



God's Sovereignty in the Book of Ruth

Ruth



LESSON GOAL

Students will trust in God's sovereignty and faithfully obey His commands.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Explain the problems of Naomi and Ruth.
- List examples of obedience on the part of the characters.
- Describe how God resolved the problems of Naomi and Ruth.
- Explain the significance of the genealogy at the end of Ruth.

KEY VERSE

"Then the women said to Naomi, 'Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!'" (Ruth 4:14).

APPLICATION

- Trust that God is sovereign over both good and bad events.
- Give God glory for His blessings.
- Respond rightly in the midst of trials.
- Look for ways that you can show God's grace by being gracious to others.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2nd Grade

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to hjudges and ruthp review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

**Materials
Needed**

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul.... You shall teach them to your children" (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

The book of Ruth is one of the easiest books of the Old Testament to read because it corresponds so well to a modern understanding of what makes a good story. Naomi's problem is quickly introduced, and the story continues until the problem is resolved. The book could easily be turned into a movie—at least until the reader gets to the last five verses! Suddenly, the modern reader finds himself facing a feature never part of a modern story—a genealogy! The genealogy at the end of Ruth increases the significance of the events of the story. Without it, the book of Ruth still is the exciting history of how God turned a woman's emptiness and bitterness to fulfillment and joy and how He faithfully provided for a faithful daughter. But the genealogy at the end reveals that the story is about even more. In providing a husband for Ruth and a "son" for Naomi (Ruth 4:17), God was preparing a family for the coming King David. Eventually, the descendant of Ruth and Boaz would be Jesus Christ!

While the book has the grand theme of the line of David, Ruth still is about how God sovereignly works in the lives of normal people. In a refreshing change from much of the Old Testament, the people of Israel respond righteously to God's sovereignty, working with God and not opposing Him. Although nobody in the book has special revelation about the future, the characters typically obey and trust God. The modern believer, although not knowing God's specific plan for his life, can be challenged by the book of Ruth to trust God's sovereignty while faithfully following His commands.

Historical Introduction (Ruth 1:1–2)

The book begins darkly, with Elimelech; his wife, Naomi; and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, fleeing Israel because of a famine in the land. The "days when the judges ruled" were typified by Israel's rebellion and apostasy; it is perhaps because of Israel's sin that God had brought a famine upon them (Lev. 26:18–20; Deut. 28:23–24). In desperation, the family went across the Jordan into the land of the idolatrous Moabites.

Naomi and Ruth's Problem Explored (Ruth 1:3–22)

Elimelech, Mahlon, and Chilion never returned to the other side of the Jordan. Within 10 years, all three men had died, leaving behind three grieving wives: Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah. When Naomi heard that "the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread" (Ruth 1:6), she naturally wanted to return to Israel. Naomi knew that there wasn't much waiting for her in Israel and urged her daughters-in-law to stay in Moab and find new husbands (1:9). Both Ruth and Orpah were resolute on coming with Naomi, but Naomi argued with them that remarriage would be easier in Moab. Naomi's response (1:11–13) is best understood in light of Deuteronomy 25:5–10, which explains God's desire for Israel that a man

Additional Reference Materials

Judges, Ruth; New American Commentary by Daniel I. Block

Such a Great Salvation: Expositions of the Book of Judges by Dale Ralph Davis

Ruth. In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 3* by F. B. Huey Jr.

Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament by John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, eds.

Judges. In *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 3* by Herbert Wolf

whose brother died before having a son should marry the widow of his brother in order to have a son; the son of the widow would then be able to continue the name of his father in Israel. But Naomi argued that she was too old to have any more sons, and even if she could, they would be too young to bear children to Ruth and Orpah (who had no children). After dwelling on her loss, Naomi said, "It grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me!" (1:13). Orpah was convinced by Naomi's reasoning, but Ruth was committed to her mother-in-law. Regardless of what the future held, Ruth said that she would go wherever Naomi went, worship Naomi's God, die where Naomi died, and be buried where Naomi was buried (1:16–17).

While Naomi rightly saw God's sovereignty over her suffering, she wrongly responded to God's plan with despair. Naomi asked the people to no longer call her Naomi ("pleasant") but instead to call her Mara ("bitter"); she explained to the people, "The Almighty has dwelt very bitterly with me. I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty" (Ruth 1:20–21). It is interesting that no such complaint was found on the lips of Ruth the Moabitess. While Orpah had returned to her family's gods (1:14), Ruth was committed to Naomi and her God, regardless of what happened.

Naomi and Ruth's Problem Relieved (Ruth 2)

The narrator provides the reader with an exciting sneak-peak at what God had planned for Naomi and Ruth: "There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz" (Ruth 2:1). The revelation of Boaz as a relative of Naomi adds to the excitement of chapter 2; the reader has special information that Ruth has yet to discover.

Because Ruth and Naomi were poor, Ruth asked Naomi for permission to "go to the field, and glean heads of grain" (Ruth 2:2)—to gather the leftover stalks of grain that God commanded the harvesters to leave behind for aliens and widows (Lev. 19:9–10; Deut. 24:19). In God's sovereignty, Ruth "happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz" (Ruth 2:4). When Boaz entered the field, he greeted his servants, "The LORD be with you!" (2:4). His servants responded, "The LORD bless you!" After the spiritual wasteland of Judges, the fields of Boaz are a spiritual harvest of God-glorifying work and relationships. The reader is blessed for the first time to see a domestic scene where Israelites are joyfully submitting to God's Law. Ruth exemplifies a hardworking and gracious woman; she is praised by Boaz for taking care of Naomi (2:11). Boaz's servants obey God's Law and allow Ruth to glean even before their master arrives. Boaz even goes beyond the Law, imploring Ruth to stay and glean in his field and to drink when she is thirsty (2:9–10). He feeds Ruth and commands his servants to intentionally leave grain for her (2:16). Boaz praises Ruth for her having left father and mother to come to a people she did not know. He said, "The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge" (2:12). Even more than Naomi, Boaz appreciated the sacrifice made by Ruth and knew that she had turned to the God of Israel.

