

Ruth and a Redeemer Skit Script

By Janelle Clendenon

Characters in Part 1 – Going to Moab	Characters in Part 2 – Back to Bethlehem
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Narrator• Naomi• Elimelek• Mahlon• Killion• Orpah• Ruth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Narrator• Naomi• Ruth• Friend• Boaz• Harvester (and other harvesters)• Joktan Close relative (and elders)

Stage: Left side is inside a home with a table, chairs, and baskets & jugs
Right side is open and will be designated by what the actors bring

Props:

- Bible time robe costumes for the above characters
- Special robe for Ruth for night scene
- Table
- 3 chairs
- Baskets
- Cookies
- Bread
- Grain (rice in a large bag) per gleaner
- Large scarves for each gleaner
- [Stalks of grain](#) or weeds that look like it
- Sickle (cardboard is fine)
- Water jugs for home scene and field scene
- Bowls 3 for home scene and 1 for field scene
- Blanket for Boaz (fold in half) – needs to be large
- Baby doll in blanket

Ruth and a Redeemer Part 1 (optional)

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BEGINNING Part I --- Going to Moab

Scene A1 – in Bethlehem home

Narrator: In the days of Samson and Samuel, when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land.

Elimelek: *(to Naomi)* Our crop is ruined again! We have no more savings. We need to do something so that we can live!

Naomi: It's terrible! All the ladies at the well are saying the same thing. Even the well is drying up!

Mahlon: *(runs in)* I'm so hungry! What's for dinner?

Kilion: *(following, runs in)* I need some water! Oh I'm thirsty!

Naomi: *(to the boys)* I'm sorry boys there isn't much. Here is a little bit.

Elimelek, the other news is that there is food in Moab. The people are in Abraham's family as descendants of Lot. Maybe it would be best for us to go there.

Elimelek: Let me check out a few things. That is an option.

Narrator: After a few days.....

Elimelek: I was able to sell our property. Let's pack up a few things and go to Moab to live for awhile. When things improve here in Bethlehem, we can come back home. Thanks to God's provision, we will be able to buy back our property when we come back.

Family walks off stage carrying baskets and bundles

Narrator: They crossed the Jordan river or maybe walked all the way around the Dead Sea, traveled over the rugged mountains and through the desert to reach Moab.

Naomi: (to the boys) Boys, you must be quiet, Dad is not feeling well and is sleeping. Come, let's pray. Dear LORD, you have given us this home here in Moab. You gave Elimelek a job. The boys are growing strong and tall, You have blessed us Oh LORD! Now Daddy Elimelech is not feeling well. You are the one who heals and gives life. Please heal my wonderful husband. May your will be done.

Narrator: But God did not heal Elimelek.

Naomi: *(crying)*

Mahlon: Why are you crying Mama? Is Daddy OK?

Naomi: *(crying)* Daddy died.

Mahlon and Killion: (cry and side hug mom)

Narrator: Time passed.

Naomi: Boys, It's time for Passover. I need your help with preparations. Can you believe we've been here in Moab for almost 8 years! Why you are young men now!

Killion: Of course we'll help you Mom! Speaking of being a young man, could I invite Orpah to come to Passover?

Naomi: Yes, that would be lovely dear. Mahlon, do you have anyone you want to invite?

Mahlon: Yes, I would like to invite Ruth. And may I tell the story of Joseph this year? I love how God fulfilled his dreams and how Joseph stored and sold the grain that kept Israel, Egypt, and so many people from starving!

Killion: God is good. He has kept us from starving, too.

Naomi: Yes He has! And He has helped you find a couple of fine young women! It is important for them to hear about God. I hope that they are willing to listen and learn.

Family turns with back to audience; preparing for Passover – setting table, sweeping, cooking

Ruth: *(knocks on door)*

Mahlon: I'm so glad you came Ruth! *(seats her at the table)*

Orpah: *(knocks on door)*

Killion: You're here Orpah! Welcome! *(seats her at the table)*

Family eats (1 minute); sits back and relax to talk:

Ruth: Thank you for inviting me! Mahlon, that was a wonderful story! You're God knows the future and cares so much!

Killion: You can come back tomorrow and I'll tell the next part of the story – the story of Moses! And we'll have more of mom's great cooking!

Orpah: Thank you for the invitation. That sounds lovely!

Narrator: In time, both boys were married.

Boys each stomp on an upside down cup and everyone says

Family: Mazel Tov! Congratulations!

Naomi: Congratulations my children! May God bless your marriages and give you many children!

Family walks off stage

End option 1

Ruth and a Redeemer -- Back to Bethlehem

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Part 1, Going to Moab, is optional and is summarized by the Narrator at the beginning of (part 2) Back to Bethlehem

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Stage: Left side is inside a home with a table, chairs, and baskets & jugs
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BEGINNING OPTION 2

Narrator: In the days when the judges ruled,^[a] there was a famine in the land. So, a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. ²The man’s name was Elimelek, his wife’s name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

Continue the rest of the story

Naomi, Ruth, & Orpah *(walk onto stage crying and holding each other’s arms)*

Ruth: **Oh Mahlon, how I will miss you! What are we going to do now?**

Orpah: **Killion, my dear, you were too young! What am I going to do now?**

Naomi: *(weeping)* **First my husband dies and now my sons are both dead! (weeps)**
Oh LORD. Why?

