

THE FAITH- FULL FAMILY

Ruth
Ruth 1:1–2:13;
4:13–17
Before 1000 BC

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God is merciful.

BIBLE VERSE

For the LORD your God is a merciful God.
Deuteronomy 4:31

LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God showed His mercy to us by sending His Son, Jesus.

LAW & GOSPEL

Sin and the fallen creation cause me to lose hope; I think even God is against me.

Though I feel overwhelmed, God causes all things to work together for good for the sake of His Son, Jesus, who has borne my sin on the cross.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Ruth remains loyal to her widowed mother-in-law, Naomi. Returning to Naomi's ancestral home in Bethlehem, Ruth gleanes Boaz's fields to provide food for herself and Naomi. Ruth finds favor with Boaz, who purchases Naomi's land and redeems Ruth from her widowhood. Having married Boaz, Ruth bears a son, Obed, the grandfather of King David.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Ruth 1:1–2:13; 4:13–17 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH To explore the complete narrative of Ruth, read Ruth 2:14–4:12 and study notes in *TLSB*.

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Backpack, books
- Rice, bowls and measuring cups, pictures of grain growing
- Construction paper, clear contact paper, pictures cut from magazines
- Basket, doll, picture of wheat
- Graham crackers, picture of grain
- Unpopped popcorn, small rocks or beads, small zipper bags

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible
- Device with prepped music
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- Supply Box

LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

- Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- Sing songs, using music found in the digital resource center or your own favorite songs.

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for giving us a family to love and care for us. Help us to be kind and good to our families and to other boys and girls. Amen.

SAY

- Who is your family? What are some things you do together? Today, we'll talk about how God cared for two women and made them a family.**
- Have you ever felt like an outsider? like you weren't part of a group? It doesn't feel good, does it? God sent Jesus to make sure we could all be "insiders" in the family of God. Today, we are going to learn about some outsiders who became insiders.**

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative as you read it.

- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** As you read this story to your group, have one student play the part of Naomi and wear a backpack. Talk about Naomi, her husband, and her two sons leaving their home in Bethlehem to go to Moab because of a famine. When they leave, put something in the backpack (maybe a book) to signify a burden. Each time they face a hardship, add a weight. When there is no food, add a weight. When Naomi's husband and sons die, add more weight. When they are homeless, add more weight. When Boaz redeems Ruth and marries her, take the backpack off. Then, put the backpack at the foot of a cross to show that Jesus carried the weight of our sin on the cross.
- FOR A MIX OF AGES** Have older students write the events of this narrative in their own words on index cards. As they retell the story, have the younger students in your group wear a backpack and act out the events.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- How did Ruth show love to Naomi?
- How did Boaz show mercy to Ruth and Naomi?
- Who came from the line of Ruth and Boaz?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion, using these key points.

- Ruth left her homeland and went back to Israel with her mother-in-law, Naomi. She worked to take care of Naomi.
- Ruth was redeemed by someone willing to pay the price to protect her. Boaz foreshadowed Jesus, who also willingly paid the much bigger price to pay for our sins. It cost Jesus His life. Jesus is our Redeemer.
- Jesus, our Redeemer, would come from the line of David, whose great-grandmother was Ruth.



CHRIST CONNECTION

God had mercy on us by providing a Redeemer, Jesus, to give us life and salvation through His death and resurrection.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: Draw a sad face on a paper plate. Draw a happy face on the back or on a second plate. Show them when you talk about being sad and happy.

Long ago, in the land of Canaan, where God's people lived, there was a time when no food would grow. A husband and wife named Elimelech and Naomi lived in Bethlehem. They did not have enough to eat. So this family decided to go to Moab, a country that had food. There, Naomi's husband died.

A while later, her sons married women from Moab. Their names were Ruth and Orpah. Then, Naomi's sons died too! Naomi was so sad. She felt all alone. She thought God had forgotten about her. Did God really forget about Naomi? No! God would take care of Naomi.

