



## LESSON 30

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Principle:** God rewards faithfulness and responsibility.

**Bible Character(s):** Ruth

**Scripture Reference:** Ruth 2, 4



**PERSONAL PREPARATION:** Before this weekend, read Ruth 2-4. Ruth was a faithful friend to Naomi, returning to Naomi's homeland and leaving her own family. God rewarded Ruth's faithfulness by providing a new husband, Boaz. Ruth and Naomi went from being widowed women, unable to fully care for themselves, to being under the protection and provision of Boaz. God was faithful to Ruth and Naomi by providing them with everything they needed. Spend some time thinking about times when you have been faithful and obeyed God even when it was hard. Think of how God rewarded your faithfulness. Did you receive a physical reward or did God reward you with peace and contentment? Do you view rewards as physical things, or do you recognize that rewards come in many forms? Thank and praise God for the faithfulness He has shown you and how he has rewarded your faithfulness to Him.

### PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

### Good Friends

Discuss with your cabin: What are some ways you have been a good friend to someone else? What are some ways someone else has been a good friend to you? Draw a picture of a good friend.



### BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

**\*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.**

## The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will continue learning about how Ruth stayed by Naomi's side and cared for her. We will look at the way God rewards Ruth for her faithfulness, and how God rewards us in our lives.

Teachers, throughout the lesson, when possible, please remind campers that sometimes we see God's rewards here on earth, while we're alive, and sometimes, they are treasures stored for us in Heaven. We want children to understand that God's rewards are not a one-for-one or immediate exchange – you're nice to someone so someone is going to be nice to you, or you obey your parents and God gives you a new toy.

## Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

### Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

**What did you learn about in Big Group? Why did the first staff member get an award?** (He was first to volunteer for any job.) **How did he respond?** (He was very excited to be recognized.) **Why did the storyteller get an award?** (He was the kindest and most compassionate staff member.) **How did he respond, even when he did not get a trophy?** (He was thankful but did not want recognition because kindness and compassion are what God wants us to show to others.) **Is it more important to him to get a trophy or obey God and wait for God's reward?** (God's reward is much greater than any trophy or reward we can get on earth.)

Who remembers what we talked about last week? What book of the Bible did we start studying? (I'll give you a hint; it starts with an "r.") That's right, last week we started our study in the book of Ruth. Who had lost her husband and sons in last week's lesson? Naomi had lost her husband and sons, so she and her two daughters-in-law were left alone. Who were Naomi's daughters-in-law? Did she want them to stay with her or go back to their hometowns? Naomi encouraged both Ruth and Orpah to return to their families so they could have the chance at marrying again. What did Orpah do? What did Ruth do? Orpah did as Naomi said, but Ruth refused to leave Naomi. Ruth showed faithfulness, compassion and kindness as she cared more for Naomi's needs than her own. Last week, we saw Ruth and Naomi returning to Bethlehem, where Naomi's family lived.

This week, Ruth and Naomi are in Bethlehem and Ruth is going out to find food for them. Life could be very difficult for women without husbands. Ruth and Naomi did not own land to plant food, so they had to go out and gather leftover food from other people's farms to survive. Ruth went to gather grain in a field that belonged to a man named Boaz. Boaz was a very important man in Bethlehem; he was a relative of Naomi's husband, Elimelech. He noticed Ruth working in his field.

Let's begin reading the Bible in Ruth 2 [NLT].

### Ruth 2:5-12

*5 Then Boaz asked his foreman, "Who is that young woman over there? Who does she belong to?"*

*6 And the foreman replied, "She is the young woman from Moab who came back with Naomi. 7 She asked me this morning if she could gather grain behind the harvesters. She has been hard at work ever since, except for a few minutes' rest in the shelter."*

*8 Boaz went over and said to Ruth, "Listen, my daughter. Stay right here with us when you gather grain; don't go to any other fields. Stay right behind the young women working in my field. 9 See which part of the field they are harvesting, and then follow them. I have warned the young men not to treat you roughly. And when you are thirsty, help yourself to the water they have drawn from the well."*

*10 Ruth fell at his feet and thanked him warmly. "What have I done to deserve such kindness?" she asked. "I am only a foreigner."*

*11 "Yes, I know," Boaz replied. "But I also know about everything you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband. I have heard how you left your father and mother and your own land to live here among complete strangers. 12 May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done."*

God began blessing Ruth through the kindness of Boaz. A few weeks ago, when we studied the life of Samson, we learned about the principle of reaping what we sow. Ruth had not sown seeds of wheat that she was gathering, but she did sow seeds of kindness in caring for Naomi, and now she was reaping the kindness of Boaz. Let's continue reading the Bible in Ruth.

### **Ruth 2:14-18**

*14 At mealtime Boaz called to her, "Come over here, and help yourself to some food. You can dip your bread in the sour wine." So she sat with his harvesters, and Boaz gave her some roasted grain to eat. She ate all she wanted and still had some left over.*

*15 When Ruth went back to work again, Boaz ordered his young men, "Let her gather grain right among the sheaves without stopping her. 16 And pull out some heads of barley from the bundles and drop them on purpose for her. Let her pick them up, and don't give her a hard time!"*

*17 So Ruth gathered barley there all day, and when she beat out the grain that evening, it filled an entire basket. 18 She carried it back into town and showed it to her mother-in-law. Ruth also gave her the roasted grain that was left over from her meal.*

## **How Did God Reward Ruth?**



The purpose is to see God's rewards in Ruth's life.

