

Ages 5 to 11 | Read-Aloud Lesson | Scripture-Centered | Apologetics-Rich | Christ-Centered

SECTION 1 LESSON OVERVIEW

Week	24	Date	June 14, 2026
Title	Ruth: God's Love and Redemption		
Scripture	Ruth 1:1-22; 2:1-12; 3:1-13; 4:1-17		
Timeline	Set during the time of the judges. Ruth is a foreigner from Moab who becomes part of the family line of King David and Jesus.		

BIG IDEA

God never stops loving and providing for His people, and He always makes a way for the outsider to come home.

SECTION 2 OPENING BIBLE FOUNDATION

Before we begin today, let's remember something important about the Bible. The Bible is not just a collection of separate stories. It is one big account told by one Author, God Himself, through many different writers, over more than a thousand years. And every part of it is pointing toward the same thing: God's plan to rescue people through Jesus. Sometimes that rescue comes in a dramatic way, like the parting of the Red Sea or the walls of Jericho falling. But sometimes it comes quietly, in a wheat field, through the kindness of one person toward another. That is the kind of account we are going to read today. It is a small account. Four chapters. Two women, one field, and one good man. But inside this small account is one of the most beautiful pictures of Jesus in the entire Bible. Let's pay close attention.

SECTION 3 MEMORY VERSE

Our memory verse this week comes from one of the most famous moments in the book of Ruth. Ruth is speaking to her mother-in-law Naomi. She is choosing to leave everything she has ever known to stay with someone who has nothing left to offer her. Listen to what she says.

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.

That is one of the most remarkable sentences in the whole Bible. Ruth had every reason to go home. She was young. She was a widow. Her homeland was close. Her own people were there. But she chose to stay. She chose Naomi. She chose Israel. And she chose the God of Israel. Not because anyone made her. Because she loved Naomi and she trusted God. Let's say our verse together. Repeat after me: *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. Ruth 1:16.* Hold that verse in your heart today. It is going to mean even more by the time we are done.

SECTION
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SETTING THE SCENE

Where we are in the Bible:

Last week we studied the book of Judges, which was one of the most chaotic times in Israel's history. The whole nation kept forgetting God over and over. The book of Ruth takes place during that same period. But while the rest of the nation was in turmoil, God was quietly working in the lives of two ordinary women nobody was paying much attention to. One was an Israelite named Naomi. The other was a foreigner from a nation called Moab, and her name was Ruth. Their account begins with loss. It ends with something no one could have seen coming.

SECTION
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MAIN LESSON NARRATIVE

Imagine your whole family packs up and moves to a different country because there is not enough food where you live. You make a new life there. Your sons grow up and marry women from that country. And then, one by one, everything falls apart. Your husband dies. Then your sons die. You are left in a foreign land with nothing and no one except two daughters-in-law who have lost their husbands too. That is exactly where Naomi found herself.

Naomi heard that God had provided food back in Bethlehem, her hometown in Israel. So she decided to go home. She told both daughters-in-law to go back to their own families. One of them, a woman named Orpah, cried, hugged Naomi, and turned back. But the other one, Ruth, would not let go.

What Ruth said next is one of the most stunning declarations of loyalty in the entire Bible. She was not Israeli. She owed Naomi nothing. She had every right to go home. But listen to what she chose.

Ruth 1:16-17

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. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried.

That is a forever promise. Ruth was not just saying, I will come with you for now. She was saying, wherever your life ends, that is where mine will end too. I am choosing your people. I am choosing your God. This is not something she was required to do. It was pure love.

When they arrived in Bethlehem, Naomi was so broken she told people to stop calling her Naomi, which means pleasant. She said, call me Mara instead, which means bitter. Because she felt that God had dealt harshly with her. She went out full and came back empty. The Bible does not hide her pain. It does not tell her she is wrong to feel it. It just keeps showing us what God was quietly doing even in her emptiness.

The Field and the Man Named Boaz

In ancient Israel, the law said that when farmers harvested their fields, they were not allowed to pick up everything. They had to leave grain behind at the edges and whatever fell to the ground. That leftover grain was for the poor, the widow, and the stranger. This was called gleaning. It was God's built-in system to make sure the most vulnerable people had a way to eat.

Ruth went out to glean. She was a foreigner in a new land with nothing to her name. She just started walking and ended up in a field. But the Bible tells us something important: that field belonged to a man named Boaz, who was a relative of Naomi's late husband. Ruth did not know that. She just walked into the right field. And that was not an accident.

