



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for March 28, 2010
Released on Wednesday, March 24, 2010**

"Ruth Was Welcomed"

Lesson Text: Ruth 2:5-12; 3:9-11

Background Scripture: Ruth 2, 3

Memory Verse: "A full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust" (Ruth 2:12).

Ruth 2:5-12

5 Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this?

6 And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It is the Moabitish damsel that came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab:

7 And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house.

8 Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearst thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens:

9 Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.

10 Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, seeing I am a stranger?

11 And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been showed me, all that thou hast done unto thy mother-in-law since the death of thine husband; and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.

12 The Lord recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.

Ruth 3:9-11

9 And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.

10 And he said, Blessed be thou of the Lord, my daughter: for thou hast showed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.

11 And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that when we welcome others, we make it easier for them to come to Jesus.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Boaz welcomed Ruth in the land of Israel.
2. Jesus welcomes all who come to Him.
3. Jesus wants us to show others how to be welcomed into God's family.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Telling the Lesson, look in Bible storybooks to find a picture of Ruth gleaning in Boaz's field or of Boaz and Ruth.

For Helping to Remember, bring a variety of magazines in which the children can find pictures of people accepting others. These could be people playing together, laughing together, showing friendship, and such. Bring safety scissors for each student, a paper punch, and a long piece of yarn that will reach across the room.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each student.

TEACHER'S NOTES:

Time: about 1120 B.C.

Place: Bethlehem

Ruth followed Naomi in faith to a land she had never seen and made her home amidst people who were strangers to her, with the exception of her mother-in-law, Naomi. She undoubtedly faced changes in culture and language. She did not know what the future held, and she was probably uncertain how to act in her new land. Yet she trusted God and did her best to help her aging mother-in-law.

As a result of her faith expressed in action, Ruth found a welcome from Boaz, whom she later married. Together they became the ancestors of Jesus Christ the Messiah.

To be welcoming is a powerful force. For example, it is the force of acceptance at work. When we accept and welcome others, we make it easier for them to come to Jesus. He is the One who gives us the ultimate welcome, for He promised, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

Many times children react to others based on how others around them are reacting. They do not realize the powerful effect their actions can have, either for good or for evil. This lesson is an opportunity for your students to realize that by welcoming and accepting others, they can perform a spiritual service that can help draw people to Christ. Their simple words or deeds of acceptance can help draw others into God's family.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

In most schools and in many neighborhoods there is at least one child who is kind of on the "outs" with the other children. Do you know a child who is not well accepted by others? (Let the children respond, telling of their experiences, if they will.)

What are some of the reasons a child might not be accepted? (Let the children respond; then give other ideas as well, such as: the child looks different, dresses differently, talks differently, is taller than others, shorter than others, thinner than others, heavier than others, and so forth. The child is new in town, the child is shy and does not seem friendly, the child is not good at things the group likes to do, or the child has an unusual name.)

TELLING THE LESSON:

Ruth might have felt out of place in her new land. She was a stranger who did not know anyone. She probably talked differently from others in her new land. She probably felt very much alone. She knew Naomi loved and accepted her, but she may have wondered whether she would be loved or accepted by anyone else in this new land.

She knew these were God's people. She knew this was God's land. So she trusted God to help her.

Ruth and Naomi were poor. They did not have fields of their own where they could raise food, and they needed food in order to live.

God's law allowed poor people like Ruth and Naomi to go into someone else's field after they had finished harvesting their grain. There was always some grain that was left on the ground.

Ruth worked all day picking up that grain and bringing it home to help Naomi. Naomi was older; so she found it harder to work in the fields.

A man named Boaz noticed Ruth's hard work. He noticed how she was helping Naomi. Boaz was a good man who loved God.

Boaz asked one of his servants who Ruth was. The servant answered that she was the young Moabite woman who had come back from Moab with Naomi.

The servant told Boaz how Ruth had asked permission to pick up the extra grain. They called this gleaning. (Show a picture of Ruth gleaning if possible.) The servant told Boaz that Ruth had been working very hard all day long.

Then Boaz spoke to Ruth. He told her not to go to anyone else's field. He welcomed her to keep working in his field. He gave orders to his workers that no one should bother her. When she was thirsty, his workers should give Ruth water to drink.

Ruth was very thankful. She would be accepted in this new land!

She bowed down politely to Boaz. "Why are you so kind to me?" she asked. She was amazed that Boaz would notice her and show kindness to her since she was a stranger in his land.

She did not know his family or his friends. She did not know anyone. Ruth was so thankful for Boaz's kindness.

Then Boaz explained a little. He had been asking around about Ruth. He had been asking where she came from and what kind of woman she was.