Even more exciting than the 30 to 40 pounds of barley Ruth brought home was the news of where she had gleaned (Ruth 2:17–19). Upon finding out that Ruth had been in the fields of Boaz, Naomi exclaimed, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" (2:20). Boaz was the instrument of God's kindness to the family of Elimelech. Naomi revealed to Ruth what the reader has known since the first verse of the chapter: Boaz was a relative of Naomi and Ruth's, one of their "close relatives" (2:20). "Close relative" can also be translated "redeemer"; a close relative could redeem a family member sold into slavery (Lev. 25:47–49), land that had been sold under economic hardship (Lev.

25:23–28), or the family name by levirate marriage (Deut. 25:5–10). Naomi's emphasizing that Boaz was their "close relative" suggests that she had begun to imagine that perhaps Boaz would be willing to redeem the name of Elimelech and marry Ruth.

Naomi and Ruth's Problem Complicated (Ruth 3)

The Lord's sovereign leading of Naomi back to Israel, of Ruth to follow Naomi, and of Ruth to the field of Boaz provided an opportunity for Naomi and Ruth to be taken care of. As in the previous section, the characters reveal beautiful submission to God's Law. In care for her daughter-in-law, Naomi developed a plan where Ruth would have to be provided for (Ruth 3:1). Ruth, being a submissive daughter, followed Naomi's instructions and lay down at Boaz's feet after he had gone to sleep in the fields. When Boaz awoke, Ruth made her request clear: "Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative." Emphasizing Boaz's relationship as close relative (or redeemer), Ruth presented herself to Boaz for marriage. Instead of being surprised at the audacity of this foreigner or, even worse, taking advantage of this woman who had come to his bedside, Boaz's attention again went to the Lord. He said, "Blessed are you of the Lord, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness...in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich" (3:10). Boaz was not burdened by the request but was happy that this "virtuous woman" came to ask him to marry her!

Just as everything seems to be going well, the reader learns the surprising news that there is a relative closer to Elimelech than Boaz (Ruth 3:13). While Boaz was willing to marry Ruth, they first had to wait to see whether the unnamed relative wanted to fulfill the duty. Boaz sent Ruth home with barley, perhaps as a sign to Naomi that he had agreed to the plan (3:15–17). Like Ruth and Naomi, the reader is forced to "sit still...until you know how the matter will turn out."

Naomi and Ruth's Problem Resolved (Ruth 4:1–17)

True to his word, Boaz went the next day to the city gates, where business was done. When the relative closer than Boaz arrived, Boaz called the man aside and addressed the issue of whether the man was willing to redeem the land that belonged to Elimelech (Ruth 4:4). At some time, the land had been sold; it would return to the family of Elimelech in the Year of Jubilee (maybe many years away) unless a close relative was willing to redeem it (Lev. 25:23–28). While the man was willing to redeem the land, he was not willing to marry Ruth to "perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance" (4:5). The relative changed his mind, concerned that having children with Ruth would ruin his own inheritance (4:6). Instead of gaining land, he was now faced with possibly dividing his inheritance between his children and the children he would have with Ruth. To symbolize that Boaz was free to fulfill the role of redeemer, the man gave his sandal to Boaz (4:7–8). Boaz announced to the elders and the people assembled at the gate that he would both redeem the land of Elimelech and marry Ruth so that the "name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren" (4:9–10).

As the problem came to resolution, the people and elders blessed Boaz and Ruth, praying that the Lord would make Ruth fruitful like Rachel and Leah and that Boaz would prosper and be famous (Ruth 4:11). In these blessings, the Lord was glorified as the One who blesses and gives children. God indeed blessed and "gave her conception, and she bore a son" (4:13). God had graciously given Ruth a husband and a son.

The attention turns again to Naomi, with the book ending as it began. The women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close

relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him" (Ruth 4:14–15). Obed, the son of Ruth and Boaz, would be a redeemer to Naomi; instead of purchasing the land in the official sense of a redeemer, he would protect and care for his grandmother. Because Naomi was so affectionate in caring for the child (Ruth 4:16), the women even said, "There is a son born to Naomi" (4:17).

The Genealogical Conclusion (Ruth 4:18–22)

By the end of her life, Naomi probably no longer regretted her name. The Lord had sovereignly worked through the tragedy of her life and even her own bitterness to take care of both her and her daughter-in-law Ruth. God's purpose was bigger than Naomi, Boaz, Ruth, or the people of the city could imagine. The genealogy at the end of Ruth reveals that God had planned to move past Naomi's despair and work through the faithfulness of Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi to bring about the coming of David (and eventually Christ!). The story of Ruth is a poignant reminder that God is working all things together for the good of those who love Him (Rom. 8:28). While in the midst of His workings, believers may not know what good He has planned, we can model the faithfulness expressed by the characters in the book of Ruth.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

In the story we hear about Samson being a Nazirite. What was a Nazirite?
A Nazirite was someone who was specially dedicated to the Lord for a period of time. During that time, he could not eat any grapes or anything that was made from grapes, he could not cut his hair, and he could not go near a dead body.

What did the angel of the Lord say that Samson was going to do in his life?
The angel of the Lord told Manoah and his wife that Samson was going to begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines (Judg. 13:5).

Why did God let the Philistines have control over the Israelites?
God allowed the Philistines to have control over the Israelites because the Israelites were doing evil (Judg. 13:1), and God wanted them to learn that they needed Him or they were going to have many troubles.

Why did God make Samson super strong?
Samson was to begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines. He was to use his strength to cause problems for the Philistines and serve God by helping Israel.

