

Boaz Redeems Ruth

Ruth 4:1-13

MEMORY VERSE

ISAIAH 47:4

“As for our Redeemer, the LORD of hosts is His name, the Holy One of Israel.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

“Whodunnit” cross puzzle template included with your curriculum, enough copies for the children in your class, construction paper and glue.

“Boaz, Ruth, and Obed” finger puppet template included with your curriculum, crayons or markers, and tape.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Whodunnit?

Before class make enough copies of the cross template for the children in your class. Cut up the cross puzzles in the shapes of puzzle pieces. Make enough cross puzzles either for all of your kids or for very small groups to work together. You can decide whether or not to mix up the pieces depending on your children’s ability.

Next, allow the children to put together the puzzles. You can have them glue the puzzle pieces to a piece of construction paper. Ask your class the question, “Who has redeemed (saved) us?” The puzzle will tell...Jesus!

LESSON TIME!

In the first two chapters of Ruth, we see heartache and hardship. As we continue the book of Ruth, a beautiful love story unfolds--a story of love and redemption.

Boaz gave Ruth a promise that he would redeem her (buy back the land belonging to his brother, Elimelech); and being an honorable man, he would be true to his word. In fact, in Ruth 3:18, Naomi tells Ruth to “sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will fall; for the man (Boaz) will not be in rest until he has finished the thing this day.” Naomi knew that Boaz would not rest until he had completed the transaction to redeem his beloved.

As we read these verses, we see a beautiful picture of Jesus Christ who redeemed (or bought back) His church for Himself. **Jesus paid the price for us all.**

RUTH 4:1

Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down.

Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there. The gate was the open space before the city gate; it was the forum of the city, the place where the public affairs of the city were discussed. There he sat down, calling “court” immediately. What drove this man to act so quickly? Perhaps it was his love for Ruth. We are not told that she was incredibly beautiful, but she certainly had the inner beauty of a virtuous woman—a beauty “far above rubies” (Proverbs 31:10).

It was Boaz' desire to redeem the land belonging to Elimelech in order that he might redeem Ruth as his bride. However, there was a problem. The right of redemption was the right of the closest relative. Another man was a closer relative to Elimelech than Boaz (Ruth 3:12-13). While Boaz waited at the gate, this "closer relative" passed by. Boaz asked him to come near and sit down. His name is never mentioned; perhaps, because he refused to become the redeemer.

RUTH 4:2-4

And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.

Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.

"And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.' " And he said, "I will redeem it."

Boaz called together ten of Bethlehem's elders, and they also sat down with him. They would be witnesses of a legal transaction. Boaz had thought about all of this and had carefully planned out his strategy. He explained that Naomi had a field for sale that belonged to Naomi's late husband. The closest relative (kinsman) had the first right to the property and Boaz was next in line after him. If the closer relative would not redeem the property, Boaz agreed to redeem the price of the land. The closer relative responded, "I will redeem it."

This was not the response Boaz hoped to receive. Did he lose his beloved?

RUTH 4:5-8

Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance."

And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel.

Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So he took off his sandal.

There are two Old Testament laws involved in our story here: the law mentioned in verse 3 regulating redemption (buying back) of property (see also Leviticus 25:25-34) and the law mentioned in verse 5: the property included the widow of the deceased relative (Deuteronomy 25:5-10). The redeemer was to marry the widow of deceased in order to raise sons that would carry on the family name.

Boaz informed the closer relative that if he redeemed the property, he must also acquire (or marry) Ruth the Moabitess.

When the relative heard that marriage to Ruth would be necessary, he refused his right of purchasing the property. He said it would "mar (mess up) his own inheritance." We do not know why the relative came to that conclusion, but Boaz must have been delighted.

The legal transaction then took place. The passing of the sandal symbolized Boaz's right to walk upon the land as his property. The custom came from the fact that one could take possession of fixed property by treading upon the soil and then taking off the shoe and handing it to another--a symbol of the transfer of a possession or right of ownership.

The "Near Kinsman" Relay

Divide the class into two teams and form two lines. Have all of the children take off their shoes and put them into a big pile at the end of the room.

Next, when you say "go" have one child at a time go to the pile, find their shoes and put them on and then return and tag the next person in line. Continue through line until a team has won.

RUTH 4:9,10

And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi.

"Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day."

Boaz moved quickly to complete the transaction. He claimed and received the right of redemption both for Elimelech's land and for Ruth. Boaz called the elders to witness the transaction as he took possession of Naomi's property and received Ruth the Moabitess. He publicly declared that he would marry Ruth.

Boaz then became the “kinsman-redeemer,” the “Goel.” This Hebrew term was used “to imply certain obligations arising out of that relationship and has for its primary meaning ‘coming to the help or rescue’ of one” (The New Unger’s Bible dictionary). Boaz came to rescue Ruth. He would save her and take care of her the rest of her life.

We, too, have a redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our everlasting Redeemer. He looked at mankind with tender compassion, as Boaz looked at Ruth. In Philippians 2:6-8, we see the price He paid for us. “Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” Jesus paid the price with His own blood, for He was both able and willing to redeem us. **Jesus has paid the price for us all.**

RUTH 4:11-13

And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.

"May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman."

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

The people and the elders said, “We are witnesses,” and desired for Boaz the blessing of the Lord upon this marriage. “The Lord make the woman that shall come into your house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel, and do thou get power in Ephratah, and make to yourself a name in Bethlehem.” The phrase “make yourself a name” could be read, “make to yourself a well established name through your marriage by a host of worthy sons who shall make your name renowned.”

Thus we see in verse 13 that Boaz took Ruth as his wife, and they had a son. What a glorious end to this beautiful story of suffering, love, commitment, and redemption.

In the remainder of the chapter, the fulfillment of this blessing unfolds. Ruth bore a son, Obed. At his birth, the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not let a redeemer be wanting to you today.” They called Obed a redeemer of Naomi, not just because he would one day redeem all of Naomi’s possessions; but because, as the son of Ruth, he was also the son of Naomi—he would take away the shame of her childlessness and be a comfort to her in her old age.

Through this lineage would come king David and then our great redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Let us consider what Jesus has done for each of us. Read Matthew 13:45-46, the parable of “The Pearl of Great Price.” The field spoken of is the world (verse 38), which was purchased by our Lord at the priceless cost of His own blood in order that He might redeem the treasure. You and I are that treasure! His love for us is beyond our understanding. If you have never received that love, now is the time to ask Jesus Christ to become your Kinsman-Redeemer! **Jesus has paid the price for us all.**

Boaz, Ruth and Naomi Finger Puppets

Enclosed in your curriculum, you will find templates for Boaz, Ruth, and Naomi finger puppets. Make copies ahead of class. Cut out the characters and pass out to the children. Allow the children to color or decorate the puppets. After coloring, attach the puppets to the children's fingers by using tape.

Allow a few of the children to re-enact the story of Boaz and Ruth. Remind the children that just as Boaz redeemed Ruth, Jesus has redeemed us by paying the price for our sin on the cross. Because of His work for us, we will spend eternity with Him.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to trust in the Lord, our Great Redeemer. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

