

Sunday school lesson – Upper Primary

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| BIG IDEA | We have hope through our redeemer |
| Bible Reading | Ruth 3&4 |
| Preparation | <p>Read Ruth 3&4 Ruth and Naomi are now well taken care of through the generosity and kindness of Boaz. However, this will only last until the end of the harvest season. Their long-term future is still far from certain. Naomi realises this, and so concocts a plan. The plan seems a little bizarre in a 21st century, western context! But it demonstrates Ruth’s humility and complete trust in Boaz. She places herself in an extremely vulnerable position and throws herself on Boaz’s mercy. Boaz proves to be the right person to trust, and promises her his protection, even though it cost him (Ruth 4:6). We see many parallels with how Jesus welcomes and provides for those who come to him in the same way. He was willing to pay a far greater price to gain us as his own bride. The children may have questions about how Ruth went about finding a husband. It may be necessary to explain that this sounds strange to us because we live in a different culture. Emphasise that Ruth was putting herself entirely in Boaz’s hands, just as we do if we come with the right attitude to Jesus.</p> <p>Take home message: <i>God has provided a redeemer for us. Trusting him gives us hope for the future.</i></p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Either do the same “chicken game” as last week or act out the scenario described below</p> |
| Getting Started | In groups, make up stories/act out the following: First group(s) – an evil king who is very powerful and is cruel to his subjects. Second group(s) a good king who is also very powerful but loves his subjects and is kind to them. Talk about the fact that in both scenarios, the people are under the power of the king, but in one situation this was a good thing, and in the other, this was a bad thing. |
| Finding Out 1. Ruth asks for mercy (Ruth 3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Briefly recap last lesson. Thanks to the kindness of Boaz, Ruth and Naomi are now provided for. But what will happen when the harvest is over? ➤ They need to make sure their future is secure, so Naomi comes up with a plan <p>Read Ruth 3:3-4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This seems like a bit of a strange plan! ➤ Explain that by doing this, Ruth was showing that she had nothing to offer and she was simply asking for mercy from Boaz. It showed a huge amount of trust in Boaz. If Boaz was to turn her down, she would be shamed and lose all respect. She would lose any hope of future marriage. She was putting all her “eggs in one basket” and pinning all her hopes on Boaz. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: Imagine you were Ruth, walking towards Boaz’s place that night. How do you think you would feel, knowing so much was at stake?</i> <p>Read Ruth 3:11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What was Boaz’s answer?</i> ➤ What a relief that must have been to Ruth! She was right to trust Boaz. • <i>Q: Can you see any similarities between the way Ruth approached Boaz and how we need to come to Jesus?</i> |

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| <p>2. Ruth's redeemer (Ruth 4:1-12)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We need to come with the same attitude, knowing we have nothing to offer and begging for mercy. But we don't need to worry about what his answer to us will be - Jesus says "yes" to everyone who comes to him for refuge! ➤ Boaz was willing to look after Ruth and marry her, but there was something that needed to be done first. ➤ Explain that in Israelite law, there were rules about who was allowed first choice of marrying Ruth. If a woman's husband died, then a "redeemer" was allowed to marry her, but he would have to make sure her land stayed in her family. In Ruth's case, there was someone else first in line to marry Ruth, and then Boaz was second. Boaz needed to first see if the other person wanted Ruth. <p>Read Ruth 4:3-4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At first, the man says "yes", to buying Naomi's property. <p>Read Ruth 4:5-6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Then Boaz explains that he must also marry Ruth, which means he won't really get to keep the land, but will have to pass it on to Ruth's family. ➤ This doesn't seem like such a good deal after all! It means he would have to put effort into looking after land that wouldn't even really belong to him. So, in the end he says, "actually no thanks!" ➤ This is good news for Boaz! Boaz will also have to take on the hard work of looking after land that won't really belong to him, but he is still happy! • <i>Q: Why do you think Boaz was happy about this?</i> ➤ Boaz loved Ruth, so was willing to marry her, even though it was costly to him. He wanted to provide for her and protect her. • <i>Q: What about Boaz's actions and attitude reminds you of Jesus?</i> ➤ Jesus loves us, just like Boaz loved Ruth. He was willing to pay a great price for us so that we would be safe and protected. |
| <p>3. The greatest redeemer (Ruth 4:13-22)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The story of Ruth is a beautiful story. A stranger is welcomed into a new home and given a new hope for her future. She is shown amazing kindness, even though she had nothing to offer in return. ➤ This reminds us about what it is like for us to come to God and join his family. We have an even better, amazingly kind redeemer – Jesus. <p>Read Ruth 4:18-22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ruth became the great grandmother of King David, into whose family Jesus was born! So, the kindness of God to Ruth continued long into the future. God provided a redeemer for Ruth, and through him, he provided a redeemer for us! |
| <p>So What?</p> | <p>Jesus won't turn away anyone who comes to him. He is a kind and trust-worthy provider. (Refer back to "Getting Started" – Jesus is the good king. It is a good thing to be under his rule.) He was willing to even sacrifice his life, to have you as his own. Come to Jesus and throw yourself on his mercy. He won't disappoint.</p> |
| <p>Memory Verse</p> | <p><i>Psalms 36:7</i> How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.</p> |

