHRIST CONNECTION

Boaz was a family redeemer. He helped his close relatives. Boaz bought back what his relatives lost. Jesus is our Redeemer. He bought our salvation by dying on the cross for our sin.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What are the consequences for sin?  
The consequence for sin is separation from God.

### KEY PASSAGE

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



# Busy Hands

**WELCOME & WORSHIP** // *Key Passage Song: "Gift of God (Romans 6:23)", activity page: "Get Naomi Home", crayons or markers*

Greet the children as they arrive for first service. When most of the children have arrived, gather the children and sing the Key Passage Song, "Gift of God" found on the USB.

**ACTIVITY PAGE:** Place the crayons or markers on the tables and give an activity page to each child. Read the directions: **Draw a path through the maze to get Naomi and Ruth from Moab to Judah.** Say: **In our Bible story today, we will hear about a woman from Israel who had traveled to the country of Moab. It was time for her to travel home to Bethlehem in Judah, but this time another woman was with her. We will hear more about both of them soon.**

**TRAVEL AROUND** // *World map*

Lead the children to imagine your group is traveling to a faraway place by plane. Choose a place on the map and point it out to the children. Stretch your arms straight out to the side and zoom around the room. You may want to be the leader and have the kids follow you. Perhaps you want to travel into the large group space. Coordinate with the other shepherds.

Select a new destination, point it out on the map and pretend to travel by train. Line up and rotate bent arms at sides as your group chugs around the room.

Continue playing out various modes of transportation, inviting preschoolers to select where and how to travel. Say: **Some people in our Bible story today traveled between different countries, but they probably just walked or rode on animals the whole way! It would take much longer than if we traveled by plane or train.**

**INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY** // *Countdown video, family photo: bring from home (especially wedding picture or multiple generations)*

Gain preschoolers' attention by showing the countdown video, turning the lights off and on, or clapping a simple rhythm for children to copy. Invite preschoolers to march in pairs as they transition to Bible study. Tell the children that two people traveled together in our Bible story, too!

Show a family photo album, especially wedding pictures and multiple generations. Talk about the relationships of the people and the special occasions in the pictures. Say: **Two main ways that families grow are through marriage and children. God often uses families to take care of each other. Today we are learning about a family that needed help. God used a marriage to help the family, and He gave them a child!**



# Active Minds

**TELL THE BIBLE STORY: God Provided for Ruth** // Bible, bookmark, timeline, people figures: 3 women, 3 men, Bible Story Picture Poster, story video: "God Provided for Ruth"

LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE: Place a bookmark at the Book of Ruth in your Bible. Invite a child to open it. Reverently display the open Bible. Say: **After the cycle of the judges repeated many times, God was getting ready to do something new. Today's true Bible story comes from the Book of Ruth. Let's listen to God's Word.** Point to the Bible story picture on the timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

You may read the story printed below or play the story video. If you read the story, display the Bible Story Picture Poster as a visual for the children. You may also use this story telling tip: Use people figures. Move figures representing each person as you tell the Bible story.

## GOD PROVIDED FOR RUTH

Naomi's family members were Israelites, but there was not enough food in the land. They decided to leave the promised land and go to Moab (MOH ab) where they could find food. Naomi's husband died in Moab, and her sons got married. Their wives' names were Orpah and Ruth. Then Naomi's sons died too. Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth were all alone. Naomi wanted to go home to the promised land. God's people had food now. Naomi told Orpah and Ruth to go back to their families. The women were very sad to leave each other. Orpah went home, but Ruth would not leave Naomi. Ruth said, "Wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you live, I will live; your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." So Naomi and Ruth went back to Judah.

Ruth and Naomi needed food, so Ruth went to a field to gather leftover grain. The field was owned by a man named Boaz. Boaz saw Ruth working. He had heard how kind Ruth was to Naomi, and he told Ruth to stay in his field. Boaz made sure Ruth was safe and had food. Ruth took grain home to Naomi and told her about Boaz. "Boaz is a close relative," Naomi said. "He is one of our family redeemers." A family redeemer was someone who helped his relatives if they needed help.

Naomi knew Boaz would be a good husband for Ruth, so she gave Ruth special instructions. Ruth put on her best clothes and did everything Naomi told her to do. She showed Boaz that she wanted to be his wife. Ruth told Boaz, "You are a family redeemer." Boaz made an agreement in front of the town's leaders. He promised to redeem Ruth, which meant he would buy back the land that Naomi lost after her husband died, and he would marry Ruth.

Boaz married Ruth, and they had a baby boy named Obed. When Obed grew up, he was the father of Jesse, who was the father of King David.

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# Active Minds

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Boaz was a family redeemer. He helped his close relatives. Boaz bought back what his relatives lost. Jesus is our Redeemer. He bought our salvation by dying on the cross for our sin.