People had told him how hard she had been working to help Naomi after her husband died. People had told him how she had left her father and her mother and all her family in the land of Moab and had come into this new land where she was a stranger.

Boaz understood that what Ruth had done would be very hard for most people to do. He prayed that God might reward her for her good work and that God might give her a full reward.

He understood that when Ruth came to Israel to be a part of God's people, she was choosing to follow God. The Bible compares God's care for her to that of a mother bird whose babies run to snuggle under her wings for safety whenever they feel afraid.

Later Ruth discovered that Boaz was Naomi's relative. Their laws allowed them to get married. Boaz liked what he saw in Ruth. He liked it a lot. He decided to marry Ruth. They loved God in their family. Together they became ancestors of Jesus our Saviour. (If you have a picture of Boaz and Ruth, show it now.)

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

It is a very wonderful thing to welcome someone. Ruth was blessed when Boaz welcomed her, but Jesus, God's Son, has a greater welcome for everyone who will come to Him (John 6:37).

Do you remember how friendly Jesus was? He was kind to even the lowliest and unlovable. He reached out in love to beggars and even to people who had been thrown out of their homes because they were sick with leprosy. Jesus did not turn away from them like many other people did. He loved them instead, and cared for them, and healed their sicknesses.

When we welcome and accept others, we show them what Jesus is like. When we welcome others, we help them come to Jesus.

Who do you know who is not accepted by other children? (Let the children respond.)

What could you do to welcome that child? (Let the children give ideas; then suggest things like talking to the child and including him in conversation, introducing him to their other friends, inviting him over to play, saying hello to him, inviting him to Sunday school, giving him a compliment, sitting by him, and sticking up for him if others make fun of him.)

If time allows, role-play some of these situations so that the children can begin to feel comfortable showing acceptance in these situations.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Let the children look through magazines and identify pictures that show someone accepting or welcoming another person. Let them cut out the pictures and explain to the group how the picture shows acceptance or welcome.

Let the children punch holes in the tops of the pictures they have chosen and thread the long piece of yarn through the holes. They then can hang the yarn with the welcome pictures in the classroom. If time allows, let the children explain the pictures they have chosen to the others, showing how each shows welcome.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"A full reward be given thee of the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust" (Ruth 2:12).

These were Boaz's words to Ruth. He asked that the Lord reward her good work of helping Naomi. She had come to trust in and follow the Lord God of Israel, the true and living God. Boaz prayed that God would reward her for doing so.

Boaz drew a word picture of God. He compared God to a mother bird who puts her young ones under her wings to protect them. Ruth had put her trust in God; so Boaz prayed that she would be rewarded for doing so.

Boaz's words came true. Ruth was blessed for her faith. Boaz ended up marrying Ruth. One day many years later, Jesus Christ our Saviour was born into their family. They became ancestors of Jesus our Saviour. That was a wonderful privilege! How God blessed Ruth!

We also were once outside the family of God. How God has blessed us to make us His very own children!

CONCLUSION:

It is important for us to see how God blessed a total stranger in the land of Israel. Ruth was brought through various circumstances into the family of Boaz, and God blessed her for the good and faithful decisions that she had made.

When we know the truth and then take steps to live by it, God makes us part of His family and He accepts us as His children. He restores and blesses us far beyond anything we can imagine.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, thank You for welcoming us into Your family. Help us to welcome others and show them how to be a part of Your family, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "From Sorrow to Joy" and tells of Jesus' appearance to Mary after His resurrection. Study John 16 and 20.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson

WORD SEARCH

"Ruth Was Welcomed" (Ruth 2:5-12; 3:9-11)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

BOAZ	WELCOMED	STRANGER	POOR
RUTH	KINDNESS	FIELDS	TRUST
GLEAN	REAPERS	KINSMAN	GRAIN
NAOMI	REWARD	GRACE	SERVANT

R S L P N S Z R K A R E H I N C E U R E D R D
I I D R L R C S T R A N G E R E T C U T R A L
R N N O C N I R B H E G R R H R K T T D U N S
R S C A I P D F I E L D S O F L U U S E I O I
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P L N R A L P O S A G R E R O T S U R T D A F
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S E I N N A G W C S P I O N R N S I S A K T R
A N U T A N N D C I N E E W M U A K N R E R A

Solution to Word Search

"Ruth Was Welcomed" (Ruth 2:5-12; 3:9-11)

S T R A N G E R
N N R
A I F I E L D S U
A M T
R S R H
G N E N A E L G
P O O R I W S
R K A S
E E I B O A Z R E
A C M D E M O C L E W D N
P A O T S U R T D
E R A T N A V R E S N
R G N I
S K