What did the Philistines do to Samson after he lost his strength?

After Samson lost his strength, the Philistines were able to capture him. They poked out his eyes and put him in prison, where he was a grinder (Judg. 16:21).

What did Samson do when he was in the temple of Dagon?

By this time, some of Samson's hair had grown back. Samson asked God for strength to destroy the temple. With God's strength, Samson pushed the main pillars of the temple so that the whole temple fell and was destroyed, with Samson and all the wicked Philistines in it (Judg. 16:28–30).



Elimelech Hot Potato

Prepare a “potato,” such as a bean bag, with Elimelech’s name on it. Talk about how family names are passed down through generations. In today’s story, Naomi and Ruth found a way for Ruth to be “redeemed,” to marry and have children, and to continue Elimelech’s family line. While music is playing, the students can pass the potato. When the music stops, the person who has it is “out.”



Gleaning

Scatter items around the perimeter of the room, and have students race to fill their buckets. Items could be toys or something to represent wheat, such as brown strips of paper. Talk about what gleaning was, who did it, and why. Talk about God’s instructions to field owners. In today’s lesson, students will hear about Ruth gleaning in a field belonging to a man named Boaz.



David's Great-Grandparents

Read Psalm 23 (or another familiar Davidic psalm) to the students. Ask them who wrote it. Explain that the author, David, was one of Israel’s most beloved kings and was called “a man after God’s own heart.” When today’s Bible story took place, Israel did not have a king, but we are going to learn about David’s great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother. Their family also would one day include Israel’s Messiah, Jesus.



David's Family Tree

Talk to the students about family trees. You could illustrate this idea by bringing in a copy of your own family tree or pictures of previous generations. The book of Ruth was written to show how King David’s family started. His great-great-grandmother Naomi and his great-grandmother Ruth had many trials, but the Lord was planning that their family tree would include a great king.



Christ's Family Tree

Review with the students the genealogy of Christ in Matthew 1:1–16. Remind them of the various ancestors of Christ about whom they have learned. Tell them that today they are going to learn about some more of Jesus’ ancestors: Boaz, Ruth, Obed, and David.



God's Sovereign Control

The book of Ruth shows that God is sovereign over every aspect of life. Only God has the power to control so many things at once. This could be illustrated with a jar of black and white beads. Arrange the beads with one color on the top and the other color on the bottom. Shake the bottle to show how the beads get mixed. Let a student or two try pouring the beads into another bottle in order to arrange them



in order again. God can control much more than the arrangement of beads. God is completely in control of all that happens in our life.

Responding Faithfully

Describe several scenarios, and ask the students what they would and should do in each case. Some examples could include:

You lend your friend a favorite toy, and he accidentally breaks it.

You are coloring a picture, and your brother takes your crayons away.

Some boys at school start calling you names.

A friend starts talking to you in class while the teacher is giving a lesson.

Your mom asks you to clean your room, and you are busy watching your favorite television program.

It is not easy to respond faithfully to all of life's situations. In fact, sometimes it is very hard to be obedient. Without God's strength, it is impossible. By relying on God's strength, Ruth was able to be faithful even in difficult circumstances.



Famine

Bring a bowl full of fruit to class. Empty the bowl, explaining to the student that famine means there is no rain and therefore no food to eat. A famine would not last just a day or a week, but for months, and there was no store where people could go buy supplies.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Reading of the Text

Read Judges 13–16.

Introduction

Sometimes life seems very difficult and unfair. Naomi and her family had very difficult times. Things were so hard that Naomi believed God was against her. But God takes care of everyone who loves Him and follows Him. Things may look bad, and we may feel that He has forgotten about us, but God doesn't forget about us. He always loves us. God does things and allows things to happen in our lives because He has a plan. When we look at Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz, we can see that in the end, God did many wonderful things for them. God hadn't forgotten about them. He did something very special for them.



Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: Why did Elimelech, Naomi, and their two sons leave Bethlehem?

Answer: Elimelech, Naomi, and their two sons left Bethlehem because there was a famine. Elimelech knew that there was food in the land of Moab. He went to provide food for his family (Ruth 1:1).

LOQ: What was the first bad thing that happened while they lived in Moab?

Answer: Naomi's husband, Elimelech, died. She was left with her two sons in Moab (Ruth 1:3).

LOQ: What was the next bad thing that happened while they lived in Moab?

Answers: After Elimelech had died, Naomi's two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, each married a Moabite woman. The names of the women were Ruth and Orpah. But after about 10 years, Mahlon and Chilion died, leaving Ruth and Orpah without husbands, just like Naomi (1:4–5).

LOQ: Why did Naomi decide to return to Bethlehem?

Answer: Naomi decided to return because she heard that the Lord had provided food for the people in Israel, including her hometown of Bethlehem. Also, she could not help her two daughters-in-law very much because she was alone, without any men in the home (Ruth 1:6, 11–13).

LOQ: When Naomi returned home, what did she tell the women of Bethlehem to call her? Why?

Answer: When Naomi returned home, she told the women of Bethlehem to call her Mara ("bitter"). She believed that the Lord was against her because bad things had happened to her (Ruth 1:20–21).

LOQ: What did Naomi say to Ruth and Orpah when she decided to return to Bethlehem?

Answer: Naomi told Ruth and Orpah that she would not be able to help them very much and that it would be better for them to stay in Moab and find new husbands (Ruth 1:11–13).

LOQ: What did Orpah do? What did Ruth do?

Answer: Orpah stayed in Moab. She did not go to Bethlehem with Naomi. Orpah went back to her people and to her gods (Ruth 1:14–15). But Ruth did not stay in Moab, even though all her family was there. And even though Naomi encouraged her to stay in Moab, Ruth decided to follow Naomi and go back to Bethlehem with her. Ruth loved Naomi very much and did not want to leave her but wanted to help her. Ruth decided to follow the God of Israel instead of the gods of Moab (1:16–18; 4:15).

