LESSON 4

RUTH AND BOAZ AT THE THRESHING-FLOOR



Aim: **To show the children that, just as Ruth had taken care of Naomi, Naomi now took care of Ruth. She helped Ruth find the husband God had meant for her.**

Scripture Reading: **Ruth 3:1–18**

Memory Verse: **Psalm 121:4**
[H]e who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting point

Ask the children what they want their lives to look like when they're grown up. They will probably answer they want a house, a husband or wife and a family of their own.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Ruth and Naomi had each other, but in the society of those days they also needed the protection of a man in the household. Ruth was still a young woman. She could start a new family of her own. So Naomi began to make plans for Ruth to marry again (v 1).
2. It was the custom in Israel that when a man died his nearest relative should marry the dead man's widow. That way she would become part of a new family instead of being left alone and defenceless. Boaz was a close relative of Naomi's late husband, Elimelech, and therefore also of Ruth's husband who had died (v 2).
3. Naomi told Ruth to dress herself with care that evening and go to the threshing-floor, where Boaz was sleeping to protect his harvest against thieves. She was to follow the custom of the Israelites and lie down quietly at Boaz's feet when he had gone to bed (v 2–4).
4. Ruth agreed, and carefully followed Naomi's instructions (v 5–7). **Show Picture 4.**
5. **Describe what happened in verses 8–13. You could pretend to be Boaz. Act out his surprise at finding Ruth lying at his feet.** Boaz treated Ruth with respect. He had admired her all along and thought it was a great compliment that she wanted to be his wife.
6. Boaz was careful to protect Ruth's good name, so he sent her home before daybreak. He sent Naomi a gift of grain (2:14–15).
7. Back home Naomi listened eagerly to all Ruth had to tell her and gave her some very good advice: They had to be patient (v 16–18).

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Our Response to the Story

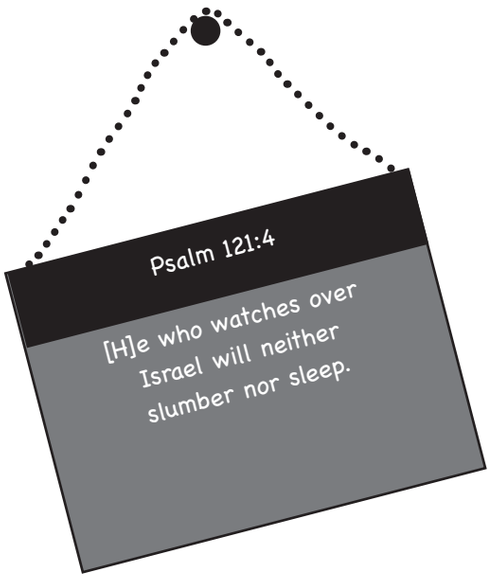
Even though you are still only children it is not too early to take note of what makes a good marriage. Ruth and Boaz treated each other with respect and they admired each other for their kindness towards others. This is a very good foundation for a marriage.

Instil the Memory Verse

The God of Israel, who is our God, watched over Boaz and Ruth and he still watches over us.

Review the verses of Psalm 121 the children have learnt so far.

Finish the lesson with a short prayer about the need for Christian homes and ask God to help these children marry Christian husbands and wives one day.



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