

Incredible Me – Day 3

Ruth & Boaz – I Am Christ's!

Scripture: Ruth 4:14 *“Then the women said to Naomi, “Praise the LORD, who has not left you without a family redeemer today.”*

Central thought: “I am Christ's - He is with me & for me!”

Object Illustration: Chord of three – braided yarn for girls; craft sticks for boys

Rec. Game with Tie-in: (Possible ideas) Obstacle Course (Team Work) or

“Kinsman Relay” – Team puts all their shoes in a pile and one at a time have to find their shoes.

Extra Activity: Stacking cups with rubber band tool – working together!

Bible Lesson:

Overview: God not only promises that He will be with us; He also gives us a family called the Church!

- Facts:**
- * Ruth was a Moabite; she was not born an Israelite
 - * Ruth chose to follow Naomi (and her God) into an unknown land where she would stand out as “weird” and different
 - * God had already provided an Avenger (Boaz) for Ruth; because of Boaz, she became a part of Jesus' family. She was David's great grandmother!

Intro Activity:

1 - “Back-to-back stand up challenge” - Get two volunteers to sit on the ground and try to get to a standing position without using their hands & arms or letting their knees touch the ground. Next have them sit back to back and help each other by working together to push into a standing position.

Point 1: God never meant for us to walk through this life feeling alone. When we have Jesus in our life, He is with us and helps us in all things.

2 - “Dynamic Duos” match – Randomly pass out name cards of Dynamic Duos; give students about 3 minutes to find their “match”. Take a couple of minutes to talk about the paired matches and how they go together.

Point 2: Jesus promised to always be with us by His Holy Spirit, but God also gives us a family in Him – the Church! He gives us other people to help us along our journey of life!

Lesson:

Ask students: “Have any of you traveled to a foreign country?” ... “Or if you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you like to travel?” (Allow several to answer), ask “What things were different there or would you imagine would be different there?” , “How did being the one who was the “alien” cause you to feel?”

Today we have a “Dynamic Duo” of “Heroes” from the Bible- a woman named Ruth that left her own country and traveled to another land that was very different and a man named Boaz who God used to save her.

Ruth learned something that David had also learned. If we go back to our Psalm 139, we’ll see David shares that He knows God is with Him wherever He goes.

Have someone read Psalm 139:5-11. Ask, “Where can we go that God is not there?” (nowhere!) Remember God’s name, “I AM”? Jehovah (I Am) Shammah (there). [Ezekial 48:35] Even God’s name tells us He is there, and always will be! Verse 5 said that He “hems” us in..He is behind us and goes before us. He is with us!

In the Bible there are only two books named after women. Can anyone name which two they are? Take a look in your table of contents if you can’t remember!Yes, they are the book of Ruth and the book of Esther.

Let’s turn to the book of Ruth for our lesson today. It’s in the OT; so we know it took place before Jesus came to be born on the earth.

Narrate the story of Ruth:

Read the following verses to introduce the story (or have a few students read them). Have a few volunteers wear name boards as you direct them while telling the story. {If teaching only boys or only girls option: Instead of boys having to pose as Ruth or Naomi and girls having to pose as the men, have large name boards volunteers can move as a visual during the story}

* Verses 1-2

In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him. ² The man’s name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there.

[These four move from under the Bethlehem board to under the Moab one.]

Vs. 3 Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons.

[Have Elimelech play dead & then leave the story.]

Vs. 4 The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth.

[Add Orpah & Ruth with the others]

vs. 5 -6 *But about ten years later, both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband. Then Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland.*

[Mahlon & Kilion play dead & leave the story . The other three now move towards Bethlehem.]

vs 8-9 *But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back to your mothers' homes. And may the Lord reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me. May the Lord bless you with the security of another marriage." Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept.*

vs 14 *Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi. 15 "Look," Naomi said to her, "your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same."*

[Orpah goes back to Moab]

vs 16-18 *But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!" When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.*

[Move Naomi & Ruth under Bethlehem]

Ruth probably felt very weird and different when they went back to Bethlehem. She probably felt like she stuck out and everyone was looking at her and thinking her odd. She most likely felt very alone too. Even though she had come back with Naomi, Naomi knew people and was more like them than Ruth.

They were alone with no protector. They were a dynamic duo themselves traveling that distance alone to return to Bethlehem! But even though they made it to Bethlehem, in that day and time it was hard for women to survive alone. They needed a family man that would provide and protect them.

Tell the "rest of the story" in your own words.

*Ruth went out into the fields to pick up leftover grain.

*Ruth met Boaz. Naomi told her Boaz was a relative and sent her to lie at his feet as a servant so that he would fulfill his place as a family redeemer.