LOQ: Was it good for Ruth to stay with Naomi?

Answer: It was very good for Ruth to stay with Naomi. Even though Naomi thought God was against her because she had lost her husband and her sons, God had made it possible for Ruth to stay with her. Ruth loved Naomi and was going to be a friend and helper to her in this tough time (Ruth 2:2, 11, 18; 4:15).

LOQ: How did Ruth choose the field that she worked in? Did anyone tell her which field to work in?

Answer: No one told Ruth which field to work in. Ruth simply looked around and chose one to work in (Ruth 2:3, 20).

LOQ: Was it because of luck that Ruth chose to work in Boaz's field?

Answer: No. God knew where Boaz's field was. God made sure that Ruth made the right choice because He had a plan for Ruth and Boaz.

LOQ: What did Boaz do for Ruth?

Answer: Boaz was very kind to Ruth. He let her work in his field, gave her water to drink and food to eat, and made sure that she had some food to take back to Naomi. Boaz let Ruth work in his field during the whole harvest. He took care of Ruth and Naomi (Ruth 2:8–23).

LOQ: Was God taking care of Ruth and Naomi?

Answer: Yes, God was taking care of Ruth and Naomi. God used Boaz to help Ruth and Naomi because they needed food. Even though Naomi thought that God was against her, God blessed her with Ruth, who was a very good daughter-in-law and who provided food for both of them so that they could eat.

LOQ: What happened with Boaz and Ruth?

Answer: God made sure that Boaz would become Ruth's husband. Even though another relative had a chance to take Ruth as his wife, in the end, it was Boaz who married her (Ruth 3:12–13; 4:1–12). They also had a baby (Ruth 4:13).

LOQ: Who gave Boaz and Ruth their baby?

Answer: The Bible says that God enabled Ruth to have a baby. God was gracious to Boaz and Ruth and allowed them to have a son. God blessed them a lot; a baby is very special (Ruth 4:13–17).

LOQ: Every baby is special, but what was extra special about their baby?

Answer: Boaz and Ruth's baby, Obed, was extra special because he would become the grandfather of the great King David. And he was even more special because the New Testament tells us that Jesus the Messiah was a descendent (a relative) of King David, and also of Obed (Ruth 4:17; Matt. 1:1–16).

LOQ: Since these things happened, do you think that God had forgotten about Naomi and her family?

Answer: No. God never forgets about anyone. Sometimes we have difficult times in our lives. Maybe someone loses a family member, as Naomi did, but God doesn't forget those who love Him and follow Him. God had a plan for Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz. He used them in a special way, and He took care of them, even when things did not look very good. God provided food, a home, and safety, and He honored them very much because from their family came King David and Jesus.

Summary

Even though Naomi believed that God had forsaken her, and even was against her, He gave her a special friend in Ruth. Ruth loved Naomi and did not leave her. God also provided food for Ruth and Naomi and took care of them by letting Ruth and Boaz meet. When Ruth and Boaz were married, they had a child. This child was

special because he would become the grandfather of King David and was an ancestor of Jesus, the Messiah. In the end, it was clear that God hadn't forgotten anyone. He blessed Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz greatly.

Application

God never forsakes those who love Him and follow Him. Because we do not understand everything God does, we sometimes misunderstand His plan and think that He has turned against us or forsaken us. But God said that He would never leave His people. We must believe that He will take care of us no matter what happens. He has told us that everything works for good for those who love the Lord (Rom. 8:28). If we love God, even when things look bad and are difficult, God will use those things for our good. Let's trust God and believe that He will take care of us.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



Generations Time Line

String a rope across the room or hang it from the ceiling. While reviewing past lessons about the patriarchs, use clothespins to attach the previous coloring pages for Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Judah (one of the 12 sons of Jacob, brother of Joseph) to the rope. Leave some space between those and the generations of the lesson today, including Boaz, Obed, Jesse, and David. Then allow more space before you get to Jesus Christ. Explain the significance of knowing this genealogy—it leads to Christ! For reference, see Matthew 1:1–17 and Luke 3:31–34.



God Knows

While telling the story of Ruth, stop at critical points. Write some numbers on a piece of paper, and place them in an envelope. Ask the students to guess what number you will pull out of the envelope. Explain that we do not always know what will happen. Ruth did not always know what the outcome of her faithful actions would be, but God did. God knows everything. He even knows what will happen before it happens. He could always tell us what number we would pull out of an envelope. That's why Ruth could trust God and why we must trust Him, too.

Praise and Worship

I Will Sing of the Mercies

In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified

Living for Jesus

O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E

Seek Ye First

The Wise Man and Foolish Man

Thou Art Worthy

Trust and Obey

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Obed's Family Tree

Materials: copies of "Obed's Family Tree" craft pages, crayons, glue, razor

Directions: Before class, use a razor to cut the flaps on the tree. During class, have the students color the trees and the men. After they are finished coloring, they can glue the tree page to the page with the men. They can lift the flaps to see Obed's family tree.



Generations Mobile

Materials: copies of the "Generations Mobile" craft pages, scissors, crayons, glue, hole puncher, yarn

Directions: Cut out the mobile. Fold it in half, and punch holes where indicated. Students can color and cut out the men on the second page. Punch a hole in the top of each figure, and have students use yarn to attach the figures to the mobile. Make sure that they put the men in this order: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Boaz, Obed, Jesse, David, and Jesus Christ. Add yarn at the top for hanging.



Paper Figures of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz

Materials: copies of the paper doll figures, crayons, scissors

Directions: The paper figures of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz have a twofold purpose. First, you can use them to illustrate key points throughout the lesson. Second, each student can color his own set of paper figures in class and then take them home to act out what he learned. Each character can hold objects in its arms if you cut along the inside of the arms. The baby and the food likewise can be put into the basket by cutting along the basket's front rim. To allow the paper dolls to stand freely, cut along the half-inch slit at each doll's feet. Also cut out the half-circle stands, and cut along the half-inch slits. Slide the dolls onto the stands.