When Boaz arrived at his field that day, he noticed Ruth right away. He asked his workers who she was. They told him about the Moabite woman who came back with Naomi, who had worked hard since early morning and barely stopped to rest. Boaz walked straight over to Ruth and said something she was not expecting.

Ruth 2:8-9

Stay here with my women workers. Watch the field where the men are harvesting and follow along. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled.

Ruth was overwhelmed. She bowed down and asked Boaz why he was being so kind to her, a foreigner. Boaz said he had heard everything about what Ruth had done for Naomi, how she had left her home and her people and come to a land she did not know. He said he prayed that the God of Israel would reward her for it, the God under whose wings she had come to take refuge.

That phrase is worth pausing on. Under whose wings. The wings of God is a picture that appears all over the Bible. It means protection. Safety. Being completely covered by someone stronger than you. Boaz recognized that Ruth had placed her trust in God. And now, without fully realizing it, Boaz himself was about to become the answer to his own prayer.

The Kinsman-Redeemer

In Israel there was an important law about family and land. If a man died without a son to carry on his name, the nearest male relative in the family had the right and the responsibility to step in and help. This

person was called a kinsman-redeemer, or in Hebrew, a goel. The kinsman-redeemer could buy back land that had been sold and marry the widow to keep the family name alive. It was one of the most important protections for vulnerable people in all of Israelite law.

Naomi knew Boaz was a relative. She began to wonder if he might be willing to act as their kinsman-redeemer. She gave Ruth careful instructions about how to approach him to make this appeal. Ruth followed every one of them. When she came to Boaz at the threshing floor that night and asked for his protection, Boaz knew exactly what she was asking. And he said yes.

But there was a complication. There was actually a closer relative than Boaz who had the first legal right to redeem. Boaz had to give him the chance. The next morning, Boaz went to the city gate where legal matters were settled in those days. He explained the situation to the other man. That man was interested in buying the land back until he heard one more detail: redeeming the land also meant marrying Ruth, the Moabite widow. The man declined. He did not want to complicate his own estate.

And so Boaz stepped forward. He bought back the land. He took Ruth as his wife. He did it publicly, in front of witnesses, at the city gate. He did not have to do any of it. He chose to. That choice cost him something. And it gave Ruth and Naomi everything.

The Baby Who Changed Everything

Ruth and Boaz had a son. They named him Obed. The women of Bethlehem celebrated with Naomi and said something remarkable: this child will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. Remember Naomi told everyone to call her Mara, which means bitter? Now she was holding a baby. Her emptiness was full again. Not because she found a way to fix things herself. Because God placed faithful people in her path and worked through them quietly, step by step.

But the account does not end there. The very last lines of the book of Ruth list a genealogy. And when you read it, you discover something that takes your breath away. Obed grew up and had a son named Jesse. Jesse had a son named David. King David. The greatest king Israel ever had. And a thousand years later, in the town of Bethlehem, which is the very same town where Ruth gleaned grain and Boaz redeemed her, a baby was born in the line of David. His name was Jesus.

Ruth the Moabite outsider. Ruth the widow with nothing. Ruth who chose to stay when she had every reason to leave. Her name is in the family tree of Jesus Christ. Matthew 1:5 says it plainly: Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth.

What This Means for Us

Let's go back to the word kinsman-redeemer for a moment. Boaz had the right to redeem. He had the power to redeem. And he was willing to pay the price to redeem, even when it cost him something. He brought the outsider into the family. He turned emptiness into fullness. He said yes when someone else said no.

Does that sound like anyone you know? Jesus is the ultimate kinsman-redeemer. He had the right, because He is fully God and fully human. He had the power, because He defeated death itself. And He was willing to pay the price, His own life on the cross, to bring us, the outsiders, into the family of God.

You were not born into God's family. None of us were. We were all outsiders, separated from God by sin. But Jesus stepped forward, just like Boaz stepped forward at the city gate. He paid what we could not pay. He brought us into the family. And everyone who trusts in Him receives that same stunning grace that Ruth received: a place at the table, a new name, and a future they could never have earned on their own.

Let's say our memory verse one more time.

MEMORY VERSE
Ruth 1:16
<i>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.</i>

Ruth said those words to Naomi. But they are also a picture of what every believer says to God when they trust Jesus with their life. I am done going my own way. Where You go, I will go. Your people are my people. Your God is my God. That commitment is what faith looks like.

