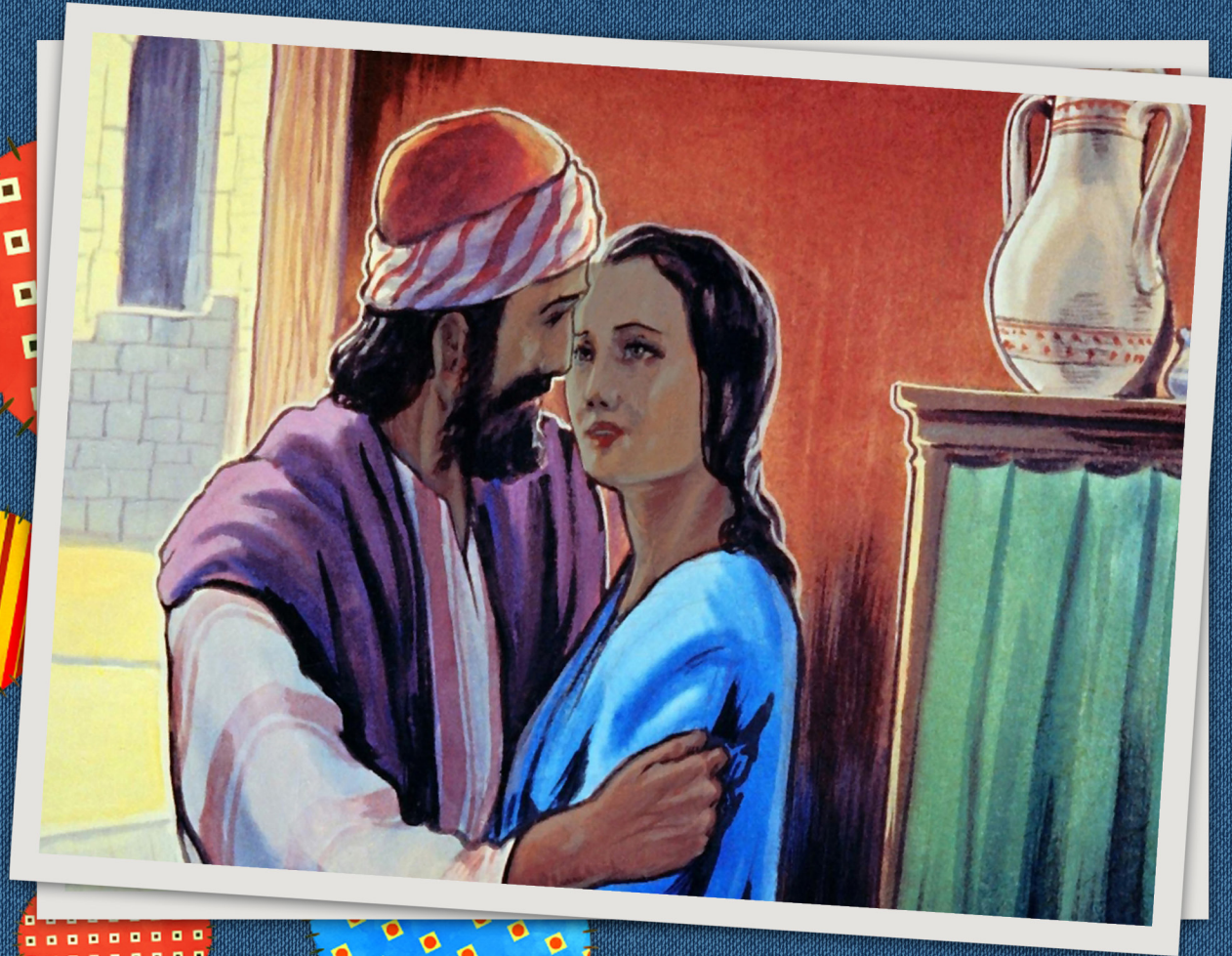


THE EMBELLISHMENTS: *The Story of Boaz and Ruth*



LESSON FOUR

The Embellishments: Boaz and Ruth

Unit Memory Verse: *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (Genesis 1:27)*

Biblical References: **Ruth 1-4**

Key Verse: *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. (Ephesians 1:7)*

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2.

“Oh, Honey Gram, this wedding veil is so pretty! I love how it sparkles.” Izzy ran into her grandmother’s sewing room and gave Gram a big squeeze around the waist.