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| <p>3. The greatest redeemer (Ruth 4:13-22)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ That’s what Boaz did! He gave up things that were precious to him (his land), so that he could marry Ruth and look after her. • <i>Q: Why do you think Boaz did this?</i> ➤ Boaz loved Ruth and wanted to marry her and look after her, so he was happy to give things up for her sake. ➤ Do you know that Jesus does that for us too? • <i>Q: What did Jesus give up so that he could save us?</i> ➤ Jesus was willing to even give up his own life so that he could save us and give us everything we need. • <i>Q: Why did Jesus do this?</i> |
| <p>So What?</p> | <p>Jesus loves us so much he was willing to die for us, so we could be friend with him. If you come to him and ask him to save you, he won’t say no to you (refer back to the “getting started” activity – it is like chickens coming under the wing of a mother hen). Pray that the children would come to Jesus and want this for themselves.</p> |
| <p>Memory Verse</p> | <p><i>Psalm 36:7</i> How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.</p> |

Sunday school lesson – Pre-School

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| BIG IDEA | We have hope through our redeemer |
| Bible Reading | Ruth 3&4 |
| Preparation | <p>Read Ruth 3&4 Ruth and Naomi now seem well taken care of through the generosity and kindness of Boaz. However, this will only last until the end of the harvest season. Their long-term future is still far from certain. Naomi realises this, and so concocts a plan. The plan seems a little bizarre in a 21st century, western context! But it demonstrates Ruth’s humility and complete trust in Boaz. She places herself in an extremely vulnerable position and throws herself on Boaz’s mercy. Boaz proves to be the right person to trust, and promises her his protection, even though it cost him (Ruth 4:6). We see many parallels with how Jesus welcomes and provides for those who come to him. He was willing to pay a far greater price to have us his own bride.</p> <p>Take home message: <i>Jesus loves us, trust him.</i></p> <p>Prepare for “Getting Started”: Have dolls/Lego people ready to re-tell the story. Bring in a teddy of your own if you have one (for use during the story). Use the “chicken” game from last week.</p> |
| Getting Started | Do the same game as last week (either with the game board or having the children pick corners of the room) |
| Finding Out 1. Ruth asks for mercy (Ruth 3) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Briefly recap previous week. Remind the children that Boaz had been kind to Ruth and Naomi and was looking after them, but they didn’t know what was going to happen in the future ➤ <i>Use dolls/ Lego people or equivalent (Ruth, Naomi and Boaz) to act out the story</i> ➤ Naomi and Ruth were talking one day about how kind Boaz was. It was nice to have so much food to eat ➤ But would Boaz always look after them? Maybe he might move away. What would happen to them then? They needed a plan... ➤ Naomi tells Ruth that she should go and ask Boaz to marry her ➤ Ruth is a bit scared of doing this. What if Boaz says “no”? ➤ But she goes anyway – off she goes to Boaz’s house. • <i>Q: How do you think Ruth was feeling?</i> ➤ She gets to his house and finds Boaz. ➤ She says, “Please will you marry me and take care of me? I can’t give you anything, but I know you are a kind man.” • <i>Q: What do you think Boaz said?</i> ➤ Boaz says, “Yes, I will marry you!” ➤ Ruth was very happy. Boaz gave her even more food. She went back home to Naomi to tell her the good news. |
| 2. Ruth’s redeemer (Ruth 4:1-12) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Boaz was very kind to Ruth. To marry her, he had to give up something precious to him. • <i>Q: What is your favourite toy? (Show them your teddy if you have one)</i> |

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| <p>3. The greatest redeemer (Ruth 4:13-22)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: Imagine if someone asked you to be friends with them, but you had to give up your favourite toy to be their friend. Would you still want to be their friend?</i> ➤ Boaz had to give up something precious to him to marry Ruth, but he did it anyway, because he loved her and wanted to take care of her. ➤ Jesus did the same thing for us. ➤ He loves us and wants to be our friend and take care of us. But he had to give something up to do that. He had to give up his life! He loved us so much that he gave up his life so that we could be friends with him. |
| <p>So What?</p> | <p>Jesus loves us very much. We can trust him to save us and take care of us (Refer back to the “getting started” activity – it is like chickens coming under the wings of a mother hen for safety). Pray that the children would come to Jesus and trust him.</p> |
| <p>Memory Verse</p> | <p><i>Psalm 36:7</i> How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.</p> |