**Ruth 3**

**“REAL Rescue”**

**Scripture:** Ruth 3

**Memory Verse:** Colossians 1:13 *“For He* ***rescued*** *us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son” (NASB)*

**Lesson Focus:** In our lesson today we will see how our redemption and rescue through Jesus Christ is foreshadowed in the story of Ruth’s redemption and rescue through Boaz. We will point out several amazing parallels between Ruth’s rescue and our rescue.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Picture of “Jesus: Real Rescuer”, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Make It Real Discussion for 3rd – 5th.

Craft for 1st & 2nd: Fireman Hat

**Starter Activity:** Two Word Plot Challenge. This will help them understand the concept of “plot” or main idea of a story. You will give them several common stories, but they must summarize the plot of each story with only two words. There are no perfect answers and I just provided some potential answers in parenthesis. Make sure you finish with the last two about the book of Ruth and the whole Bible!

1. Little Red Riding Hood (Be Alert)
2. Tortoise and the Hare (Perseverance Pays)
3. The Ugly Duckling (Swan Surprise)
4. Goldilocks and the Three Bears (Three Choices)
5. The Cat in the Hat (Play Things)
6. Alice in Wonderland (Weird Dream)
7. **The Book of Ruth (REAL Rescue)**
8. **The Bible (REAL Rescue)**

The point of this challenge is to introduce our theme of REAL Rescue. One could say this is the main theme both of the book of Ruth and of the whole Bible.

Q: What does “rescue” mean?

A: To free or save someone from danger or evil

**Teachers:** Consider mentioning the Thai rescue operation that has been prevalent in the news to provide some more context.

**Bible Study**

**Naomi’s Scheme: 2:23-3:1**

Start by reading in v. 23 of chapter 2 as this sets the stage. Naomi is Ruth’s mother-in-law and both are poor widows having essentially nothing but each other. In this day, being poor and widowed was a desperate state. Ruth has been working hard in Boaz’s field to be able to provide some food for herself and Naomi. But Naomi realizes that Boaz has taken an interest in Ruth and comes up with a strategy.

**Kinsman-Redeemer for Ruth: 3:2-4**

Naomi is directing Ruth to boldly approach Boaz with a marriage proposal. Notice v. 3 where she is instructed to essentially present herself as a bride.

There was a provision that God put in place to help widows that Naomi is hoping Boaz will honor, that of the **kinsman-redeemer (or family-rescuer)**.

**Read Deuteronomy 25:5**. This law was put in place by God both to protect the family interests and to provide protection for widows. In the context of Ruth, Boaz as a “kinsman” or family member, is seen as having the duty to honor this responsibility to marry Ruth and so provide protection for her.

**REAL Rescue Parallel #1: We Also Need To Be Rescued**

* Ruth needs to be rescued from her poverty and hopeless situation. She is instructed to boldly, but humbly approach Boaz and await instructions from him.
* Q: What do we need to be rescued from?
* A: Our slavery to sin, spiritual poverty, and ultimately the grave danger of hell
* Q: What are we instructed to do?
* A: Boldly, but humbly come to Jesus Christ in faith Who will rescue us and instruct us how to live

**Ruth’s Response: 3:5-6**

Notice in v. 5, Ruth answers and says she will do it. But then in v. 6, she actually does it!

Q: How often do your parents instruct you to do something, and you say “OK”, but then you actually don’t do it (you either forget or you just don’t wanna)?

**Review (from Intro to Ruth lesson): Rules without Relationship = Rebellion**

* Ruth respected and trusted Naomi and knew that her plan was for her good and therefore she agreed to obey Naomi
* Q: When our parents instruct us and we don’t listen, are we showing them respect?
* Q: When we say we love Jesus, but we don’t follow and obey Him, are we showing Him respect?
* A: Our obedience to parents and to Jesus starts with relationship and respect and then we know that their instruction to us is for our good!

**Ruth’s Resolve: 3:7-9**

Q: How many of you have woken up in the middle of the night with cold feet? It can be startling!

Ruth has now taken action and awaiting Boaz’s response.

**REAL Rescue Parallel #2: Our Rescuer, Jesus, Is Our Kinsman (one of us)**

* Ruth has now come boldly, but also humbly to her rescuer. She again refers to Boaz as a relative and kinsman who is able to rescue her.
* Q: How is Jesus like Boaz in being our “kinsman” who rescues us?
* A: Jesus is human like one of us! He is God, but he is also man. He is our Lord, but he is also our brother. Hebrews 2:17-18 describes how Jesus, our rescuer, had to become human like us to be able to rescue us from our sin.

**Boaz Not a Bozo: 3:10-11**

Last week we mentioned how this is truly the original prince and princess story. Boaz here is the perfect prince stepping up and agreeing to protect and rescue “Princess Ruth”.