"God Provides for Ruth"

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of today's lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



Journal Page: "Ruth"

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student copies of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.

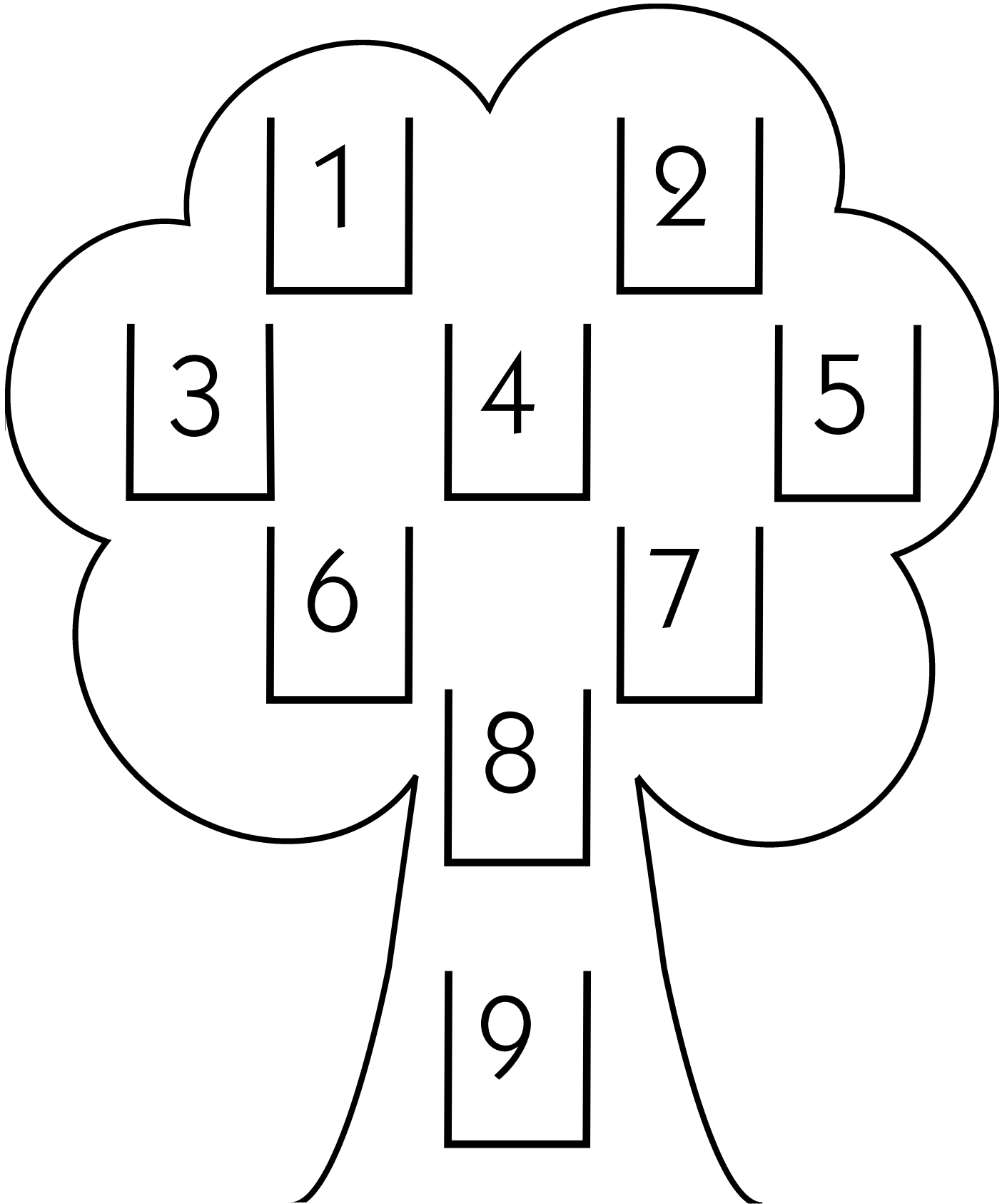


MEMORY VERSE

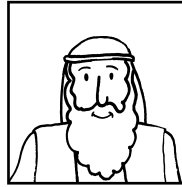
"The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge" (Ruth 2:12).

Obed's Family Tree

Today we learned about Obed's parents, Boaz and Ruth. Lift the flaps to see Obed's ancestry, from Abraham to Jesus Christ. (See Ruth 4:17–22; Matthew 1:1–17; and Luke 3:31–34.)