### **Supplies:**

Poster – "How Did God Reward Ruth's..." side (1 per session)

Wheat cutouts (6 per session)

Have the campers talk about what Ruth had done for Naomi (*held tight to her, cared for her, traveled with her, loved her, provided food for her*). Then ask them to tell you ways that God rewarded Ruth's

faithfulness through Boaz. As they name things that Boaz did for Ruth (spoke kindly to her, gave her food, gave her water, provided a half a bushel of grain), write them on a wheat cutout. Have campers tape or glue each piece of wheat to the poster.

## Tie It Together



What kinds of seeds did Ruth sow? (Allow responses.) Ruth chose to stay with Naomi to care for her because she loved Naomi. She then spent all day gathering food for the two of them. Ruth cared more about Naomi than she did herself. This act of kindness caught the eye of Boaz. Boaz spoke kindly to Ruth, gave her food and water while in the field, and provided her with food to take home to Naomi. God brought Ruth to Boaz's field in order to reward her for her faithfulness and responsibility.

As time went on, Naomi decided to sell the land that belonged to her family. This gave the opportunity for a relative (like a brother or a cousin of Naomi's) to buy this land. This relative would be called a family redeemer because when he bought this land, he would also agree to take care of Naomi and Ruth. This would be a good thing for Ruth and Naomi. Boaz was a relative of Naomi, but there was another close relative who was first in line to be the family redeemer. Boaz reacted appropriately by going to the man at the town gate, which was like a City Hall.

Let's read the Bible in Ruth 4 to see what happens.

### Ruth 4:1-10

*1 Boaz went to the town gate and took a seat there. Just then the family redeemer he had mentioned came by, so Boaz called out to him, "Come over here and sit down, friend. I want to talk to you." So they sat down together. 2 Then Boaz called ten leaders from the town and asked them to sit as witnesses. 3 And Boaz said to the family redeemer, "You know Naomi, who came back from Moab. She is selling the land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. 4 I thought I should speak to you about it so that you can redeem it if you wish. If you want the land, then buy it here in the presence of these witnesses. But if you don't want it, let me know right away, because I am next in line to redeem it after you." The man replied, "All right, I'll redeem it."*

*5 Then Boaz told him, "Of course, your purchase of the land from Naomi also requires that you marry Ruth, the Moabite widow. That way she can have children who will carry on her husband's name and keep the land in the family."*

*6 "Then I can't redeem it," the family redeemer replied, "because this might endanger my own estate. You redeem the land; I cannot do it."*

*7 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. 8 So the other family redeemer drew off his sandal as he said to Boaz, "You buy the land."*

*9 Then Boaz said to the elders and to the crowd standing around, "You are witnesses that today I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion, and Mahlon. 10 And with the land I have acquired Ruth, the Moabite widow of Mahlon, to be my wife. This way she*

*can have a son to carry on the family name of her dead husband and to inherit the family property here in his hometown. You are all witnesses today."*

Ruth and Boaz married and had children. They ended up being the great grandparents of David, in the line of Jesus. God rewarded Ruth for her faithfulness and responsibility by providing another husband for her. She was now under the protection and provision of Boaz. Naomi was also under their care.

Remember the sandal in the story? A man gave his sandal to another to seal a promise. Have you ever shaken hands to promise something? Or made a pinky promise? It was like that but a serious promise that could not be broken.

## Sandal Redeemer



The purpose is to see how Boaz redeemed Ruth and how Christ redeems us.

### Supplies:

Flip-flop ("sandal") keychain (1 per camper)

Tag (1 per camper)

Crayons and markers

Give each camper a flip-flop and a tag to put on the keychain. Have them write "Boaz saved Ruth" on one side of the tag and "Christ saves us" on the other. (Use crayons or sharpies if tag is laminated, markers if not.) Then have them draw a cross on the flip-flop to be a visual reminder that Christ died on the cross to save us. Punch a hole in each tag and help the campers put them on the keychains. (You might want to write the two phrases on the white board to help campers know how to spell/write them.)

## Tie It Together



Just as Boaz redeemed or saved Ruth by marrying her, Christ redeems or saves us through His sacrifice on the cross. God sent His only Son to live a perfect life and take the punishment for our sin so that we can live forever with Him. It was a free gift that we cannot earn and do not deserve. All we have to do is choose to put our faith and trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

## How Has God Rewarded You?



The purpose is to have the campers identify rewards and blessings from God in their lives.

### Supplies:

Poster – "How Has God Rewarded Your..." side (1 per session)

Medal (or trophy) cutout (1 per camper)

Markers

Have the campers brainstorm ways they have been rewarded by God. Give each camper a trophy cutout and have each write an example of a reward or blessing on his/her trophy. Using tape or glue sticks, and have them stick their trophies on the poster. Ideas might include friends, family, food, toys, and house. It is okay if they overlap/cover each other. How great it would be to point to a poster that's

crowded with rewards and blessings from the Lord! Take time to acknowledge and thank God for these gifts before moving on to the Tie It Together.

### **Tie It Together**



What are some different rewards or blessing you see in your life that God has provided for you? How has He rewarded you for following Him and obeying His commands? Have there been times you can think of where you did not obey Him? Did you have to face any consequences for disobeying God? God gives us everything we need. He rewards us when we choose to obey His commands and follow Him. All we really need is Jesus, but God gives us much more than we could ever need. We can remember that God blesses us and thank Him for everything.

### **Prayer Time**

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for His blessings, especially for sending Jesus to save us.



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