**SECTION
6****WHY WE CAN TRUST GOD'S WORD**

Archaeologists have confirmed that the city of Bethlehem existed exactly as the Bible describes. The customs described in Ruth, including gleaning, kinsman-redeemer law, and the sandal ceremony at the city gate, match what we know from ancient Near Eastern cultures and records outside the Bible. The genealogy in Ruth 4 connects directly to the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1, written centuries later by a different author. This kind of precise historical continuity does not happen by accident in made-up stories. If a friend ever says the Bible is just old legends, you can say: 'The customs in Ruth have been confirmed by historians and archaeologists, and the family line connects all the way to Jesus exactly as the New Testament says it does.'

SECTION
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WHAT THIS SHOWS US ABOUT JESUS

Boaz is one of the clearest pictures of Jesus in the entire Old Testament. Just as Boaz had the right as a kinsman to redeem, Jesus has the right as the Son of God and the Son of Man to redeem all who call on Him. Just as Boaz willingly chose to pay the price when another would not, Jesus willingly went to the cross when no one else could. Just as Boaz brought Ruth the outsider into the covenant family of Israel, Jesus brings every outsider who trusts in Him into the family of God. Ruth was a Moabite. She had no claim on God's blessing by birth. But grace made her an ancestor of the Messiah. That same grace is available to every child in this room.

**SECTION
8****GOD REVEALED AS TRINITY**

The book of Ruth does not use the word Trinity, but God the Father is clearly present throughout, working providentially to place Ruth in the right field, guide Boaz's heart, and fulfill His covenant promises to Israel. Boaz prays that God will reward Ruth under whose wings she has come to take refuge, pointing to God the Father as protector and provider. The Son is anticipated in Boaz's role as kinsman-redeemer, a picture of Jesus who would come to pay the full price of redemption. And the Spirit of God is at work in the faithful choices of Ruth and Boaz, moving ordinary people toward extraordinary purposes. One God. Three Persons. All present. All working.

SECTION
9

LIFE APPLICATION

Ruth's account shows us something very practical: faithful love shows up in ordinary moments. Ruth did not do anything dramatic. She gleaned grain. She came home every evening. She stayed with Naomi when staying was hard. Boaz noticed a widow in his field and protected her. Neither of them knew they were part of the family line of Jesus. They were just being faithful in ordinary life. That is what God calls us to as well. You do not have to do something famous to matter. You just have to be faithful where you are, with what you have, with the person standing right in front of you. God sees that. And He works through it in ways you cannot always see right now.

SECTION
10

DEFENDING THE TRUTH

If a Friend Says...	You Can Say...	Scripture
'The Bible is just for Jewish people, not for everyone.'	'Ruth was a Moabite, not an Israelite, and she is in the family line of Jesus. God's plan was always for every nation, not just one people.'	Ruth 4:17; Matthew 1:5; Galatians 3:28
'God does not care about people who are going through a really hard time.'	'Naomi told everyone she was bitter and felt that God had been harsh with her. God did not reject her for that. He kept working in her life even in her pain and gave her more than she lost.'	Ruth 1:20-21; Ruth 4:14-15
'Loyalty like that does not really exist anymore.'	'Ruth proved it does. And Jesus proved it even more completely at the cross. Real loyalty costs something. And real love pays that cost.'	Ruth 1:16; John 15:13

SECTION
11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Core Questions for All Ages

1. Why did Ruth choose to go with Naomi even though she did not have to?

Because she loved Naomi and chose to trust Naomi's God. It was a decision based on loyal love, not obligation. (Ruth 1:16-17)

2. What is a kinsman-redeemer?

A close family member who had the right and responsibility to step in and help when someone in the family was in serious need, like buying back land or marrying a widow to carry on the family name. (Ruth 3:9; 4:1-10)

3. How did Boaz treat Ruth when he first met her in the field?

He protected her, provided extra grain, made sure she had water, and invited her to eat with his workers. He went out of his way to care for a foreign widow he had just met. (Ruth 2:8-12)

4. Why does it matter that Ruth was from Moab and not from Israel?

Because Moabites were considered outsiders to Israel. The fact that God brought a Moabite widow into the family line of Jesus shows that God's grace has always been meant for every person, not just one nation. (Ruth 4:17; Matthew 1:5)

5. How is Boaz a picture of Jesus?

Boaz had the right to redeem. He was willing to pay a price to do it. He brought an outsider into the family. He said yes when someone else said no. Jesus did all of those things for us at the cross. (Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:7)

6. Naomi said God had dealt harshly with her. Was she wrong to feel that way?

Her pain was real and God did not reject her for expressing it. The Bible shows honest grief as part of real faith. And God kept working in her life even in her bitterness. (Ruth 1:20-21; Psalm 34:18)

7. How did Ruth end up in the family line of Jesus?

Ruth married Boaz. They had a son named Obed, who had a son named Jesse, who had a son named David. Jesus was born in the line of David. Ruth is named in Matthew 1:5. (Ruth 4:13-17; Matthew 1:5)

8. What does Ruth's account teach us about how God works?

God often works through ordinary people doing faithful things in ordinary moments. Ruth gleaned grain. Boaz noticed a widow. Neither of them knew they were part of God's plan to bring Jesus into the world. (Ruth 2:3; Proverbs 3:5-6)

Optional Deeper Questions

9. Ruth left her whole life behind to follow Naomi's God. What would it cost you to make a choice like that? What does real loyalty look like in your own life?

