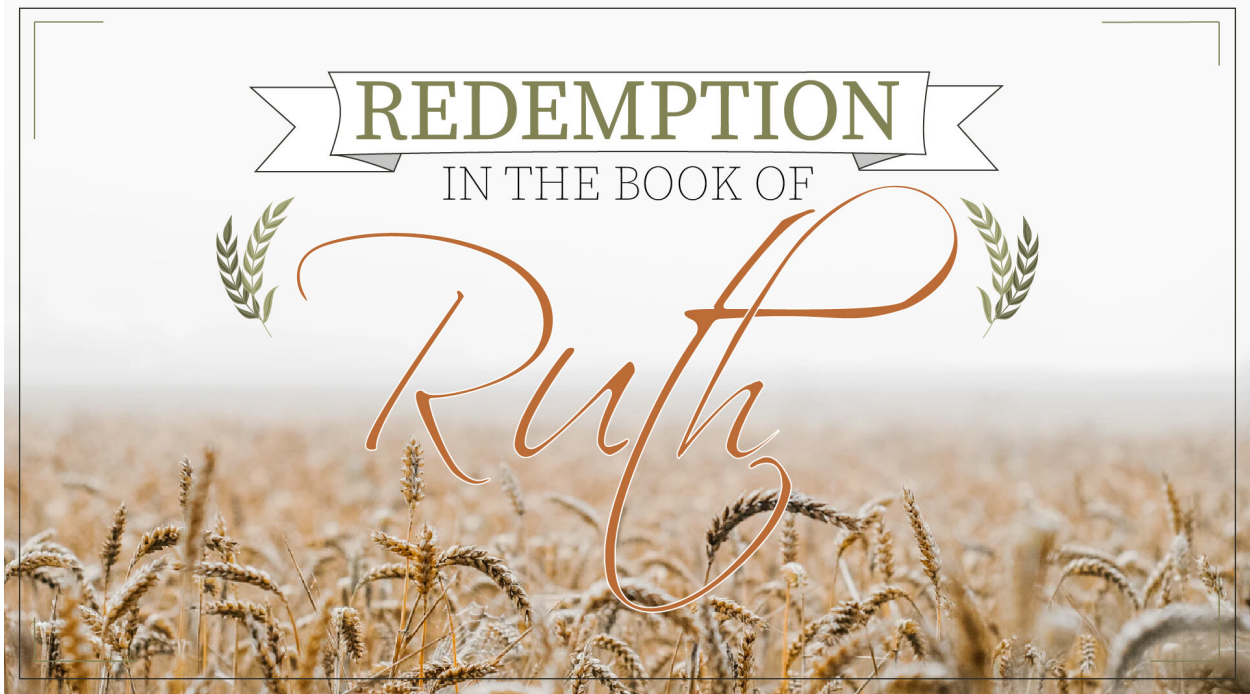


## REDEMPTION IN THE BOOK OF RUTH

**Chapter Three****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

*This week's text can be a little risqué, especially for children. We were intentionally vague in this story for that reason, but please read ahead and use judgement when teaching. Though it seems to be adult subject matter, it is important for our kids to learn these stories young, not as cute children's stories, but as examples of how God is always at work in His world, even when we try to do things in our own ways and cause all kinds of mess.*

- **Big Idea:** God is at work reversing the bad we brought into the world.

**Starter**

- **Game:** Play 'Simon Says' with the kids. As an option, you may choose to pull one kid aside first and ask them to start giving their own commands halfway through the game, without saying 'Simon says'. See if the kids listen to just you or how the other voice distracts them. Let them know that today's lesson is about listening to God's wisdom and trusting that He is at work, rather than choosing our own way or someone else's.

**Sing Together**

Never Let Go Of Me - [https://youtu.be/WJgIPk\\_NkZY](https://youtu.be/WJgIPk_NkZY)

## Story

After Ruth had been working in Boaz's field for quite some time, Naomi hatched a plan. It was a plan that involved Boaz and how he had protected and cared for them. It was a plan that would make sure Boaz continued to help and care for Ruth, even after Naomi was gone. Naomi really did want to help Ruth. The only problem was, she came up with this plan in her own wisdom. It wasn't the kind of plan that God would have wanted for Ruth and Naomi.

For starters, the plan involved tricking Boaz a little bit. Naomi told Ruth to change out of the widow clothing she wore to mourn her dead husband and put on nice clothes showing she was available to marry a new man. Then she wanted her to go to Boaz's field after the harvest was complete. She knew Boaz and his men would be celebrating all the food they brought in that season and usually that meant the men would also be drinking. She wanted Ruth to go over to Boaz late at night, after he had drank plenty and laid down. At this point, the idea was that Boaz would be tired, happy, and not making decisions like he normally would because of drinking, so Ruth would be able to get Boaz to marry her.

Ruth agreed to do all that Naomi told her, but not because she wanted to trick Boaz. It was because at that time, Naomi was in charge and Ruth was obeying her mother-in-law. She did all that she said, but when she got to Boaz, she didn't say anything that would trick him. Instead, she just laid there at his feet. When Boaz realized there was a woman there, he asked who it was. Ruth replied, "Your servant, Ruth, is here. Now please take me under your wing and protect and care for me." This was the phrase Boaz said in chapter two when he commended Ruth for coming under God's wings of protection. Ruth was saying that God wanted to use Boaz to be Ruth's protection.

Boaz said that Ruth was a woman of excellent character and that she had shown him kindness by coming to him instead of other men. Instead of Ruth doing all that Naomi said, Boaz said he would love to do all that Ruth said - to marry and protect and care for her. He sent her home with more food to provide for her and Naomi and told her to wait for him to take care of something (which we'll talk about next week). When Ruth told Naomi about what happened, Naomi said, "We can be sure Boaz will take care of it today and we will have our answer."

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Even though Naomi was trying to take care of Ruth, was it right for her to do it in a sneaky or tricky way? Do you think she was trusting God or her own plans?
- How did Ruth show good character?
- Why do you think Boaz wanted to protect and care for Ruth and Naomi? Does his protection and care for them remind you of God's protection and care for His people?

### Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**

God, thank you for protecting and caring for us. Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin. Thank you for giving us your Spirit to have wisdom to follow your ways and not trust our own wisdom.

- **Craft:**

Let the kids go through the maze attached. Talk about what it means to follow God's ways instead of following our own ideas and understanding. Following our own ways only leads to despair, but God's ways lead us to hope!

- **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 **Listen** rhythm. Take some this week as a family to ask God what he wants to say to you. Take time to sit and listen. You may also listen to music that honors God, listen to someone read the Bible, or listen to nature and what He has created.

### Other Resources

- **Bible Project:**

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

# Hope

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

- **Romans 15:13**