Later, Naomi heard there was food in her country again. So she decided to go home again. She told Orpah and Ruth to stay in Moab. Orpah went back to her family in Moab. But Ruth loved Naomi very much. She begged to go with her. She said, "Don't be sad. I will not leave you. Wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you live, I will live. Your God will be my God." God was at work. He took care of Naomi by giving her Ruth as a special friend and helper.

So Naomi and Ruth walked and walked until they got to Bethlehem. When the people in Bethlehem saw Naomi, they remembered her and were glad to see her again.

One day, Ruth said to Naomi, "We are very poor and have

no money or food. It is harvest time in Bethlehem. Let me go into the fields and pick up the wheat and barley that is left over. I'll bring it home so we can make bread to eat."

Ruth found a field owned by a man named Boaz. Ruth walked behind his workers and picked up the grain in the field they had missed. One day, Boaz saw Ruth. He found out her name was Ruth. Boaz was very kind to Ruth. He liked how she was a hard worker and cared for Naomi. He told his workers to drop even more grain for Ruth to pick up. When Ruth went home that night, she told Naomi about the kind man who cared for them by giving them food to eat. Now, they weren't hungry anymore! God was at work. He took care of Ruth and Naomi through Boaz, who made sure they had food to eat.

Not long after that, Boaz asked Ruth to marry him. They got married and took good care of Naomi. God was at work. He made them a family. Boaz took care of Naomi and Ruth for the rest of their lives. God also gave Ruth and Boaz a baby to love and care for. They named him Obed. Best of all, many years later, God sent a special child to be born from Ruth's family. Do you know who? Jesus, our Savior!

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine. Elimelech, Naomi, and their two sons left Bethlehem and went into Moab to find food. There, Elimelech died, and the sons took Moabite wives: Orpah and Ruth. Then, both sons died.

Later, Naomi heard that the Lord had given His people food. So she set out with her two daughters-in-law to return to the land of Judah. But Naomi said, "Return home. May the Lord deal kindly with you." Orpah kissed her mother-in-law and went home, but Ruth clung to Naomi.

Ruth said, "Where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God." So the two of them came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Ruth said to Naomi, "Let me glean among the ears of grain." Naomi agreed, and Ruth worked in the field of Boaz.

Boaz said to Ruth, "All that you have done for Naomi has been told to me. A full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!" Boaz told his men to let Ruth glean even among the sheaves.

When Naomi saw all that Ruth had gleaned and learned whose field it was, she said, "The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers. Wash and anoint yourself. Go

down to the threshing floor. Boaz will tell you what to do." So Ruth did as Naomi had commanded her.

When Boaz saw Ruth, she said to him, "Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer."

Boaz said, "I am a redeemer, yet there is one nearer than I. If he is not willing to redeem you, then as the Lord lives, I will redeem you." The next day, Boaz sat at the gate. Behold, the redeemer of whom Boaz had spoken came by. He said to the redeemer, "Naomi is selling the land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. If you will redeem it, redeem it."

The redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it. Take my right of redemption yourself."

Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought the land from the hand of Naomi. Also Ruth the Moabite I have bought to be my wife."

So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And the Lord gave her a son. Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his caretaker. They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

Scoop and Pour

Put rice in a large bowls. Set out measuring cups for children to scoop and pour. Show pictures of grain growing. Explain that grains such as rice, wheat, and barley can be ground into a powder to make flour. Ask children what we use flour for. Say, **Ruth picked up grain in the field to make bread to eat.**



Act Out the Story

Use a picture of wheat, a basket, and a doll. Put the wheat in one area for Boaz's farm. Start in "Bethlehem." Explain that there was no food to eat. Have children follow you to "Moab." Tell what happened there. Walk back to Bethlehem as you tell how Ruth and Naomi went back. Walk to the "farm" and tell how Ruth worked in the fields. Put wheat in the basket. Tell about how God brought Boaz and Ruth together and made them a family. Hold doll in arms. Tell how God sent Jesus from their family.



