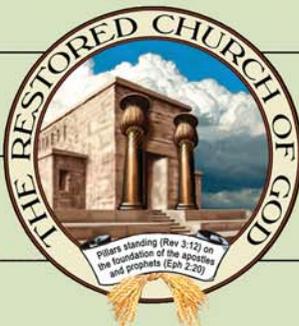


THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD

# CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



Ruth – A Woman of Virtue



LEVEL 3  
LESSON 10

# Ruth

## A Woman of Virtue

In the town of Bethlehem, in the land of Israel, there lived a man named Elimelech who had a wife and two sons. His wife's name was Naomi. They lived during the time of the Judges. Because of a great famine in Israel, Elimelech decided to move his family to Moab.

After living there for a while, Elimelech died. Both of his sons, named Mahlon and Chilion, married Moabite women. Orpah was the name of one of the women, and the other was named Ruth (Ruth 1:1-4).

Ruth was a Moabite whose family history went all the way back to Lot, Abraham's nephew. You might recall the story of Abraham and Lot from previous lessons.

### Ruth Goes With Naomi

A few years later, Naomi's sons died. For the young women and their mother-in-law, things had become very difficult. It seemed as though life could not get any



worse. So, when the drought in Israel had finally ended, Naomi made up her mind that it was time to go back to Bethlehem (Ruth 1:5-6).

Naomi wanted Ruth and Orpah to stay in Moab and remarry men from their own land. But both young women wanted to return to Israel with their mother-in-law.

Naomi eventually convinced Orpah to stay, but she could not convince Ruth. She refused to leave Naomi.

Fill in the blanks with what Ruth said to her mother-in-law, Naomi. "Entreat me not to \_\_\_\_\_ you, or to \_\_\_\_\_ back from following after \_\_\_\_\_: for wherever \_\_\_\_\_, I will \_\_\_\_\_; and wherever you \_\_\_\_\_, I will \_\_\_\_\_; your \_\_\_\_\_ shall be my \_\_\_\_\_, and your \_\_\_\_\_, my \_\_\_\_\_" (Ruth 1:16).

Naomi was very surprised and happy to hear Ruth say these things. She knew that no amount of convincing would cause Ruth to change her mind so they continued toward Israel.

As they entered Bethlehem, Naomi was glad to see old friends. Before long, most of the people in town came out to greet her. They were all happy to see Naomi again.

Once they were settled in, Ruth mentioned to Naomi that it was

time to gather the harvest. Ruth had seen other women gleaning barley and decided to help them in the fields the next morning (Ruth 1:22).

Gleaning was when they collected what was left behind after the harvesters went through. It was not viewed as stealing, and was actually part of God's Law. When God gave His Commandments to the Israelites, He told them to allow the poor and widows of the land to collect what was left on the ground from the harvest. Since Ruth was a widow, she was permitted to do this (Leviticus 19:9; 23:22; Deuteronomy 24:19).

## **Ruth and Boaz**

In the morning, Ruth went to one of the fields being harvested, carrying a large bag. Once she had been given permission, she found a spot behind one of the harvesters.

Later in the day, a man named Boaz, the owner of the field, came to see how the harvesters were doing.

"God be with you," he told the workers.

"God bless you," they all answered back.

When Boaz walked past Ruth, he quickly realized he had never seen this woman before.



“Who is this young woman? Is she new?” he asked a servant nearby.

“She is a Moabite. She came with Naomi, the widow of Elimelech,” he told him. “She came by this morning and asked if she could glean barley.”

Ruth glanced up just as Boaz was walking toward her.

“If you are going to glean,” Boaz told her, “please stay near my women servants and in my fields. I have told the men to show the greatest respect to you.”

Ruth was so taken aback by Boaz’s generosity that she fell to her knees and bowed to the ground.

“What have I done, that you have shown me such kindness?” Ruth asked. “I am but a stranger in your land.”

“I heard how you treated your mother-in-law,” Boaz said. “She has told many people how you left your own land to come and care for her. May God bless you and reward you for your actions. May He protect you for putting your trust in Him.”

Ruth humbly thanked Boaz and returned to where the other workers were eating a meal.

After break, Ruth took her place behind the harvesters. She did not know that Boaz had commanded the workers to give her special privileges.



Boaz had told his servants to let her glean wherever she wanted.

He also told them to leave some extra barley for her on the ground and not to get angry with her if she followed too closely.

That evening, Ruth ground the barley she had gathered on the threshing floor. To her surprise, it turned out to be enough to make many loaves of bread. When she got home, Naomi was also surprised with how much grain Ruth had gleaned (Ruth 2:3-18).

Ruth told Naomi that the field she had gleaned in was owned by a man named Boaz.

“I know who Boaz is!” Naomi said excitedly. “He is a relative of Elimelech, my dead husband, and is a man who fears God. If you continue gleaning in his fields, you will do well.”

