



Title: The Story of Ruth

Objective: To help you understand that God had a special plan for Ruth's family and He has a special plan for our families too! **Main Idea:** Ruth deliberately chose to trust God even though she faced loss and hardships. God protected and provided for Ruth, and she even became a part of the family God would one day use to provide salvation through Jesus Christ.

Scripture Passages: *Ruth 1:1-5, 1:16-18, 2:8-12, 3:1-4, 3:10-13,*

4:13-17, 4:5-9

Opening Prayer: "God, thank you for having a special plan for each of us! Help us learn from Ruth by choosing obedience to your specific will for each of our lives. Amen." **Icebreaker**

Activity: Remind the children that God is pleased to use families who desire to serve him (just like he used the people/families we have been learning about in the bible). **Introduction** Bad things happen in life, but Ruth teaches us to put our full **trust** in God even when we've suffered loss. Through her loving devotion to Naomi, we learn that God puts people in our lives to help us grow closer to him. Also, Ruth's life shows the amazing, redemptive power of God – the same power that would one day raise Jesus from the dead! Her story of loss, obedience, and blessings show us that God had a special plan for Ruth, and He also has a special plan for us. Today we will learn about a woman named Ruth who was used by God in amazing ways even though she was a foreigner and faced many hard circumstances. ***Ruth 1:1-5*** tells the ramifications for a woman in her day, and of her status, to face such difficulties (such as the difficulty of providing for herself and no longer being

under the legal protection of a husband). Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law, encouraged her to stay in Moab after the death of their husbands. **Ruth 1:16-18.**

- What is special about Ruth's desire to return with Naomi (it showed her love and commitment to Naomi)?
- Do you think Naomi was a good example for Ruth?

Naomi and Ruth's relationship shows us how important it is to love, serve, and help one another. Also, God had some special blessings in store because of Ruth's faithfulness.

- How do you think Naomi and Ruth might have felt when they returned to Judah (e.g. scared, sad, or worried). God had a special plan for the women and provided Ruth an opportunity to glean grain (gather the leftovers after the crops had been harvested) in a field owned by one of Naomi's relatives."

Read **Ruth 2:8-12.**

- What protection did Boaz offer to Ruth (to stay in his field, drink water, and not be harmed by the other men)?

□What reasons did he give Ruth for these privileges (her good reputation and the sacrifice she made by leaving her home)?

It was a rare thing for someone of Boaz's stature to even notice a woman like Ruth, let alone offer his protection!

Lastly, Naomi's plan for Ruth and Boaz is found in **Ruth 3:1-4.**

Lying at Boaz's feet, Ruth was implying that she wanted to be his wife! Also, exposing his feet was very risky - it meant she could have been physically harmed. However, Boaz knew the implications of Ruth's actions, and he responded in **Ruth 3:10-13.**

- 1.How did Boaz praise Ruth?
- 2.What was the only thing standing in the way of him being the guardian redeemer (and taking claim to Ruth and Naomi's care)?
- 3.Read the outcome in **Ruth 4:5-9.** What parts of the story of Ruth and Boaz show God's protection and provision?

Remember that the same God who protected Naomi and Ruth, Abraham, Jacob, and Moses also protects us! Be faithful and call on Him when you are in need.

Finally, read the result of Ruth's obedience in **Ruth 4:13-17** (she was the great-grandmother of King David).
God used Ruth's family, and He also wants to use our families!

Recap: Ruth was a foreigner who chose to be faithful to God even when she faced incredible difficulties. Her family was blessed by God because of her personal obedience, and our families will also be blessed when we make a personal effort to follow Christ.

Closing Prayer: "Lord, thank you for Ruth's example of faithfulness and obedience. Help us become more obedient and faithful to you. Amen."