## BIBLE STORY REVIEW // None

Say: **Naomi, her husband, and her two sons left the promised land to go to the land of Moab for food.** [Alternate patting your right and left legs to make footstep sounds. Guide children to pat with you.] **While they were in Moab, Naomi's husband died. Her sons got married, but then they died too. Now Naomi and her two daughters-in-law were all alone!**

**Naomi decided to go back to Israel, and Ruth went with her. Ruth was leaving her own family and her own people because she loved Naomi. Ruth said she would worship God as her God too. So off they went to Judah.** [Pat legs again.]

**When they got there, Ruth and Naomi needed food. Ruth went to pick up the grain that fell behind when people harvested it.** [Make swooshing sounds as you pantomime cutting barley stalks. Then pantomime Ruth's gleaning.] **Do you remember how God took care of Ruth and Naomi? God led Ruth to Boaz's field! Boaz was a family redeemer. He made sure Ruth was safe and gave her extra food, and he bought back the land that Naomi's family had lost. Boaz married Ruth, and God gave them a son. King David was born into their family and later, Jesus!**

## KEY PASSAGE AND BIG PICTURE QUESTION // Key Passage Marker, Bible, Key Passage Poster, Key Passage song: "Gift of God", Big Picture Question Poster

Say: **Jesus loves people and paid the price to redeem us. But Jesus wants to bless us even more. He wants us to have life forever with God! When Jesus comes back for His people, it will be like a great wedding party. Our key passage talks about eternal life.**

Place the key passage marker at Romans 6:23 in the Bible. Invite a child to open the Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud: **"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."** You may use the poster as a help and point to the words for the children. Create a few groups of children and assign each group a phrase of the key passage. Point to each group when it is their turn to say their phrase, prompting as necessary. Repeat as desired, getting faster or mixing up which group says which phrase.

Say: **Jesus is our Redeemer. He paid the price for our sin by dying on the cross. He offers us the free gift of eternal life with God.** Sing the key passage song, "Gift of God (Romans 6:23)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

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# Open Hearts

REVIEW THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER: Display the big picture question poster. Say: **We could never pay the price for our sin. What is the consequence for sin? The consequence for sin is separation from God. We deserve to be separated from God forever for disobeying Him.**

**Jesus never disobeyed God. His reward is life forever with God. But Jesus took our punishment, paying the full price for our sin in His death on the cross, and He gives us the gift of eternal life instead!**

PRAY: Invite the kids to close their eyes and think about God as they talk with Him. Say: **Jesus, we praise You for being our Redeemer! Thank You for buying our salvation by dying on the cross for our sin. We confess that we could never deserve what You have done for us. Help each of us accept Your free gift of eternal life. We love You. Amen.**

**BUILD FAMILY TREES** // *Activity page (coloring page on one side, family tree on the other side) glue sticks, leaves with the following words on them: me, mother, father, sister, brother, extra leaves to add anyone who may live in the household, crayons, marker*

Give each child the activity page and ask them to look at the side that says "Family Tree" at the top of the page. Discuss the family tree in our story. There is Boaz, the dad, Ruth, the mother, Obed, the son, and Naomi, the grandmother. Explain to the kids that they are going to make a family tree with the people that live in their house. There will be leaves that say mother, father, me, brother and sister. There will be extra leaves if you have to write another name on a leaf for a child like grandmother or grandfather, etc.

It is suggested that the shepherds go from child to child and hand out the leaves for that child. Ask: Tell me who lives in your house with you all the time? Give them a leaf that says "me" then give whatever else they need to make their family tree. (for example: mother, 2 sisters) Hand write any additional leaves you may need. While shepherds are handing out the leaves, the children may color the other side of the paper.

Once the children have their leaves, they may glue them to the tree.

Say: **God has blessed each of us with a family to take care of us. Our families may not all look the same but God provides for us. God took care of Naomi and Ruth by giving them a new family. Boaz was a family redeemer. He helped his close relatives. Jesus is our Redeemer. He bought our salvation by dying on the cross for our sin. I wonder what great things God might do through your family generations from now?**



# Extra Ideas

## TIME TO TALK // *None*

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

Say: **What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?**

Say: **What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?**

Say: **What do you call the person who helps his relatives if they need it?**

## GIVE THANKS // *Bible Story Picture Poster*

Invite children to sit in a circle on the floor. Lead the kids in prayers of gratitude. Start by thanking God for providing families, prompting each child around the circle to name someone who takes care of her. Be sensitive to family situations.

Then thank God for providing good food, prompting each child to name a favorite food in turn. Continue praying and prompting children to give thanks for the many blessings in their lives.

Say: **God has given us everything we need and more. Let's remember to thank Him often! God provided for Ruth and Naomi, too. Naomi praised God for sending Boaz to redeem her family. We can praise God for sending Jesus to redeem us!**