

Sunday School Live Lesson

October 13, 2024

A Covenant of Compassion

Ruth 1:6-11, 14-18

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Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Sunday School Lesson

Questions for Us Today

October 13, 2024

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How strong is your loyalty to someone else?

How strong is your devotion to the Lord?

When someone close to you suffers a loss, how compassionate are you?

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Objectives

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To better understand the meaning and importance of this powerful and emotional story in Scripture.

To determine how we might embody some of the characteristics of Naomi or Ruth or Boaz.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

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1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Ruth

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

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3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember These Things

Points of Information – Ruth

Ruth was a Moabite: one who was a descendant of Moab and lived in the so-named land.

The name “Ruth” meant “beauty” or “personality.”

Points of Information – Ruth

Ruth was married to Mahlon, a son of Elimelech and Naomi.

Mahlon died after 10 years of a childless marriage to Ruth.

Points of Information – Ruth

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Ruth has a prominent place in the genealogy of Jesus: Matthew 1:5.

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Lesson Context

In the earlier verses of the first Chapter of Ruth, we find that a woman – Naomi – has been widowed by the death of her husband, Elimelech.

Subsequently, Naomi's two sons (Mahlon and Kilion) died, leaving two more widows, Orpah and Ruth.

A Covenant of Compassion

Lesson Context

Elimelech had taken his family out of their homeland (Bethlehem-Judah) and relocated all of them to Moab to escape a famine.

A Covenant of Compassion

Lesson Context

The story of Ruth occurred during the sinful times of the judges in Israel.
Ruth 1:1.

Yet, this story illustrates how faithful people can and will do the right thing no matter the timeframe.

Ruth 1:6 [NLT]

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.

Ruth 1:7

With her two daughters-in-law she set out from the place where she had been living, and they took the road that would lead them back to Judah.

Ruth 1:8

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.

Ruth 1:9

May the LORD bless you with the security of another marriage.” Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept.

Ruth 1:10

“No,” they said. “We want to go with you to your people.”

Ruth 1:11

But Naomi replied, “Why should you go on with me? Can I still give birth to other sons who could grow up to be your husbands?”

Ruth 1:14

And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi.

Ruth 1:15

“Look,” Naomi said to her, “your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same.”

Ruth 1:16

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.”

Ruth 1:17

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!”

Ruth 1:18

When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.

Remember these things:

Don't pre-judge "the other" – someone who is different from you.

Let us be kind to one another.

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