

“There is a Redeemer”

3. The Book of Ruth – Ruth 1: 6-14

Purpose: The students will learn about Levirate marriage. They will see that Naomi thought of her daughters-in-law more than she thought of herself.

Recap: (Write “There is a Redeemer”- the title of this series, on the board) We are reading the book of Ruth in the Old Testament for Bible time. These Bible times are called “There is a Redeemer” because Ruth had a redeemer, and we have a redeemer. Who is our redeemer? (Jesus Christ) What does “redeem” mean? (to buy back)

Last week in Bible time we met the character, Ruth. What do you remember about Ruth? (she was a Moabite woman, she married a man from Israel, her husband died after about 10 years)

Introduction: Before we read the Bible today we will learn something about the law of God. There was a special law about marriage. **Here is an example of how the law worked. A \*Jewish woman married. The man that she married died before they had any children. The ... law said, ‘The brother of your dead husband must marry you. The first son that the two of you have will be your dead husband’s son.’** This was called “Levirate marriage.” (write on board. You might also consider how to illustrate this law with stick figures on the board.)

Ruth is not Jewish. But her husband died. And she did not have any children. Did her husband have any brothers that could marry Ruth? (no. Her husband only had one brother, a married brother who was also dead)

We will hear Naomi talk to Ruth about Levirate marriage today. As we read, notice when Naomi is talking about Levirate marriage.

Question:

When is Naomi talking about Levirate marriage? (verses 11-13)

Read Ruth 1: 6-14

Answer the question.

Revisit the Story: Let’s go over this story again. I will ask some questions.

1. Why was Naomi going to leave Moab? (she heard that the Lord had blessed his people and there was food again. The Bible teaches that God rules over the world. God made the famine in Israel end. God gave the good crops)
2. Did Naomi say that her daughters-in-law had been good to her? (yes. In verse 8.)

3. What was Naomi's hope for her daughters-in-law? (that they could marry again. At that time a women who was not married became very poor, with no one to care for her)
4. Did the daughters-in-law want to return to Moab? (no. They cried. They wanted to go to the strange country with their mother-in-law. Naomi must have been a very good mother-in-law)
5. What happened after Naomi talked about Levirate marriage? (the daughters-in-law cried again. But Orpah went back home to her parents)
6. Did Ruth go back to her parents? (no, she held on to Naomi)

Naomi was a good mother-in-law. She did not have a way to take care of her daughters-in-law. She wanted them to get married again, so they would have another home. If her daughters-in-law left, Naomi would be all alone. She would be very pitiful, and very poor. But she didn't put herself first. She put her daughters-in-law first. Maybe that is why they loved her.

Do you have any questions or comments?

Easy English Notes from Wycliffe:

### **Chapter 1**

**Verse 6 \*LORD is a special name for God. We call it a covenant name. You make a covenant when you agree with someone. The Jews made a covenant with God: they would \*serve God and he would give them help.**

**Verse 8 'kind love' in \*Hebrew is hard to translate. This is because there is no word in English that means the same. It is the special love that God has for his people. The Jews also used the word for the love that people in a family had for each other.**

**Verse 9 'rest' here means 'a home where you will be safe'.**

**Verse 13 There is a note on \*levirate marriage above. \*Bitter has two meanings. It means either something does not taste sweet, or that life is very difficult. Here it means the second of these.**