

# Ruth chapter 4

## **Pray**

Father, thank you that you bless us and provide for our every need. Help us to see what a faithful God you are through our story today. Amen.

## **Background**

Ruth, and her mother-in-law Naomi, return to Naomi's homeland following the death of Naomi's husband (Elimelech) and 2 sons (Kilion and Mahlon). Ruth refused to leave Naomi, pledging instead to go where she goes, and that Naomi's God will be her God. Ruth goes to glean in Boaz's field, who is a close relative. Naomi encourages her to go to the threshing room floor, where Boaz is sleeping, one night. He agrees to marry Ruth, providing a closer relative is not able to marry her. Ruth returns home to Naomi early in the morning with 6 measures of corn as a gift from Boaz.

## **Read: Ruth Chapter 4**

Boaz Marries Ruth

**4** Boaz went to the city gate. He sat there until the close relative he had mentioned passed by. Boaz called to him, "Come here, friend! Sit down here!" So the man came over and sat down. **2** Boaz gathered ten of the old men who were leaders of the city. He told them, "Sit down here!" So they sat down.

**3** Then Boaz spoke to the close relative. He said, "Naomi has come back from the country of Moab. She wants to sell the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech. **4** So I decided to say this to you: If you want to buy back the land, then buy it! Buy it in front of the people who live here and in front of the elders of my people. If you don't want to buy it, tell me. I am the only person after you who can buy back the land. If you don't buy it back, I will."

And the close relative said, "I will buy back the land."

**5** Then Boaz said, "When you buy the land from Naomi, you must marry Ruth, the dead man's wife. She is the woman from Moab. That way, the land will stay in her dead husband's family."

**6** The close relative answered, "Then I can't buy back the land. If I did, I might lose what I can pass on to my own sons. I cannot buy the land back. So you buy it yourself."

<sup>7</sup> Long ago in Israel when people traded or bought back something, one person took off his sandal and gave it to the other person. This was their proof of purchase.

<sup>8</sup> So the close relative said, “Buy the land yourself.” And then he took off his sandal.

<sup>9</sup> Then Boaz spoke to the elders and to all the people. He said, “You are witnesses today of what I am buying from Naomi. I am buying everything that belonged to Elimelech and Kilion and Mahlon. <sup>10</sup> I am also taking Ruth as my wife. She is the Moabite who was the wife of Mahlon. I am doing this so her dead husband’s property will stay with his family. This way, his name will not be separated from his family and his land. You are witnesses this day.”

<sup>11</sup> So all the people and elders who were at the city gate said, “We are witnesses. This woman will be coming into your home. We hope the Lord will make her like Rachel and Leah. They had many children. So the people of Israel grew in number. May you become powerful in the district of Ephrathah. May you become famous in Bethlehem! <sup>12</sup> Tamar gave birth to Judah’s son Perez.[a] In the same way, may the Lord give you many children through Ruth. And may your family be great like his.”

<sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth and married her. The Lord let her become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. <sup>14</sup> The women told Naomi, “Praise the Lord who gave you this grandson. And may he become famous in Israel. <sup>15</sup> He will give you new life. And he will take care of you in your old age. This happened because of your daughter-in-law. She loves you. And she is better for you than seven sons. She has given birth to your grandson.”

<sup>16</sup> Naomi took the boy, held him in her arms and cared for him. <sup>17</sup> The neighbours gave the boy his name. These women said, “This boy was born for Naomi.” The neighbours named him Obed. Obed was Jesse’s father. And Jesse was the father of David.

<sup>18</sup> This is the family history of Perez. Perez was the father of Hezron.

<sup>19</sup> Hezron was the father of Ram. Ram was the father of Amminadab.

<sup>20</sup> Amminadab was the father of Nahshon. Nahshon was the father of Salmon. <sup>21</sup> Salmon was the father of Boaz. Boaz was the father of Obed.

<sup>22</sup> Obed was the father of Jesse, and Jesse was the father of David.

#### **Footnotes:**

- **4:12 Perez** One of Boaz’s ancestors.

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### ? Questions

1. What does Boaz want to talk to his close relative about?
2. Why does the relative change his mind?
3. What did the close relative give Boaz as a sign of the agreement between them?
4. What happened next?
5. What was Naomi's grandson called?
6. In what ways can you see God at work in this story?
7. As Jesus is a direct descendent from Obed, why is Ruth's baby important to you?
8. Can you think of ways in which God has provided for you and your family? Give God thanks for those things now.
9. Can you encourage someone this week who is going through a hard time? What could you do to reassure them of God's love and care for them?