**REAL Rescue Parallel #3: Our Rescuer, Jesus, Is Willing**

* Boaz responds in v. 11 saying that He is willing to do what it takes to rescue Ruth.
* Q: When we come to Jesus asking Him to rescue us, does He ever say no?
* A: John 6:37 says that the one who comes to Him, He will certainly not cast out.

**Ruth to Remain Patient: 3:12-17**

Notice in v. 12-13 Boaz mentions that there is a relative closer than him. This might explain why Boaz has not already taken action, because it is someone else’s duty. But He gives Ruth assurance that he will see to it that she is taken care of!

v. 16: Can you imagine how excited Ruth was when she returned to Naomi to tell her what happened?

Q: What is something that has happened to you that you couldn’t wait to tell your friends or your parents about?

Should we not also be eager and excited to tell our friends about Jesus and the great things that He has done for us?

**REAL Rescue Parallel #4: Our Rescuer, Jesus, Reassures Us**

* In v. 17 Ruth mentions the gift of grain that Boaz gave her to reassure her that he will take care of her and keep his word.
* Q: After we come to Jesus in faith, what does Jesus give us to reassure us that He will take care of us?
* A: 2 Corinthians 5:5 says that the Holy Spirit is given to us as a gift to reassure us that Jesus will keep His promise to us

**Ruth to Rest: 3:18**

**REAL Rescue Parallel #5: We Rest And Trust In Our Rescuer, Jesus**

* In v. 18 Naomi instructs Ruth to “sit still” or rest until Boaz finishes the rescue plan
* Q: In this story, who is doing all of the rescue “work”? Boaz!
* Q: In God’s rescue plan for us, do we trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ? Yes! Jesus said “It Is Finished” on the cross (John 19:30)
* When we come to Jesus in faith asking Him to rescue us, we trust that He has done all of the work. We cannot add to the rescue work of Jesus Christ just like Ruth cannot add to the rescue work of Boaz.

God is taking care of Ruth. Remember how bad it looked for her in the beginning of this book? **But God** had a rescue plan for her and we have truly seen it unfold in this chapter.

Do you see how God’s rescue plan for Ruth through Boaz parallels His rescue plan for us through Jesus Christ?

Our memory verse, Colossians 1:13, says that He **rescued** us, delivering us out of the domain of darkness and into His own kingdom.

Q: How does Jesus rescue us? The next verse, Colossians 1:14, says we have forgiveness of sins **through His blood**. Jesus’s death on the cross is what rescues us. Jesus gave His own life that we might be rescued!

Have you come to Jesus to be rescued?

**Lesson Theme: “REAL Rescue”**

**Memory Verse:** *For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son. (Colossians 1:13, NASB)*

**Teachers/Parents: Consider sharing with your kids an experience where someone rescued you from danger. Perhaps you were in some sort of trouble and someone stepped in and took care of you. How did that make you feel? Or maybe you rescued someone else from danger! The aim is to get your kiddos to understand the heroism of rescue so that they will better appreciate Jesus as their hero!**

In our study of Ruth 3 we looked at five parallels between God’s plan to rescue Ruth through Boaz and His plan to rescue.us through Jesus Christ.

**REAL Rescue Parallel #1: We Need To Be Rescued**

- Just as Ruth needed to be rescued from her poverty and trouble (Ruth 3:1), we need to be rescued from our spiritual poverty, sin, and ultimately God’s judgment upon sin.

- **Read 1 John 1:8**. Have you admitted that you need to be rescued from sin?

**REAL Rescue Parallel #2: Our Rescuer, Jesus, Is Our Kinsman (one of us)**

- Just as Boaz, Ruth’s kinsman (Ruth 3:9) rescued her, Jesus, forever God, humbled Himself and became man, our kinsman, to rescue us.

- **Read Hebrews 2:17-18 and Philippians 2:6-8**. Do these verses help you better appreciate just how great it cost Jesus to rescue you?

**REAL Rescue Parallel #3: Our Rescuer, Jesus, Is Willing**

- Just as Boaz was willing to rescue Ruth (Ruth 3:11), Jesus is willing to save all who come to Him.

- **Read John 6:37 and Matthew 8:2-3**. Have you turned from your sin and turned to Jesus in faith?

**REAL Rescue Parallel #4: Our Rescuer, Jesus, Reassures Us**

- Just as Boaz reassures Ruth with a gift (Ruth 3:17), Jesus gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit to give us confidence that He will keep His promise

- **Read Ephesians 1:13-14 and 2 Corinthians 1:21-22**. Do you believe that God keeps His promises?

**REAL Rescue Parallel #5: We Rest And Trust In Our Rescuer, Jesus**

- Just as Ruth is now to rest until Boaz finishes his rescue plan (Ruth 3:18), we are to rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross (John 19:30).

- **Read Titus 3:4-8**. We rest knowing that Jesus has paid it all. Yet, what does v. 8 say we ought to do because we are saved?