Obed's Family Tree



Abraham



Isaac



Jacob



Judah



Boaz



Obed



Jesse



David



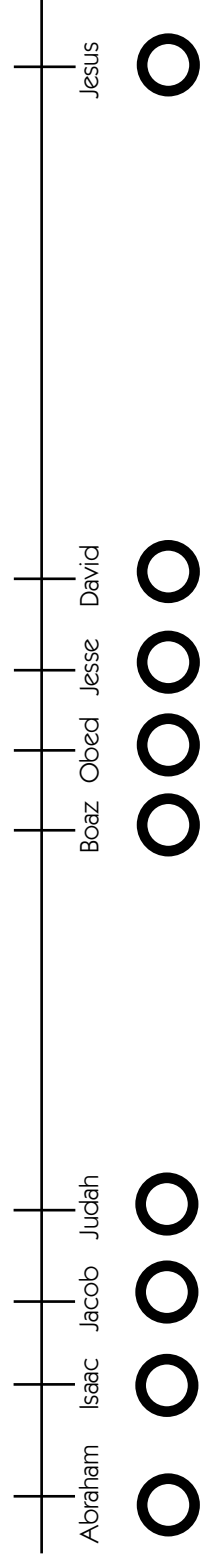
Jesus

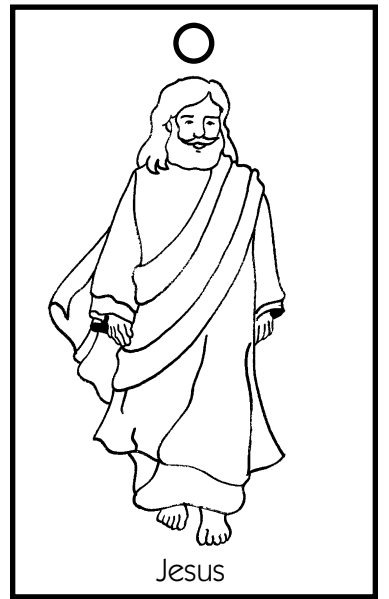
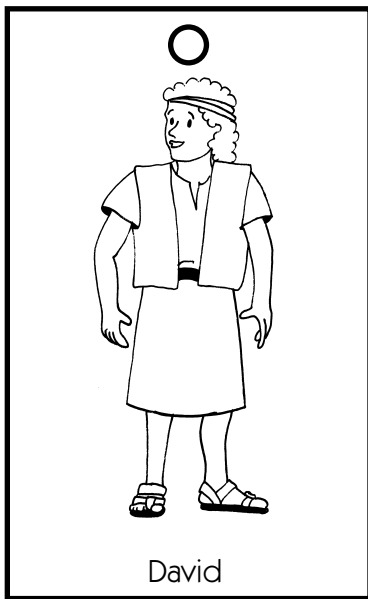
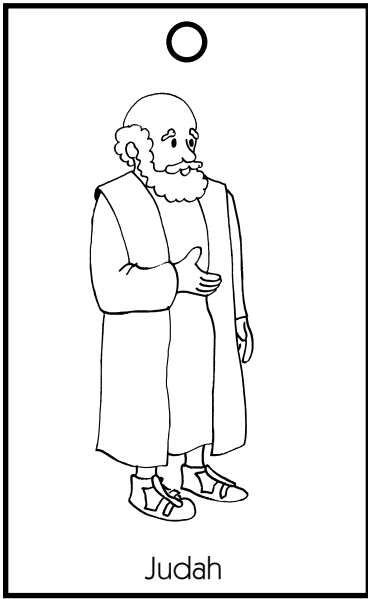
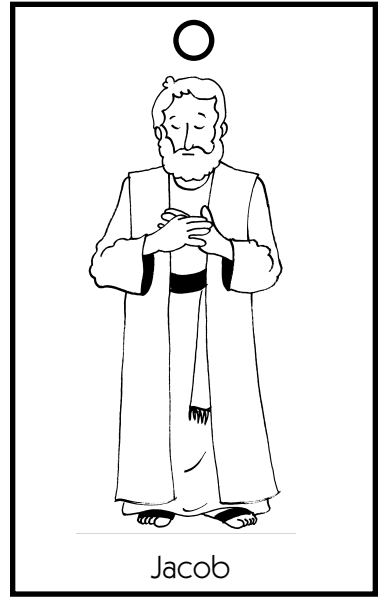
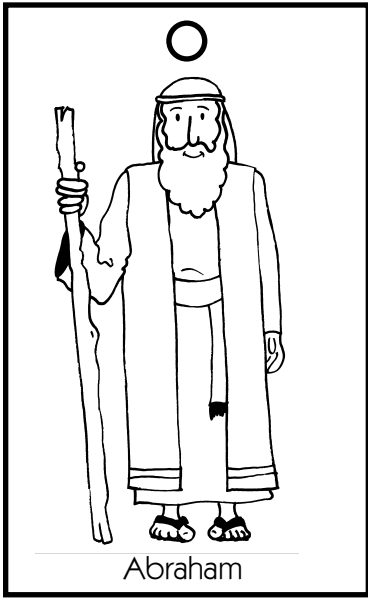
Generations Mobile