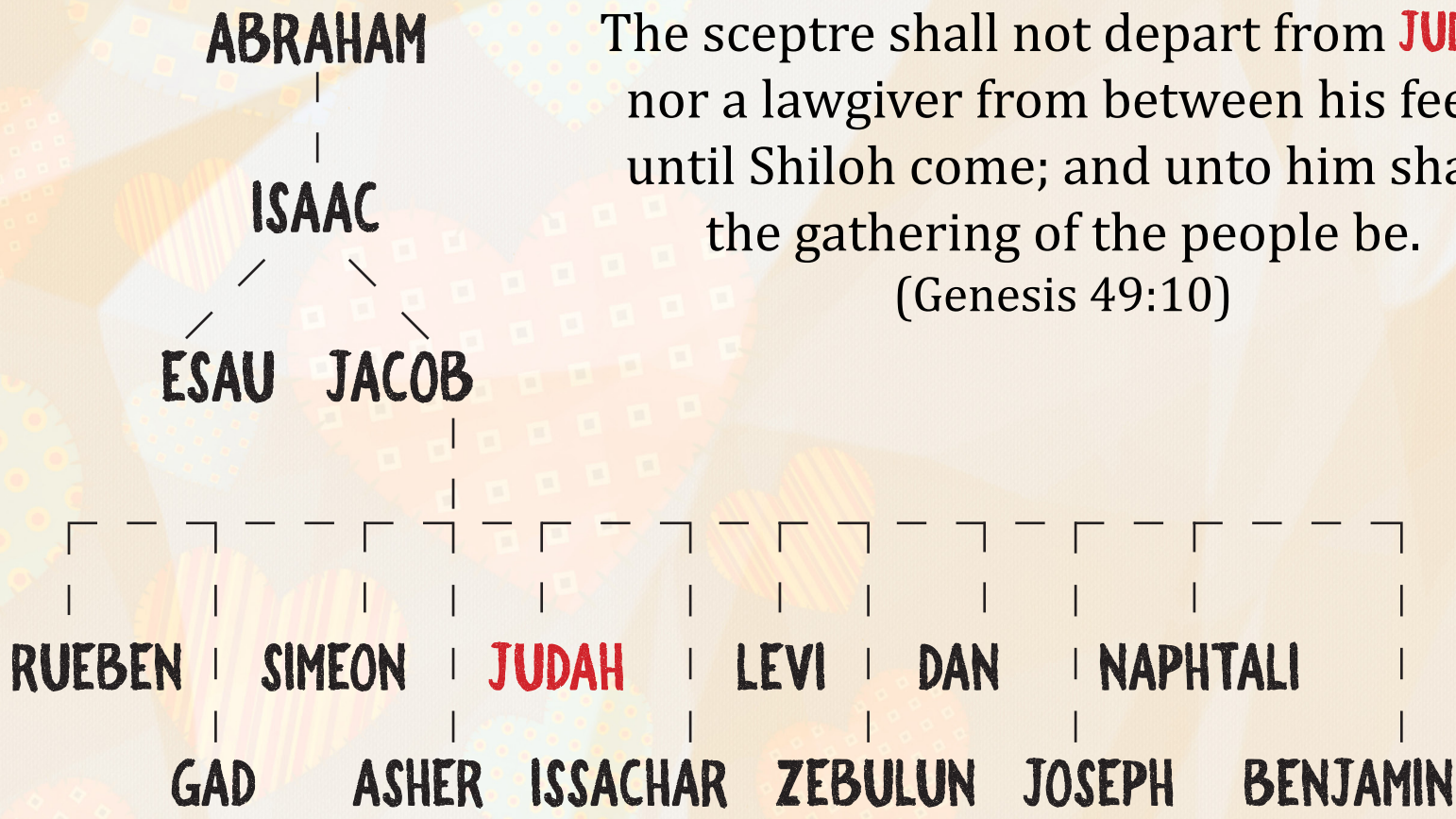
“It is pretty, isn’t it?” Gram answered. “I’ve finished the wedding gown for the most part, but I’m sewing some pearls on the veil. My little bride had some special requests for what I call embellishments.”

At that moment, Liam strolled into the room and winked at Gram. “I know I’m gonna regret asking you this, but what in the world are embellishments?”

Gram smiled at her grandson. “Oh, embellishments are those special touches added to something to make it beautiful and personal. For a wedding dress, I’m thinking of things like lace, jewels, or special beads.”

“And I’m guessing that all this wedding dress fluff and stuff reminds you of a story too. And, Gram, just so you know, I have to say your stories and your homework assignments are interrupting my video game time,” Liam remarked.

“Glad to hear it,” replied Gram. “Speaking of your assignment, I put the chart you emailed me on my laptop. You did a good job.”



The sceptre shall not depart from **JUDAH**, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.
(Genesis 49:10)

3.