### Pray

Dear Father, We praise you today that you are a loving and faithful God. Thank you that even when things are hard, as they were for Naomi and Ruth, you provide, protect and bless us, bringing us to new life in you through your Son Jesus. Help us to trust you to work out your good purposes for our lives. Amen.

## Suggested activities

*Choose one or two of these which suit your family.*

**Draw:** At the end of our story, we see part of the family tree which begins with birth of Obed, and ends in the birth of Jesus. Can you have a go at writing or drawing some of your family tree? Or can you draw our church family tree including the names of our friends and families on each branch. Praise God for our families.

**Bake:** How about having a go at baking some heart jam biscuits to celebrate Ruth and Boaz's wedding? Recipe below.

**Puzzle:** Can you spot 10 differences in the picture below?

**Puzzle:** find the words in the wordsearch below.

*Sunday 24th May 2020*

**Craft:** Have a go at making a sandal, like the one taken off in the story to seal the marriage deal! It reminds us too of being followers of Christ, trying to walk each day in His ways. For ideas of how to do this, see: <http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2013/06/discipleship-sandal-craft.html>

**Watch and make:** Have a go at making your own maze.  
<https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/make-and-pray>

## *Jam Heart Cookies*

### Ingredients:

300g plain flour  
150g caster sugar  
250g soft butter, cubed  
1 large egg yolk  
2 tsp vanilla essence  
1/2 tsp salt  
8-10 tbsp red fruit jam

### Method:

1. Beat the butter and sugar together in the bowl.
2. Add the vanilla essence and egg yolk and beat until smooth.
3. Add the flour and salt, and mix it all together.
4. Make the mixture into a ball, wrap it in clingfilm and chill in the fridge for 30 minutes.
5. Pre-heat the oven to 180C/350F/gas mark 4.
6. Sprinkle a clean surface with flour and roll the mixture until it is 1/2cm thick.
7. Cut out an even number of circles. Cut heart shapes out of the middle of half of them, and place on a baking tray.
8. Put the cookies in the oven for 12 minutes. Cool them on a cooling rack.
9. Spread jam on the solid circles and place the heart shaped cookie on top.
10. Enjoy eating them, whilst remembering God's love for you, and thanking Him for providing for you.

(Recipe adapted from "Baking through the Bible" by Susie Bentley-Taylor and Bekah Moore. Published by the Good Book Company 2013)

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Boaz arranges to marry Ruth

*Can you spot 10 differences between the pictures?*





## Ruth and Boaz Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle.  
The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

I	T	N	I	A	T	B	H	F	S	M	O	D
H	A	R	V	E	S	T	G	O	A	M	V	E
L	A	I	Q	U	N	O	N	O	E	C	T	B
T	U	E	D	E	R	E	D	D	L	I	Q	O
Z	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	T	V	A
L	A	O	R	E	M	I	R	S	I	T	E	Z
F	I	E	L	D	S	R	M	T	A	T	V	E
L	I	M	A	R	R	Y	G	E	A	C	I	D
U	N	N	A	L	U	Q	R	A	L	R	I	T
L	O	A	E	R	T	E	A	M	D	E	T	O
N	M	O	A	B	H	C	I	E	Q	U	C	S
N	O	M	S	E	Q	U	N	I	L	L	A	H
D	R	I	V	E	L	E	B	A	R	L	E	Y

BARLEY  
BETHLEHEM  
BOAZ  
ELIMELECH

FIELDS  
FOOD  
GRAIN  
HARVEST

MARRY  
MOAB  
NAOMI  
RUTH

# Ruth and Boaz Coded Words

Each number stands for a letter of the alphabet. Write the correct letter in the blank to find the coded words and phrase.

## Code key

A 1	J 10	S 19
B 2	K 11	T 20
C 3	L 12	U 21
D 4	M 13	V 22
E 5	N 14	W 23
F 6	O 15	X 24
G 7	P 16	Y 25
H 8	Q 17	Z 26
I 9	R 18	

7 18 1 9 14

14 1 15 13 9

8 1 18 22 5 19 20

6 9 5 12 4 19

13 1 18 18 25

2 5 20 8 12 5 8 5 13

**RUTH WAS NAOMI'S**

4 1 21 7 8 20 5 18 - 9 14 - 12 1 23