Place Mat Craft

Give children construction paper to make a place mat of God's blessings. They can draw pictures of God's blessings on their place mats, or cut out pictures from magazines of food, clothing, and other blessings to glue to the paper. Cover with clear contact paper. Talk about how God took care of Ruth and Naomi through the kindness of Boaz, who gave them food. God cares for us too!



Follow-the-Leader

Ruth said she would follow Naomi wherever she went. Play follow-the-leader as the children follow you wherever you go, imitating your actions (e.g., march, clap your hands, flap arms, skip, jump). Give children turns to be the leader too.



Graham Cracker Snack

Give children graham crackers for a snack. Tell them the crackers are made from grain. Show a picture of grain and say, **Ruth walked behind the workers who gathered the wheat into bundles and picked up the grain they dropped to make bread. How can we help hungry people today?**



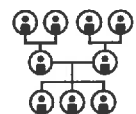
Glean Machine

Place about a half cup of unpopped popcorn, along with an equal amount of small rocks or beads, in small zipper bags. Challenge students to work individually or in teams to glean the grain from the rocks or beads. Explain that gleaning is picking out the grain. You could even do a competition to see who is the fastest gleaner in your class.



David's Family Tree

Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David. Help students review this by reading **Ruth 4:18-22**. Ask students to brainstorm a list of other ancestors of David they remember (e.g., Abraham, Isaac, Jacob). Remind them that the ancestors of David are important because the ancestors of David are also ancestors of Jesus. (You may have to explain the word *ancestor*.)



LEAVE

SAY

God showed His mercy to Naomi and Ruth by using Boaz to be their redeemer. Even more amazing, He showed His mercy to us by sending Jesus to redeem us from our sin by dying on the cross and rising again.

PRAY

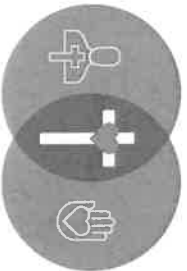
Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for being our Redeemer, for paying the price in our place on the cross so that we may be part of Your family forever. In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE FAITH-FULL FAMILY

LESSON 8

Ruth 1:1–2:13; 4:13–17

GOD IS MERCIFUL.



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God has given me a family to nurture and bring me up in the faith.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I am part of the family of God. He gives me specific roles within my family that glorify and serve Him.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on previous learning for each age.

ADULT

I can analyze God's mercy in the narrative and connect it to His mercy to me today.

YOUTH

I can describe how God's mercy in the narrative illustrates His mercy for me today.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God showed His mercy to us by sending His Son, Jesus.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God loves and cares for me.

BIBLE VERSE

For the Lord your God is a merciful God.

Deuteronomy 4:31

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Ruth remains loyal to her widowed mother-in-law, Naomi. Returning to Naomi's ancestral home in Bethlehem, Ruth gleanes Boaz's fields to provide food for herself and Naomi. Ruth finds favor with Boaz, who purchases Naomi's land and redeems Ruth from her widowhood. Having married Boaz, Ruth bears a son, Obed, the grandfather of King David.

TAKING IT HOME

- ▶ *On the Go*—Boaz was Naomi's redeemer, a person who could protect her inheritance. How does Jesus, our Redeemer, protect our inheritance of faith, forgiveness, and life?
- ▶ *At Mealtime*—A long time after Ruth lived, Jesus was born to one of her descendants. How does Ruth, a Moabite (a people who worshiped false gods), remind you that Jesus came to redeem all people?
- ▶ *Something to Do*—Ruth was the great-grandmother of King David. Take some time to learn about your great-grandmothers or other faithful women you admire.
- ▶ *Before Bed*—God granted Ruth and Naomi food, protection, and family to live through each day. What are the daily blessings God provides for your family?



Deuteronomy 4:31

Leader Devotion LESSON 8

THE FAITH-FULL FAMILY—RUTH

RUTH 1:1–2:13; 4:13–17

BIBLE TRUTH

God is merciful.

BIBLE VERSE

For the Lord your God is a merciful God. Deuteronomy 4:31

LAW & GOSPEL

Sin and the fallen creation cause me to lose hope; I think even God is against me.