Liam grabbed the laptop and found the file he had sent. Mumbling under his breath, he said, “I still can’t figure out what this has to do with lace and junky stuff like that.”

“Well,” answered Gram, “just as the embellishments on anything make it personal, God’s plan for sending our Rescuer, our Redeemer, to save us from the punishment our sinful state deserves is becoming more personal, more exact as the Bible unfolds its story.”

Izzy frowned. “It’s not becoming more exact for me. I read this Bible verse Liam put on the chart, and it makes no sense to me.”

Gram looked at the computer screen and read the verse out loud. “‘The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.’ I’m no Bible scholar, but here we’re learning more specifically about the family line of Jesus.”

“How do you figure that from this verse?” questioned Izzy.

“Yeah, I’m having a hard time following too,” added Liam.



4.

Gram put down her needle and thread and gave the children her full attention. “That’s understandable. The Bible is full of symbols. A scepter indicates royalty, a king. Here we have a prophecy telling us that Jesus, symbolized by the term Shiloh, will come from the tribe of Judah.”

“Okay, I think I get it a little bit,” said Liam. “Going back to God’s promise to Abraham, we get our first clue. God’s Son would come through the descendants of Abraham.”

Izzy picked up on Liam’s thoughts and added, “Then came Abraham’s son, Isaac, and then Isaac’s son, Jacob.”

“And just look at Jacob’s sons,” interrupted Liam. “He could’ve had his own football team with a built-in referee!”

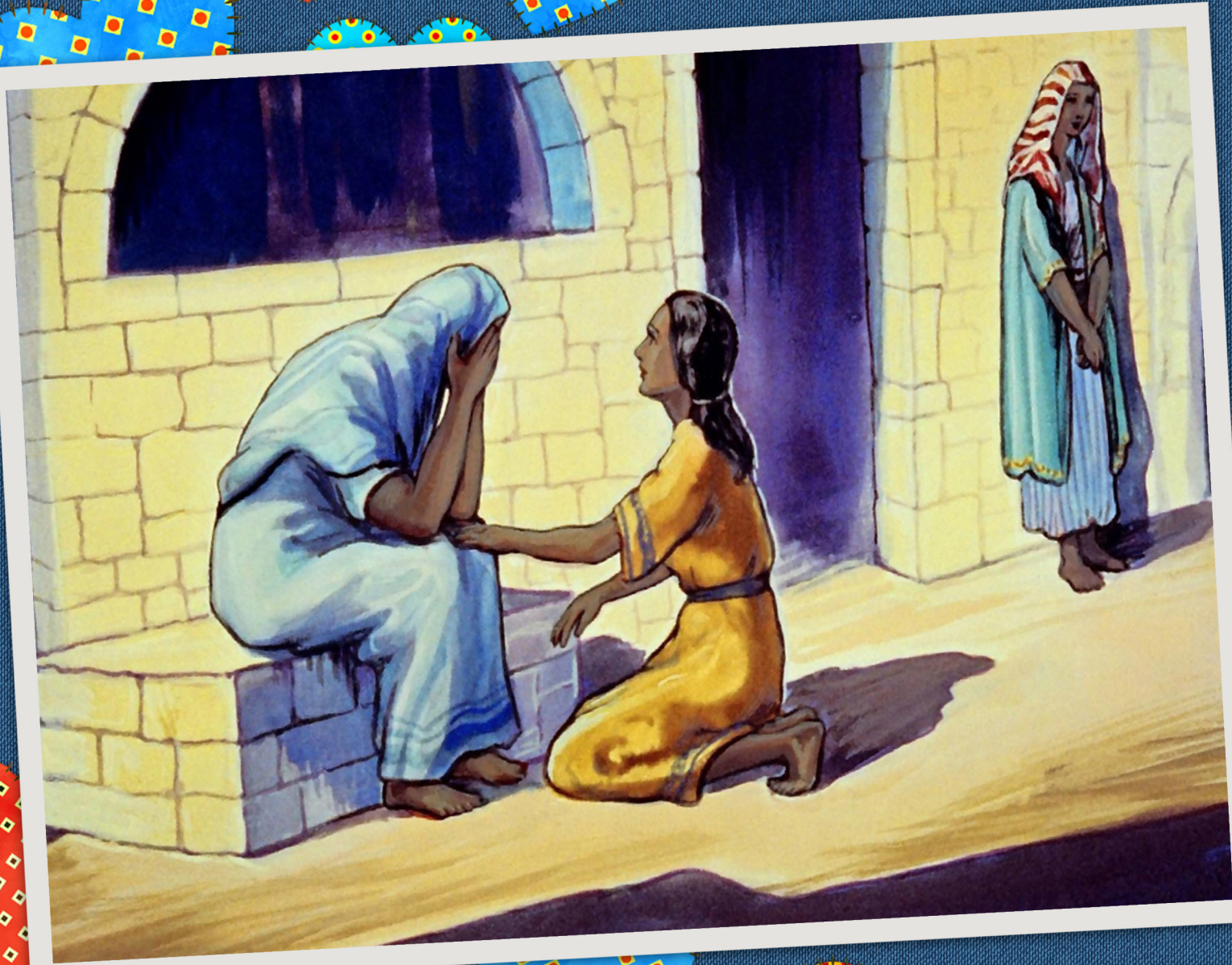
As she looked at Liam’s chart, Izzy asked, “Are you saying Jesus would come through the line of Judah?”