The Family of Obed

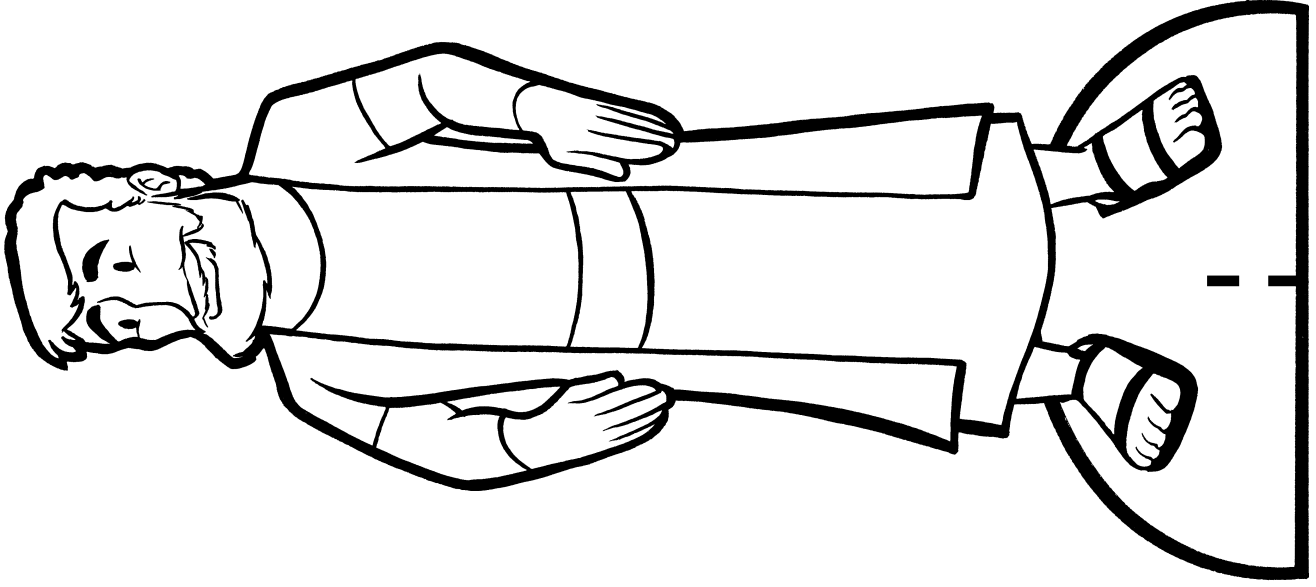
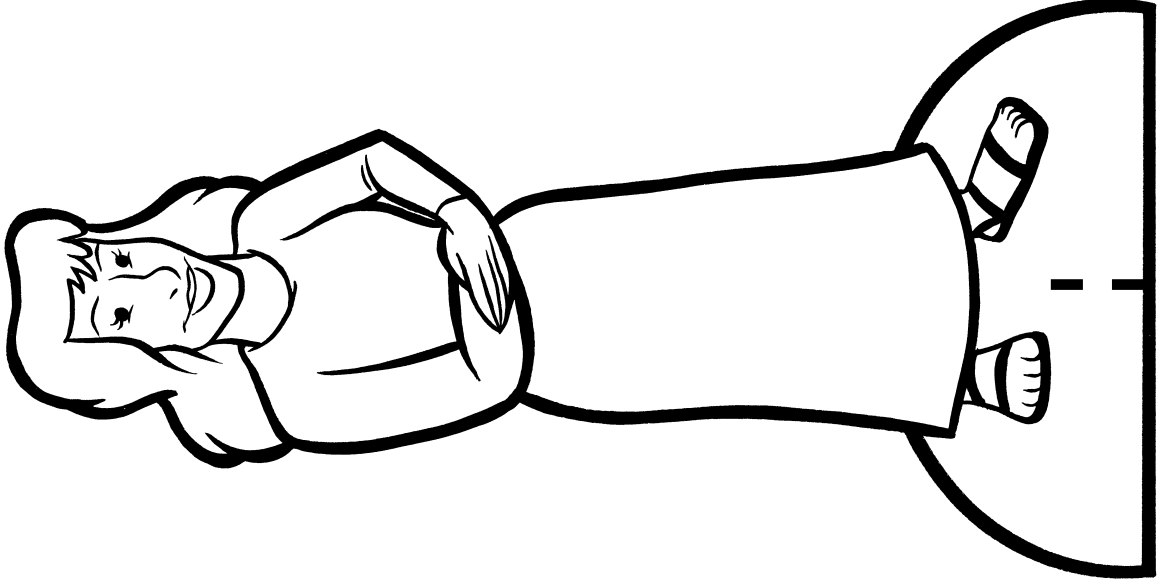
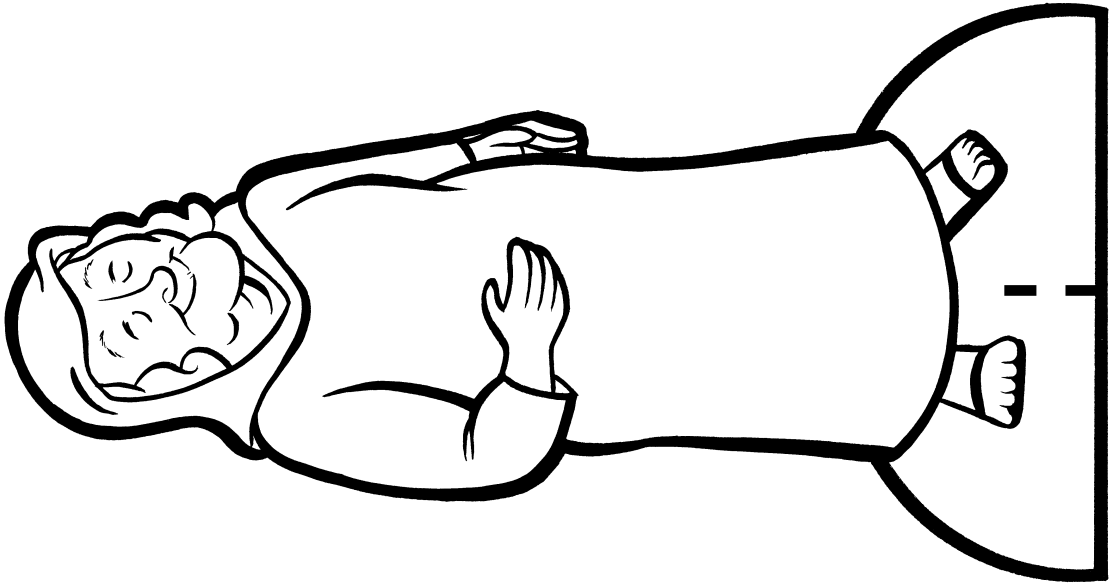
Today we learned about Obed's parents, Boaz and Ruth. Obed's ancestry goes all the way back to Abraham. Then, Obed became the grandfather of King David, and the family line eventually went all the way to Jesus Christ! That's the best part of the happy ending to the book of Ruth.

(See Ruth 4:17–22; Matthew 1:1–17; and Luke 3:31–34.)

