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LESSON IDENTIFICATION

Week	24	Date	June 14, 2026
Lesson Title	Ruth: God's Love and Redemption		
Primary Scripture	Ruth 1:1-22; 2:1-12; 3:1-13; 4:1-17		
Supporting	Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 1:5; Galatians 3:28		

Bible Timeline Placement

The book of Ruth is set during the time of the judges, the same chaotic period we studied last week. It is intentionally placed as a contrast: while the nation is in turmoil and forgetting God, this small account shows faithful people living out covenant loyalty in ordinary life. Ruth is also a critical link in the family line of King David and, ultimately, Jesus Christ. Matthew 1:5 names Ruth in the genealogy of Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

Ruth 1:16

Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God.

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CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Moab and Israel — Moab was a neighboring nation east of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. Moabites descended from Lot, Abraham's nephew, making them distant relatives of Israel. However, the relationship between Israel and Moab was complicated and often hostile. Deuteronomy 23:3 excluded Moabites from the assembly of Israel for ten generations. This makes Ruth's acceptance into Israel, and her inclusion in the line of David and Jesus, a dramatic and deliberate act of God's grace crossing ethnic and national boundaries.

The Kinsman-Redeemer — This is the single most important cultural concept in the book of Ruth. In ancient Israel, when a man died without a male heir, his nearest male relative had both the right and the responsibility to marry the widow and continue the family name. This relative was called the *goel* in Hebrew, which means redeemer or kinsman-redeemer. The goel also had the right to buy back land that had been sold out of the family. This custom protected widows and orphans who had no other economic recourse in the ancient world. Boaz acts as the kinsman-redeemer for Naomi and Ruth, which is the legal and theological heart of the entire account.

Women in the Ancient World — Without a husband or male protector, widows in the ancient Near East were among the most vulnerable people in society. They had no legal standing to own property independently, no inheritance rights in most cases, and no consistent source of income. Ruth's decision

to stay with Naomi was an act of extraordinary loyalty and sacrifice. She gave up her homeland, her family, her culture, and any prospect of remarrying among her own people. Gleaning in fields was one of the only legal ways a poor person could gather food, and it was specifically protected by Mosaic law (Leviticus 19:9-10).

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WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS PASSAGE

Ruth 1: Naomi's Grief and Ruth's Loyalty — Elimelech takes his wife Naomi and two sons from Bethlehem to Moab during a famine. The sons marry Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. Then Elimelech and both sons die. Naomi, devastated and empty, decides to return to Bethlehem. She urges both daughters-in-law to go back to their own families. Orpah reluctantly leaves. Ruth refuses. Her declaration in Ruth 1:16-17 is one of the most famous expressions of covenant loyalty in all of Scripture. She commits herself completely to Naomi, to Israel, and to the God of Israel.

Ruth 2: Meeting Boaz — Ruth goes to glean in the fields, which is the legal provision for the poor under Mosaic law. She ends up in the field of Boaz, who is a relative of Naomi's deceased husband. Boaz has already heard about Ruth's loyalty to Naomi. He goes out of his way to protect her, provide extra grain, ensure she can eat with his workers, and speak kindly to her. He blesses her in the name of the Lord and acknowledges that she has come to take refuge under the wings of the God of Israel.

Ruth 3 and 4: Boaz Redeems — Naomi instructs Ruth to approach Boaz at the threshing floor as a way of appealing to him to act as kinsman-redeemer. Boaz responds with honor and integrity. There is a closer relative who has the first legal right to redeem, but that man declines when he learns it involves marrying Ruth. Boaz then legally redeems the land and takes Ruth as his wife. They have a son named Obed, who becomes the grandfather of King David. The book ends with Naomi holding the child, her emptiness turned to fullness by God's faithfulness.

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KEY THEOLOGICAL TRUTHS

Truth	Statement	Scripture
1. About God	God is a faithful redeemer who provides for the vulnerable and the forgotten. He works through ordinary people and ordinary circumstances to accomplish His purposes. His kindness, called hesed in Hebrew, is loyal, covenant love that does not give up.	Ruth 2:12; Psalm 36:7
2. About People	People need a redeemer. Naomi and Ruth had nothing and no one. Their only hope was that someone with the right and the willingness would step in and rescue them. This is the picture of every human soul before God.	Ruth 1:20-21; Romans 3:23
3. Points to Jesus	Boaz is a picture of Jesus, the ultimate kinsman-redeemer. Jesus had the right and the power to redeem us. He willingly chose to pay the price. He brings the outsider in. He turns emptiness into fullness. His redemption crosses every boundary.	Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:7

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GOSPEL CONNECTION

Ruth is a foreigner, a widow, and a Moabite. By every cultural and legal standard of her day, she was an outsider with no claim on Israel's God or Israel's blessings. And yet God placed her exactly where she needed to be, in the right field, at the right time, in front of the right man. Boaz did not have to redeem her. He chose to, out of love and loyalty. That is the gospel in miniature. Jesus had no obligation to save us. We were outsiders, spiritually bankrupt, with no claim on God's blessing. But Jesus, our true kinsman-redeemer, chose to pay the price we could not pay. He brings us into His family. He covers us with His name. And through Him, the outsider becomes an heir.

SIMPLE GOSPEL SENTENCE FOR THE CLASSROOM

Boaz chose to redeem Ruth when he did not have to. Jesus chose to redeem us when He did not have to. That is what love looks like.

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QUESTIONS CHILDREN WILL ASK

What a Child Might Ask	How to Answer It Simply
Why did Ruth leave her home to go with Naomi?	Ruth loved Naomi and made a promise to stay with her. She also chose to trust Naomi's God. That kind of loyal love is very rare and very beautiful.
What is a kinsman-redeemer?	In Israel, a kinsman-redeemer was a close family member who had the right and responsibility to help a family member in serious need, like buying back land or marrying a widow to keep the family name going. Boaz was that person for Ruth and Naomi.
Why does it matter that Ruth was from Moab?	Moabites were considered outsiders to Israel. For Ruth to end up in Jesus' family line shows that God's rescue plan was always meant for everyone, not just one nation.
Was Naomi angry at God?	Yes. Naomi told people to call her Mara, which means bitter, because she felt God had dealt harshly with her. The Bible does not hide her grief. And God did not reject her for it. He continued to work in her life even in her bitterness.
How does Ruth's story connect to Jesus?	Boaz is a picture of Jesus. Just like Boaz chose to redeem Ruth at a cost to himself, Jesus chose to redeem us at the cost of His own life. Ruth ended up in the family of God because of grace. So do we.

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TEACHER SUMMARY

Big Idea	God never stops loving and providing for His people, and He always makes a way for the outsider to come home.
What God Did	God guided Ruth to the right field, placed Boaz in her path, and worked through faithful people to provide, protect, and redeem two vulnerable women.
How It Points to Jesus	Boaz is a type of Christ, the kinsman-redeemer who willingly pays the price to bring the outsider into the family of God. Ruth, a Moabite, appears in Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1:5, showing that grace has always crossed every boundary.
Error to Avoid	Do not make this lesson primarily about Ruth's loyalty as a model to imitate. Ruth's faithfulness is beautiful, but Boaz is the theological hero of the account. He points to Jesus. Keep the focus on the redeemer, not the redeemed.
Hope to Emphasize	No one is too far outside for God to reach. Ruth was a Moabite widow with nothing. God placed her in the lineage of Jesus. His love crosses every boundary.