“Yes, exactly. God is giving us more details about our promised Redeemer. The story is becoming more personal and beautiful. Embellished,” said Gram.

Izzy found a roll of lace and began playing with it. “Redeemer? I’ve heard you use that word two times. I’m not sure I know what it means.”

“Well, hang on to that question, and I’ll get to it as I tell you today’s love story,” answered Gram.

“Love story? Gross!” moaned Liam.



5.

Gram ignored her grandson and began. “In the land of Judah, a famine hit the area. A man named Elimelek took his wife Naomi and his two sons to a new land, Moab, in search for food. Sadly, while they were there, the husband died. The two sons married local women, Ruth and Orpah.”

“I know this next part,” said Izzy. “It’s sad too, because the two sons also died leaving the three women all alone.”

Gram nodded. “That’s right. And when a woman lost her husband, she either had to go back to her family or marry what was called a ‘kinsman redeemer,’ but Ruth wouldn’t go back to her family. She loved her mother-in-law and declared that she would accept Naomi’s God as her God and returned with her to the land of Judah.”

“Kinsman redeemer? What’s that?” questioned Izzy.

“Well, earlier you asked about the word ‘redeemer.’ A redeemer is someone who recovers, saves, or exchanges something for something else. I’ll explain that a bit later in the story.”

Liam put down the laptop and poked his sister in the ribs playfully. “Being my sister, you’re kin to me. I think I’ll be your kinsman redeemer. I’d like to redeem you for a guinea pig.”

“Just you wait, Liam. You’ll be sorry,” laughed Izzy.



6.

“Settle down, you two, and let me finish the story.” Gram continued. “Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, arrived in Bethlehem just as the barley harvest was beginning.”

“What’s barley?” asked Izzy.

“It’s a grain, like wheat or corn. It’s good for making bread and soups,” Gram answered. “Anyway, when the women arrived, everyone was certainly curious about them.”

“It wasn’t long, though, until they needed food. Back in those days, it was a custom for the poor women who had no support to be allowed to pick up grain that the harvesters had left on the ground. It was a custom known as gleaning, and Naomi encouraged Ruth to go into the barley fields and collect the grain.”

Suggested Activity

This would be a good place to insert the **Gleaning Barley** activity. *Note: After game is completed, use a “Call to Order” technique to settle the children.*



7.

"I don't mean to interrupt the story, Honey Gram, but you said this was going to be a love story, and so far, all the men have died," Izzy remarked.

Liam rolled his eyes.

"Oh, I'm getting to the good part. Hang in there," encouraged Gram. "Ruth went into the barley fields belonging to a man named Boaz, who happened to be a near relative of Naomi's dead husband."

"Is he the kinsman you mentioned earlier?" asked Liam.

"Yes," answered Gram.

Izzy looked confused. "But what about the redeemer part?"

"I'm getting to that. Goodness gracious! All these interruptions. This old woman is losing her train of thought."

"Wow, that's a train you don't want to miss," joked Liam.

"You're sure right about that." Gram chuckled. "Back to the story, please. Where were we?"

"We were in the barley fields with Ruth and Boaz," answered Izzy. "And I hope we're going to get to the romantic part soon."



8.

“We are.” Gram threaded her needle and began to sew another row of pearls onto the wedding veil. “As I was saying, Ruth was gathering barley, and Boaz noticed her right away. He had heard of her kindness to Naomi, and he gave secret orders to his working men to pull out extra stalks from their bundles and drop them for Ruth to gather.”

Izzy sighed. “Aww, that’s so sweet.”

“Yes, it was very kind,” agreed Gram. “Ruth was able to gather a very large amount of the grain, about thirty pounds and she took it home to Naomi.”