### **Test Your Memory:**

- 1) Who was Elimelech’s wife? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What town was Elimelech originally from? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Ruth’s family history actually included \_\_\_\_\_, and his nephew Lot.
- 4) What did Ruth begin to do when she got to Bethlehem? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Who was the owner of the field that Ruth gleaned in? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) Boaz instructed his servants to

let Ruth \_\_\_\_\_ wherever she \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ some extra \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ for her.

7) Boaz was a man who feared \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Naomi’s Plan**

After each day passed, Ruth always had more news for Naomi. Naomi quickly realized that a close friendship was forming between Ruth and Boaz.

“I only want the best for you, Ruth,” Naomi said. “I can tell that Boaz cares for you with all his heart. Tonight, you must go to the threshing floor in your best clothes and with your nicest perfume on. That is where Boaz will be working. Wait until he is sleeping and then quietly lie down at his feet.”

Naomi knew the Israelite custom regarding widows. If a widow had no children, then the closest male relative of her deceased husband was to marry her.

Ruth was hesitant, but she trusted Naomi and did what she said. That night, Ruth went to the threshing floor. She slowly looked inside and saw Boaz finishing his dinner.

She waited until he had eaten and fallen asleep, and then slipped



inside. She lifted up the blanket near his feet and quietly lay down, careful not to wake him.

In the middle of the night, Boaz suddenly woke up. He realized that someone was lying at his feet!

“Who’s there?” he asked.

“It is Ruth,” she replied nervously. “I was told that, because you are a close relative of my dead husband, you may marry me.”

Boaz was shocked, and answered, “You are blessed of the LORD, for you have shown me more kindness now than when I first met you. You did not follow after young men, whether they were poor or rich.”

Fill in the blanks with the rest of what Boaz told Ruth. “And now, my daughter, do not \_\_\_\_\_. I will do for you \_\_\_\_\_ that you \_\_\_\_\_, for all the \_\_\_\_\_ of my \_\_\_\_\_ know that you are a \_\_\_\_\_” (Ruth 3:11).

This made Ruth very happy to hear Boaz say this. “But there is one man who is a closer relative than I am, and he would have first rights,” Boaz said.

When Ruth heard this, she became very worried. But Boaz comforted her and told her that he would take care of the situation

the next day. Feeling a little better, she curled up at his feet, and went back to sleep.

Ruth woke up early in the morning, before the sun was up, and started to leave. But before she left, Boaz gave her some grain to take back to Naomi.

Ruth ran home and quickly told Naomi all that had happened. “I am sure Boaz will solve the problem by the end of the day,” her mother-in-law told her (Ruth 3:14-18).