[Add Boaz with Naomi's & Ruth's]

* Boaz acted as their "avenger" and bought Naomi's land and took Ruth as his wife, therefore becoming her protector and redeemer. He could have let a closer family member take care of them, but he chose to be their redeemer.

4:7-8 *Now in those days it was the custom in Israel for anyone transferring a right of purchase to remove his sandal and hand it to the other party. This publicly validated the transaction. So the other family redeemer drew off his sandal as he said to Boaz, "You buy the land."*

Now that's weird!

* Read Ruth 4:13-17

So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the Lord enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. Then the women of the town said to Naomi, "Praise the Lord, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel. May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age. For he is the son of your daughter-in-law who loves you and has been better to you than seven sons!" Naomi took the baby and cuddled him to her breast. And she cared for him as if he were her own. The neighbor women said, "Now at last Naomi has a son again!" And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.

Repeat what the women said about Naomi in verse 14 – *"Then the women said to Naomi, "Praise the LORD, who has not left you without a family redeemer today."*

Noted point: God has not left us in this world without a family redeemer! Jesus came for us! He has also give us people, a family called the Church, to walk with us on this journey of life!

Activity – A Chord of Three

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 ⁹*Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed.* ¹⁰*If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.* ¹¹*Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone?* ¹²*A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken."*

Option 1: Give each student two strands of yarn & one piece of hemp chord. Have them try to braid them together by themselves. After a few minutes ask if they are having difficulty. Ask "Would it help to have a couple of more hands?" Have them partner with someone to finish braiding their yarn & chord; then tie them around each others' wrists.

Option 2: Ask a few guys that think they are strong to volunteer. Give each a craft stick and ask if they think they can break it. Let them do so. Now give them a two sticks together. May be a little more difficult, but doable. Finally give them two sticks with a large carpenter's nail in the middle to represent God...He can't be broken!

Point out that on our own...alone, life can get pretty difficult. It helps when we have someone with us like Naomi had Ruth. Together we are stronger.

Think of some people in your life that make you stronger. It may be your family. It may be a friend. It may be a teacher or a coach. Take a minute and thank God for them.

Other people can let us down. Maybe they don't mean to; you may have had someone close to you pass away (die). Although they couldn't help it, they left you and that hurts. Others may have let you down by not taking your side or spending time with other people and not including you.

Jesus will never let us down. He loves us more than any person possibly could. He is our family redeemer, our avenger! He left all the glory of Heaven and came to live and die on this earth to pay the price for our sin. He died our death so that we could live His life. (Gal. 2:20)

Boaz paid the price for Naomi's land and for Ruth to be his wife. Ruth didn't work or try to pay it; all Ruth had to do was lie at Boaz's feet as a servant, accepting his place as redeemer. She took the place of a servant, humbling herself to Him as her Lord.

Jesus already paid the price to "redeem" us.

Redeem means....to buy back; to pay a price to receive back what once belonged to you. God created us...He created me and you and all else in this world. We were created to be His. When Adam and Eve sinned, they lost ownership of that which had been given to them by God – eternal life. Jesus came and paid the price with His life on the cross to redeem, to buy us back that we may have life in Him.

Boaz took Ruth home to be his wife; she would not be alone and on her own. They also became a family. Jesus promises in Matthew 28 that He will be with us. He has also made us part of God's family – the Church. We become brothers and sisters in Christ. Talk about a huge family!!!

Recap:

Lessons we can learn from:

[Hold each name up as you talk about them as a visual reminder.]

***Naomi** - faith – not only did Naomi have faith and return to her homeland (her God), but her life must have shown her faith for Ruth to want to follow her to an unknown place and Naomi's God become her God. Even when times get hard, we can know God is with us and working.

***Ruth** - loyalty – Ruth chose to leave everything she had to not only follow Naomi, but to follow Naomi's God. When we trust Jesus, we are saying we will follow Him no matter where He leads we will trust Him. We choose Him over holding on to old ways in our life.

***Boaz** (Family Redeemer/Avenger) – a picture of Jesus who redeems us back to God's family. Boaz paid the price that was necessary; Jesus paid the price that was necessary to buy us back. He laid down His sinless life for us and took our place dying for sinfulness.

[Hold all three names together as a family.]

***Family** - Jesus promises to be with us each and every day through His Holy Spirit and as children of God we become a part of His family – the Church!

We are NOT alone!

Prayer: (Ask another leader ahead of time to be ready to close in prayer today.)

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Shaggy	Scooby-doo
Batman	Robin
Lone Ranger	Tonto
Mickey	Minnie
Hansel	Gretal
Lilo	Stitch
Charlie Brown	Snoopy
Hans Solo	Chewbaca
Adam	Eve
Robin Hood	Little John
Bonnie	Clyde
Chip	Dale