Encourage honest personal reflection. Guide children to see that loyalty to God and to people who need us often requires something from us. Real love shows up even when it is inconvenient. (Ruth 1:16; John 15:13)

10. If you were Ruth and arrived in Bethlehem with nothing, how would you feel? What does Ruth's account tell us about what to do when we feel like outsiders?

Guide children toward the truth that the outsider is never outside God's reach. Ruth came with nothing and ended up in the family of Jesus. God specializes in bringing people home. (Ruth 2:12; Ephesians 2:19)

SECTION
12

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

THE REDEEMER CHAIN

Activity Name	The Redeemer Chain
Purpose	Help children see the connection between Boaz, Ruth, David, and Jesus, and understand what a redeemer actually does.
Supplies	Construction paper strips in two colors, tape or stapler, markers.
Time Needed	10 minutes

Step-by-Step Instructions:

1. Give each child several strips of paper in two colors. One color is for names. The other color is for what each person did.
2. Write these names on the name-color strips: Ruth, Boaz, Obed, Jesse, David, Jesus.
3. Write these actions on the action-color strips: stayed loyal, redeemed, carried on the family, grandfather of the king, greatest king of Israel, redeemed all people.
4. Link the strips into a chain, alternating name and action: Ruth stayed loyal. Boaz redeemed. Obed carried on the family. Jesse was grandfather of the king. David was the greatest king of Israel. Jesus redeemed all people.
5. Hold up the finished chain and say: 'This is what God was building through one ordinary decision in a wheat field. Nobody knew it at the time. But God did.'

Debrief: Which link in the chain surprises you the most? What would have happened if Ruth had gone home instead of staying with Naomi? How does this change the way you think about ordinary choices?

Ages 5 to 7: Focus on just three strips: Ruth stayed. Boaz redeemed. Jesus redeemed us.

Ages 9 to 11: Ask them to add one more strip at the end with their own name and write what they want their link in the chain to say.

SECTION
13

OPTIONAL REVIEW GAME

STAY OR GO? Thumbs up = true. Thumbs down = false. First correct answer with explanation earns a point.

Statement	Answer
Ruth went back to her own country when Naomi told her to leave.	False. Ruth refused to leave Naomi and stayed with her.
Boaz was a complete stranger with no connection to Naomi's family.	False. He was a relative of Naomi's late husband.
Ruth 1:16 says: Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay.	True. That is our memory verse.
Boaz let Ruth glean because he was impressed by her hard work alone.	False. He had heard about her loyalty to Naomi and recognized her faith in God.
The kinsman-redeemer closer than Boaz chose to redeem Ruth and the land.	False. He declined when he learned it involved marrying Ruth.
Boaz and Ruth's grandson was King David.	True. Ruth had Obed, who had Jesse, who had David.
Jesus is connected to Ruth's family line.	True. Matthew 1:5 names Ruth in the genealogy of Jesus.

SECTION 14 TEACHER CLOSING

TEACHER CLOSING

The book of Ruth is four chapters long and contains no miracles, no armies, and no dramatic signs from the sky. It is an account about two women who had nothing and one man who chose to help them. And yet inside this quiet account, God was weaving together the thread that would eventually lead to Jesus being born in Bethlehem, in the very town where Ruth gleaned grain. Nothing God does is wasted. No faithful choice disappears.

The God who guided Ruth's feet into the right field is the same God who is guiding your life right now, even when you cannot see it. If you have never trusted Jesus, He is the kinsman-redeemer who is ready to step forward for you. He paid the price. He is willing. And He always says yes.

Let's say our memory verse one final time together.

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. Ruth 1:16.

Closing Prayer: Lord, thank You for a God who sees the outsider, provides for the forgotten, and redeems what looks broken. Thank You that Jesus is our kinsman-redeemer who paid what we could never pay. Help us be faithful in ordinary moments the way Ruth and Boaz were. Amen.

SECTION
15

TAKEAWAY TRUTH

TAKEAWAY TRUTH

No one is too far outside for God to reach. Jesus is the kinsman-redeemer who brings every outsider home.

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.