“I’m thinking Naomi was hoping for a romance to happen between Ruth and Boaz,” said Izzy.

“Well, she offered Ruth some advice about that, but Ruth had already gained the attention of Boaz.” Gram winked at Liam.

“Are we at the kinsman redeemer part now?” asked Izzy.

“Yes, we are. In those days, like I mentioned earlier, a young widowed woman needed a male relative, a kinsman, to marry her to continue the family line, and even though Ruth was from a foreign land, Boaz was willing to pay the price to marry Ruth,” explained Gram.

“Pay the price?” Izzy was shocked. “He had to pay for his bride?”

“I know it seems odd, but it was a way for a woman to be taken care of. Also, I think it’s kind of sweet that a woman, a bride, is of great worth.”

Gram resumed her story. “There was one obstacle standing in the way, though. There was a closer relative to Ruth and Naomi who had first rights to Naomi’s land.”

“And first rights to Ruth, too, I suppose,” added Izzy.

“Yes, to Ruth too. Funny thing though. When Boaz offered the deal to the other kinsman, that fellow wanted the land, but he didn’t want Ruth.”



9.

“Did they shake hands or have some kind of contract to make it official?” Liam questioned.

Gram answered as she hung the veil on a hanger and began to smooth the delicate fabric. “Oddly enough, back then it was a custom to seal a deal on buying property by one party taking off a shoe and giving it to the other. The kinsman redeemer who had first choice on the land took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz.”

Izzy looked over at Liam. “Boy, Liam, you’re lucky you didn’t live back then. Nobody would want to make a deal with you.”

“Oh, yeah? And why’s that?”

“Your shoes stink too much.” Izzy laughed at her own joke.

Gram realized she was losing control of her little audience so she quickly finished. “Boaz made his announcement to all the elders gathered in the town and they were witnesses to the arrangement. So Boaz married Ruth, and the Lord blessed them with a son.

“That was a great story, Gram.” Izzy began unrolling the lace from the spool she was holding in her hand.



10.

Gram could tell that the two of them were about to engage in a bit of mischief so she made a plea for their attention. “Izzy, put the lace down for just a minute more. There is one thing I really want you to see from this story. Remember how I’m always telling you that marriage is a picture, a symbol, of Jesus’ love for the Church? This story is the perfect example.”

Liam and Izzy got still. “What do you mean, Gram?” asked Liam.

“Like Ruth, we are in need of a redeemer. Our sin, our wrongdoing, makes us poor. Our sin separates us from our perfect Creator, God. Izzy, grab my Bible over there and look up Ephesians 1:7.”

“Sure thing, Honey Gram.” Izzy was happy to add to the lesson and began to read, “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.”

“Thank you, Izzy.” Gram continued, “Like Boaz, Jesus paid a price for His bride. It was the greatest price, His own life. He redeemed us. He made an exchange. Jesus saved us by giving His life to pay the penalty for our sin, and we are able to receive God’s forgiveness in return.”

“I get it,” said Liam. “Jesus is our kinsman redeemer. That’s the best part of the story.”



11.

Gram smiled. “Thanks for listening, you two. I know I can get long-winded. Now get on with your shenanigans, Izzy. I can tell by the look in your eye that you have something planned for poor Liam.”

Izzy began to wrap Liam with the yards of lace in her hand. He looked like a lacy human Christmas tree.

Liam laughed and asked, “Hey Gram, when you were talking about Ruth and Boaz in the fields, I was thinking I needed to be holding an umbrella.”

Gram smiled at her laced-up grandson. “Why’s that?”

“Because,” he laughed. “It was graining. Get it, Gram? Get it?”

With a twinkle in her eye, Gram answered, “Just barley. I just barley got your ridiculous joke.”

End of Story Review

Answers from the Bible

(4th-6th graders)

1. How was Boaz related to David? (Ruth 4:17, 21-22)
2. Locate and read Bible verses written by a major prophet that declare God as our redeemer. (Isaiah 43:1, Isaiah 48:17)
3. Locate and read words from the Apostle Paul about Jesus Christ as our redeemer. (Galatians 4:4-5)
4. According to the Bible, how is redemption from our sins provided for us? (Ephesians 1:7)
5. Read and locate a law written by Moses that illustrates one of the duties of a kinsman redeemer. (Leviticus 25:25)

Review Questions

(1st-3rd graders)

1. Jesus was born from what tribe? Which son of Jacob did Jesus descend from? (Judah)
2. Why did Naomi and her family leave Judah to live in Moab? (There was a famine in Judah)
3. What is a kinsman redeemer? (A male relative who marries a widow to continue the family line.)