LESSON 5

BOAZ AND THE ELDERS OF BETHLEHEM



Aim: **To show the children that Ruth, a foreigner, became the obedient and blessed servant of the God of Israel.**

Scripture Reading: **Ruth 4:1-22**

Memory Verse: **Psalm 121:5**
The Lord watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand …

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Ask the class what happens when there is a problem in their community. Possible answer: The elders or leaders often meet to discuss it.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. When the Israelites of old had a problem they used the same method to reach a solution. They usually met at the town gate. So Boaz sat down with the elders of Bethlehem (4:1).
2. Boaz was not Elimelech's closest relative. Elimelech was Naomi's husband who had died, remember? So Boaz called the person who was a closer relative than himself to sit down with him and the town elders so that they could discuss the selling of a field that had belonged to Elimelech (4:1-4).
3. This other relative was first in line to buy the field because he was more closely related to Elimelech. At first he wanted to buy it. Then Boaz reminded him that also meant he had to take care of Naomi (who was Elimelech's widow) as well as Ruth (who was the widow of Elimelech's son). That made him change his mind. He said Boaz should buy the field and take care of the two widows (4:4-6).
4. That cleared the way for Boaz to marry Ruth. To seal the agreement that the closest relative gave up all claim to Elimelech's possessions, he took off one of his shoes and gave it to Boaz. That was the custom in Israel (4:7-10). **Show Picture 5.**
5. Ruth and Boaz were married. God blessed them with a son called Obed. There was great rejoicing. The local women were full of praise for Ruth even though she was a foreigner (4:13-16).
6. This boy grew up to be the grandfather of the famous King David (4:17). It was into this human family that God chose his Son, Jesus Christ, to be born.

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Our Response to the Story

Ruth left her own home and family and came to a foreign land to look after Naomi. She kept her word. **Read 1:16-17 to the class.** God honoured Ruth and blessed her with a new home and family.

Ruth is an example to us of trust in God in all circumstances. We can do the same.

Instil the Memory Verse

Think back to how God protected Ruth.

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



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