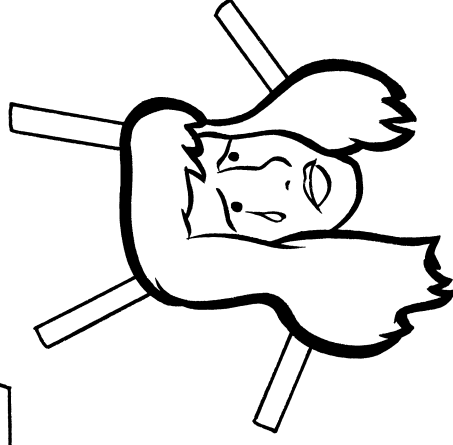
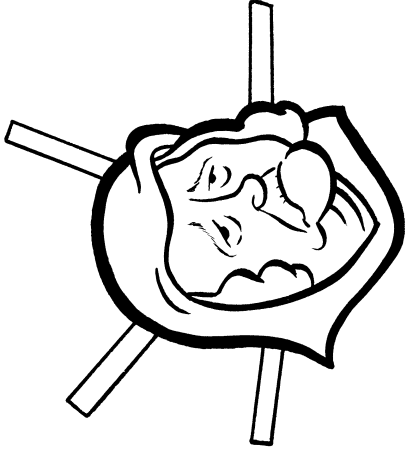
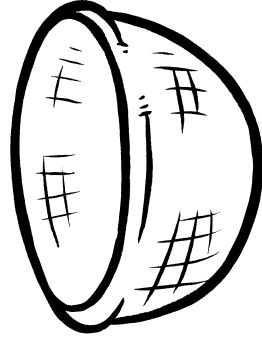
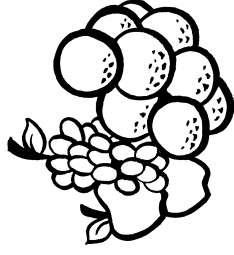
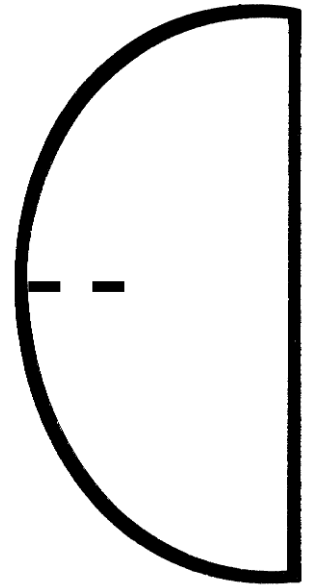
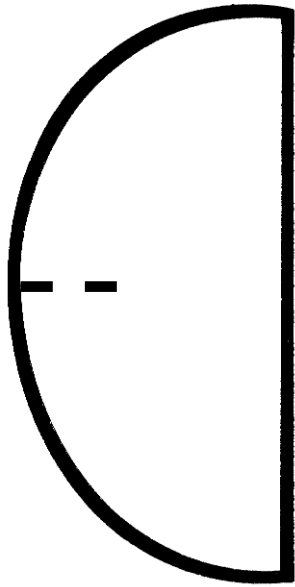
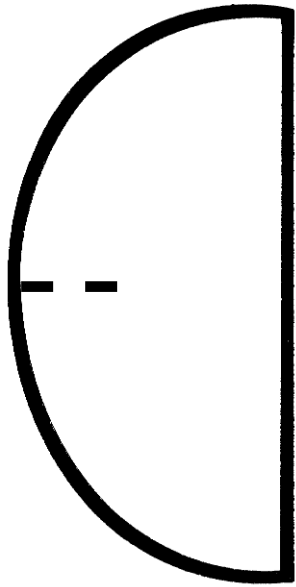




Paper Doll Figures



Paper Doll Figures



God Provides for Ruth



Ruth

Name _____

1. What happened to Ruth's husband? _____

2. True or False: Ruth left Naomi and went back to her mother's home. _____

3. Who was Naomi's close relative? _____

Job

Boaz

Samson

Fred

4. True or False: Ruth found favor in the eyes of Boaz. _____

5. Boaz and Ruth were married and gave birth to _____.

twins

a son

daughter

an adopted son

6. True or False: God faithfully provided for Ruth. _____

7. Fill in the blanks from the genealogy in Ruth 4:21.

"Salmon begot _____, and Boaz begot _____; Obed begot _____,

and Jesse begot _____."

Ruth

“Then the women said to Naomi, ‘Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel! And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him’” (Ruth 4:14–15).

In spite of Naomi’s bitterness, God blessed her—and the world—by giving her a grandson who would become the grandfather of King David, through whom Christ came. Imagine that—God fulfills His purposes through sinners! He is interested in the way we respond to problems. We can respond to problems with faith, as Ruth did, which is what God desires, or we can respond as Naomi did, with bitterness.

When something irritating enters an oyster, such as a piece of shell, sand, or a tiny creature, the oyster produces thin layers of a pearly substance called nacre to enclose the irritating intruder, and a pearl eventually forms from the layers. The value of the pearl depends on the oyster’s reaction to the irritant. Some oysters produce valuable pearls because the nacre is more colorful or pearly, but an oyster with a dull shell will produce dull nacre and a dull pearl. In a similar way, your reaction to the “irritating intruders” or troubles God puts in your life can produce a valuable pearl of faith or one of dull bitterness.

Christ sends you troubles to bring about faith in your life, to direct you in God’s path, to show you your sins, or to bring about His purpose, but always for His glory.

Ruth

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Romans 8:28 says that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. This is a promise that can help build your faith. When you don't understand why troubles come into your life, believe God's promise. You can produce pearls of faith by believing Him. He is trustworthy.

This week I will trust God with this problem: _____

I will try to be a person of faith by _____

I know God is good because _____

Write out Romans 8:28.

PRAYER

Do you have a problem that you would like to talk to Christ about? Tell Him about it and ask Him to help you respond with faith. You can cast your cares on Him because He cares for you.

Thank Him for loving you and for sending problems that help you become a person of faith. Thank Him, too, that He cares about your problems and will help you through them. If you have sinned and problems have come because of your sin, ask Him to forgive you. He will do it.

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**“The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge”
(Ruth 2:12).**



“Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. And he said, ‘Who are you?’ So she answered, ‘I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative’” (Ruth 2:8–9).

