



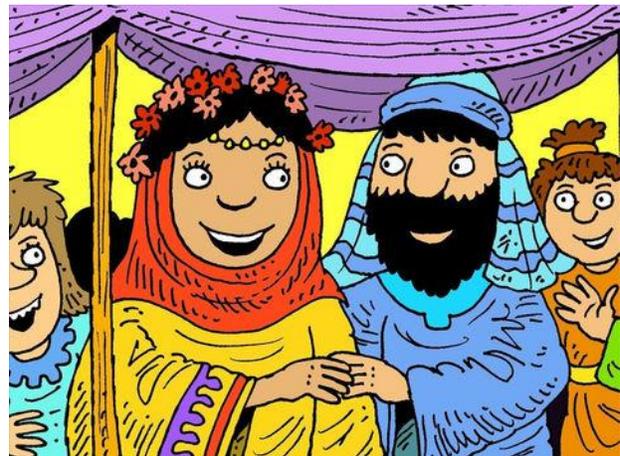
L3L33: Ruth Gets Married

Ruth 3-4

Boaz was a prominent man in the community, having great wealth and many servants. He was also a close relative of Elimelech, Naomi's deceased husband. Ruth had found favor with Boaz, and Naomi thought to secure Ruth's future with him. The law of redemption allowed the nearest of kin to purchase the family land and to marry the widow of the one who owned it. Naomi instructed Ruth to secretly go to Boaz one night, with this statute in mind, and express her desire to put herself into his care. She said to Boaz, "Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative." She was basically asking Boaz to marry her! Boaz was glad that she came to him, and said he would be willing to take care of her, only there was a problem. There was another man who was more closely related to her than Boaz. This other man would have to decide not to redeem the land and marry Ruth if Boaz was to have a chance to do so himself. Not wanting to waste any time, Boaz got up early in the morning and went to the gate of the city to see what could be done. The decision made that day would determine what would happen to Ruth and Naomi.

Discuss:

- The book of Ruth is one of two books in the Bible that has a woman's name in the title.
- Consider the character and honor that Boaz displayed in the book of Ruth. What were some things that he did which reflected favorably on his character?
- True love always shows outgoing concern for others and does no harm. When Boaz showed concern for Ruth's reputation and went to great lengths to protect her name. What are some other examples of true love from the book of Ruth?



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Memory Challenge:

Ruth 3:10-11

Then he said, "Blessed are you of the Lord, my daughter! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman."