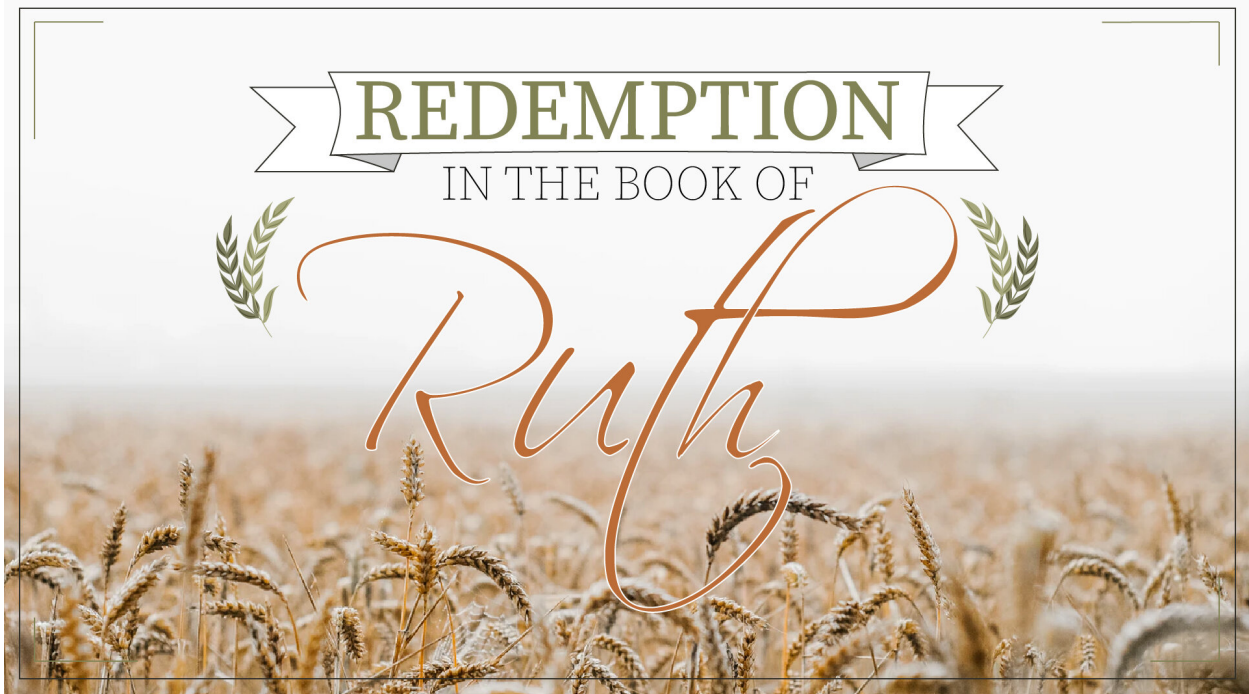


REDEMPTION IN THE BOOK OF RUTH



Chapter Two

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

This chapter is about God's provision. Ruth is an example of faith and hard work as we partner with God. This is a picture of what God's people are supposed to be like. Boaz cares for Ruth, the vulnerable and foreign widow, as a picture of God's care for us... but also as a reminder of how the Church is supposed to care for the vulnerable.

- **Big Idea:** God cares for the oppressed.

Starter

- **Activity:** Have a bag of popcorn or candy or some kind of snack the kids will want. Let them know it is your bag, you paid for it, but because you have plenty you want to share it. Set some on a plate, napkin, or in a cup for each kid and let them come and grab it.
- **Question:** Why was it good for me to share? Even though it was mine, who really provided it for me in the first place? Do you remember that God blesses us to be a blessing to others? That's what our story is about today.

Sing Together

Never Let Go Of Me - https://youtu.be/WJgIPk_NkZY

Story

When Naomi and Ruth got back to Bethlehem, it was the season when barley was brewing grown and harvested. Ruth asked Naomi if she could go into the fields and glean. Gleaning was a process where the poor and vulnerable people would follow behind the workers of the field and take what they left behind. God actually commanded His people, Israel, to allow foreigners and the poor to glean their fields as a way of providing for all the people of the world. He reminded Israel that they were once foreigners and oppressed as slaves in the land of Egypt, so they should always care for the foreigners and oppressed in their land now that they had the promised land. Unfortunately, Israel was not always good at this and often they took advantage of the poor foreigners who gleaned their fields. So, it was risky for Ruth to go and glean, but she knew Naomi and her needed food.

Well, it just so happened that Ruth went to Boaz's field. Boaz was a relative of Elimelech, Naomi's husband who passed away. She worked hard all day in that field and when Boaz saw her he asked his men who she was. When he heard it was Ruth, he knew about how she left her people to stay with Naomi and to be loyal to her. Because Boaz was a good man who honored God, he loved the way Ruth showed loyalty and chose to worship the one true God of Israel over the gods her land worshipped.

So, Boaz went out of his way to take extra care of Ruth. He made sure she got plenty of grain to take home to Naomi and he made sure she had plenty of water to drink while she worked in the heat. He also made sure none of his workers did anything to harm Ruth or take advantage of her. She was under his protection. Or, rather, the way Boaz said it, she was under the wings of God's protection.

Ruth continued to work in Boaz's field for quite some time and always brought home plenty of food for her and Naomi. When Naomi found out that it was Boaz's field Ruth was working in, she was thankful that God had worked things out.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Do you think it was a coincidence that Ruth found this field, or was it another way God was providing for her?
- It was dangerous for a woman to work in the fields by herself, but Boaz made sure the women in his fields were protected. How does this show us God's character and protection?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**
God, thank you for protecting and providing for us in all situations in life.
- **Craft:**
Use the coloring page attached
- **BLESS Activity:**
For kids to do during the week
Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask the Spirit to help us to *Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak*, and *Sabbath* (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Eat** rhythm. God used Boaz to provide food for Ruth and Naomi when it seemed there wasn't any. How can your family share a meal with someone in need this week?

Other Resources

- **Bible Project:**
Watch this video overview of the book of Ruth: <https://youtu.be/0h1eoBeR4Jk>