Though I feel overwhelmed, God causes all things to work together for good for the sake of His Son, Jesus, who has borne my sin on the cross.

DEVOTION

Widows, one and all! The Book of Ruth starts with the sad account of three women, in one family, who have all lost their husbands. Without the support of a male relative, they struggle to survive. Finally, Ruth and Naomi return to Bethlehem. There they find the support they need, and a new start, through their kinsman Boaz.

At just the time they needed it, God placed Boaz into the lives of Ruth and Naomi. At just the time we need it, God places us into His family through Baptism. “Those seemingly abandoned by God now see His mighty arm of covenant blessing reaching out to them” (T^LS^B, p 430).

Pray: Lord, You save me through Your death and resurrection. Help me to trust that You will care for all my needs in this life and the next. Amen.

LESSON 8 OPENING

THE FAITH-FULL FAMILY—RUTH

What does this picture show us? A family! Have you ever thought about what makes a family? One way to think about a family is that they are people who live together and take care of one another. Families can look different than this one in the picture. Maybe your family isn't like this. Maybe you live with just your mom, or just your dad. Maybe your grandparents take care of you, or your older siblings. But you are still a family—a group of people who live together and take care of one another.

One amazing thing that God does is He makes us part of an even bigger family, His Church! God is our heavenly Father. Jesus is His Son, and in the Bible we are called Jesus' brothers and sisters. Jesus is our Brother! And because we are all children of God through Baptism, we are all brothers and sisters! Everyone in this congregation is your brother or sister in God's family. And it's not just this congregation—you can call every Christian in this city, in this country, and in the whole world your brother or sister in Christ!

Now, this is a really special thing. We have a family that spreads across the entire planet. Does God's family fit the definition of family we used earlier? We said that a family is a group of people who live together and take care of one another. Think about this congregation. We might not live in the same house, but we all worship God in His house. And we take care of one another in several ways. How do we take care of one another in this church? *Allow for answers from children, specifying the ministries in your church.* We see one another every week, and we talk to one another. We celebrate together when big life events happen, like when someone gets married or has a baby. We help take care of people who are sick or recovering, by visiting them and making them meals. We care for people who have lost loved ones too. As a family, we take care of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In our Bible lesson today, there is a family who experiences a lot of tragedy. However, they continue to care for one another. Listen closely to hear what the members of this family do to take care of one another. You will see and hear how God works through each of them.

Pray: Dear Father, thank You for making us part of Your family. Thank You for sending Jesus, our Brother, to care for us on earth and to die and rise again for us. Thank You for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen.

LESSON TEXT

Ruth 1:1–2:13; 4:13–17

BIBLE TRUTH

God is merciful.

FAITH FOCUS

The Fourth
Commandment

LAW & GOSPEL

Sin and the fallen creation cause me to lose hope; I think even God is against me.

Though I feel overwhelmed, God causes all things to work together for good for the sake of His Son, Jesus, who has borne my sin on the cross.

BIBLE VERSE

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VISUAL HELPS

Picture of a family
(mother, father, young children)

THE FAITH-FULL FAMILY—RUTH

Unit 5, Lesson 8

Ruth Review

Directions: If a sentence below is correct, circle the sheaf of grain. If it is incorrect, place a “X” over the grain and correct the sentence.



1 Naomi and her husband, Elimelech, were from Bethlehem.



2 Naomi and her family went to Moab because of a famine in their home country.



3 In Moab, Naomi’s father and two sons died.



4 Ruth and Orpah were Naomi’s daughters-in-law.



5 Orpah stayed with Naomi while Ruth stayed in Moab.



6 Ruth told Naomi, “Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.”



7 Naomi was very happy when she returned to Bethlehem.



8 Naomi sent Ruth to the fields of her neighbor Boaz to pick up the leftover barley so they could eat.



9 Boaz treated Ruth kindly because she cared for Naomi.



10 Boaz eventually married Ruth, and God blessed them with a daughter, who was named Obed.



11 Later, Obed was King David’s grandfather.