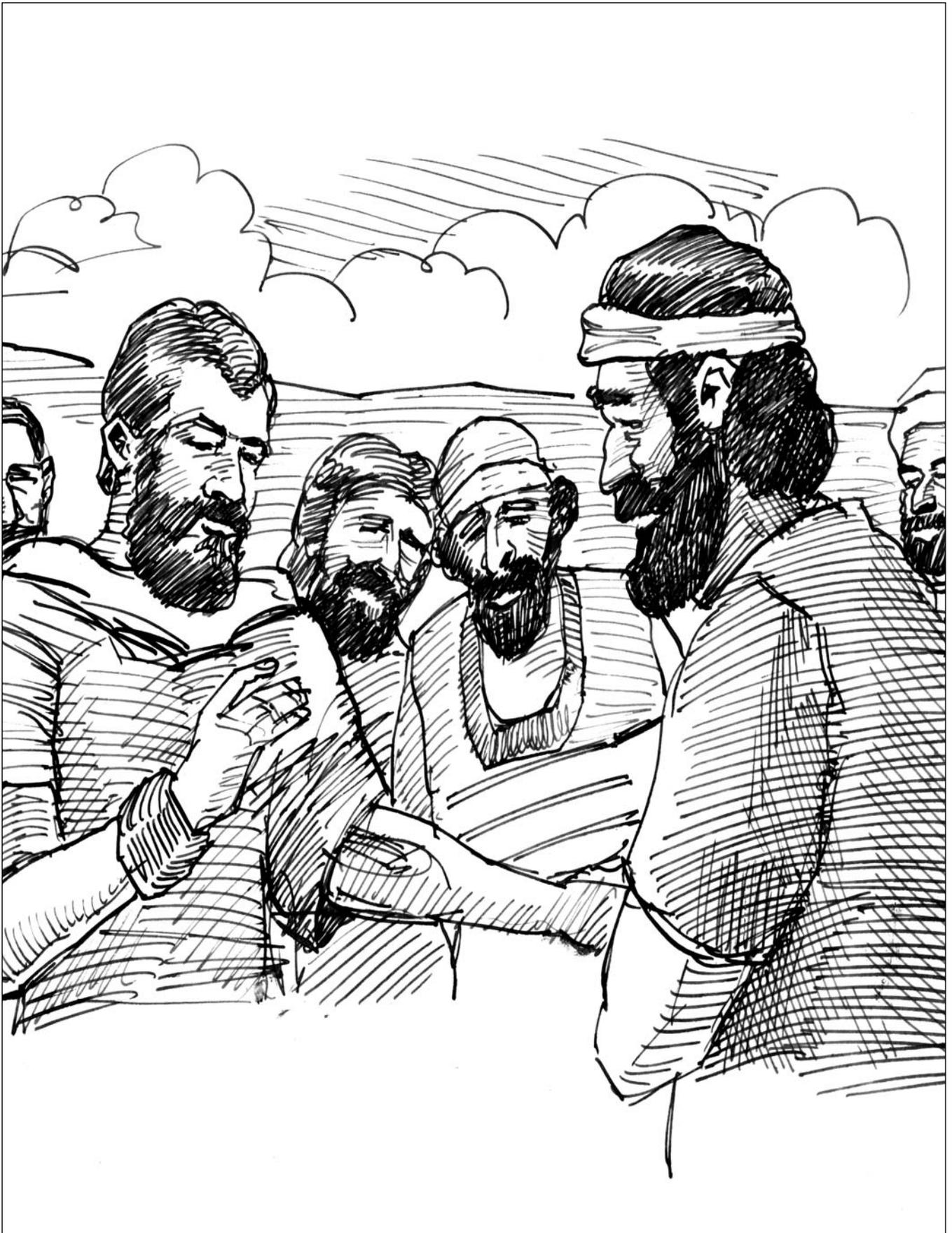
## **Boaz’s Deal**

After Ruth had left, Boaz went to the main city gate where the town’s business took place. He began looking for Ruth’s closest relative.

Eventually, Boaz found the man, and said, “I have news for you! Please, wait here until I come back.”

Boaz came back with ten of the most important men of the city. It was tradition to have several people there to witness a business agreement.

“Naomi, Elimelech’s widow, is selling a piece of land. Because you are the closest relative, you have first choice,” Boaz said. “But if you choose not to buy it, then I would like to.”



The man answered, without hesitation, "Certainly, I will buy it!"

Boaz continued, saying, "But there is one other thing. The sale includes marriage to Ruth, Elimelech's daughter-in-law. She is a Moabite woman. You must also be willing to have a family by her."

The relative's excitement quickly turned to sadness. "Then I must decline. I cannot afford to buy it," he told Boaz. "I am not wealthy enough to buy the land and support a wife and child."

Boaz got just the answer he was hoping for. When the nearest relative was passing their responsibility to the next closest relative, it was an Israelite custom to give them their shoe. So the relative took off his shoe and gave it to Boaz (Ruth 4:8).

Boaz then repeated the agreement in front of all the witnesses. "We all saw and heard what happened here today," they said. "May your wife be blessed like Rachel and Leah."

Boaz ran to tell Ruth the good news. They were both very happy and gave God praise and thanks for so greatly blessing them.

Ruth's story teaches us many important lessons; most of all, it teaches us loyalty to God's Way and courage to step out in faith.

Ruth was a young woman when she left her family in Moab behind. She loved and cherished her mother-in-law and knew how important it was to follow God's way of life.

Because of this obedience to God, Ruth was blessed with a happy and wonderful marriage to Boaz. Eventually, Ruth and Boaz were blessed with a son named Obed. This boy went on to be the father of Jesse, the father of King David (Ruth 4:13-22). Ruth was actually David's great-grandmother!

### **Test Your Memory:**

1) Why did Naomi tell Ruth to go to Boaz's threshing floor while he was asleep? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Was Boaz the closest relative to Ruth? \_\_\_\_\_

3) Where did Boaz go first thing in the morning? \_\_\_\_\_

4) Why did Boaz need ten of the leading men of the city there? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5) What was the name of the son born to Boaz and Ruth? \_\_\_\_\_

6) Who was the great-grandson of Boaz and Ruth? \_\_\_\_\_



**BIBLE MEMORY:** Ruth 1:16

## CROSSWORD

There are 28 words in this puzzle associated with the story of Ruth. See if you can find them without a checklist. They can go forward, backward, up, down, diagonal or backward diagonal.

S	M	O	A	B	I	T	E	N	R	A	E	N	P
F	A	M	I	N	E	V	I	T	A	L	E	R	T
H	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	H	F	A	I	T	H
E	L	I	M	E	L	E	C	H	O	B	E	D	R
U	O	R	P	A	H	A	H	D	A	V	I	D	E
T	N	A	O	M	I	V	I	R	T	U	O	U	S
W	I	D	O	W	Y	T	L	A	Y	O	L	J	H
H	T	U	R	B	V	E	I	G	O	D	S	E	I
S	B	K	L	O	Y	W	O	B	L	E	S	S	N
U	G	L	E	A	N	I	N	G	Y	O	U	S	G
S	H	O	E	Z	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M