(purple text) Girls, there is no reason for me to stay here. I’m going back to my home, back to Bethlehem. ‘Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. ⁹May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.’

Ruth and Orpah: No, we will go with you.

Naomi: “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? ¹²Return home, my daughters.” You are young. There are others you can marry. “It is more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord’s hand has turned against me!”

(Naomi hugs Ruth and Orpah and then turns to leave, waving good-bye)

Orpah: Good-bye mother Naomi. You have been very good to us.

Orpah walks off the stage right

Ruth: *(Holding on to Naomi)*

“Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”

Naomi: OK my daughter, come with me. But it will be a hard life.

Noami & Ruth walk of stage left and wait

Narrator: So, they started their journey over the rugged mountains and across desert lands to Judah and Bethlehem.

Noami & Ruth walk back on stage looking very tired

Naomi: Here we are finally! Back in Bethlehem! It is home, but I don’t have a house or land!

Ruth: But the fields are growing and are ready to harvest! Is that barley?

Naomi: Yes, it is barley. We can glean the grain that the harvesters don’t pick up after they cut it.

Extras (city people): (stand off to side and point at Naomi)

Friend (squinting through her old eyes): Is that you Naomi?

Naomi: “Don’t call me Naomi. Call me Mara, because the Almighty God has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. My husband and sons have died.

Friend (thumps cane): Well that's just terrible! Come to my house and we'll have a good long chat!

Naomi: Thank you my friend you are so gracious!

Friend (waves cane): Naw! I'm just nosy and want to hear your whole story!

All leave the stage

Harvesters holding scythes & grain stalks and gleaners with bags enter and stand at stage right.

Ruth enters from stage right (home scene) and stops a few steps from the home

Ruth: (to herself and looking back and forth)

Naomi said I could glean barley from the fields. Which way shall I go?
Lord, which way should I go?

Hmmm. I'll go this way. That field looks nice. There's other women also gleaning.
I'll do what they do.

Boaz: (to harvesters) The Lord be with you!

Harvesters: The Lord bless you!

Boaz: (to one harvester, points to Ruth) Who is that woman?

Harvester: Granny told me she is the Moabite who came from Moab with Naomi. She asked permission to glean. She's been working all morning except for a short rest at the shelter.

Boaz (to Ruth): My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field. Watch where the men are harvesting. Just follow the women here. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. You will be safe here. Whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars there.

Ruth (bowing): Thank you my lord. Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you have noticed me—a foreigner?"

Boaz: I have been told all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

Ruth: Thank you for your kindness.

Narrator: Ruth worked hard and at lunch time....

Boaz (to Ruth): Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar. Here's some roasted grain, too.

Ruth pretends to eat then walks a few steps away and turns her back to the audience and pretends to pick up grain)

Boaz (to harvester): Let her gather even among the sheaves. In fact, pull some of the stalks out of the bundles and leave them for her to pick up. Don't rebuke her.

Narrator: Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about 20 quarts. She carried it back to town,

Everyone leaves the stage left

Ruth comes around towards the front and enters front center stage and goes to home scene.

Naomi: Ruth you are home! Welcome!

Friend: Come on in honey. We're having some cookies and cream. You caught us just before we ate the whole batch. Help yer self.

Naomi: Oh my! Look at how much you gleaned today!

Friend: Did you say clean? How much did you clean?

Naomi: Glean. She must have gleaned more than 20 quarts if I don't miss my guess! Where did you work today my daughter? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!

Ruth: I worked in the field of Boaz today. He is very kind!

Naomi: The Lord bless him! That man is our close relative! He is one of our guardian redeemers.

Ruth: What is a guardian redeemer?

Friend: What's that?

Ruth (*speaking louder*): What is a guardian redeemer?

Friend: That's our LORD's way of protecting a family's heritage, if he will pay the debt and restore the rights.

Ruth: I see. Well Boaz was very kind. He even told me to continue to work in his fields and follow his workers.

Naomi: That will be a very good thing to do! You will be safe with him.

Friend (loudly whispers to Naomi): That girl is worth more than 7 sons to you!

I'm going to tell Boaz that she's a keeper!

The ladies leave the stage

Narrator: So, Ruth stayed close to the women of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she stayed with her mother-in-law.

At the end of the harvest, the men threshed and winnowed the grain. They beat the stalks and then threw the grain into the air so that the wind would blow away the chaff.

Naomi and Ruth return to stage (same scene of home with table and chairs)

Naomi: My daughter, I must find a husband and home for you. You know Boaz. He will be at the winnowing floor tonight. Do what I tell you to do.

Go put on perfume and get dressed in your best clothes. Go down to the threshing floor, but don't let anyone see you. When Boaz is done eating and drinking, watch where he lays down. When he is asleep, go uncover his feet and lay down at his feet. He will tell you what to do.

Ruth: I will do what you have said.

Naomi and Ruth leave the stage

Boaz enters stage Ruth peeks onto stage, watching

Boaz (stretches and yawns) It has been an awesome harvest!

(prays) Thank you LORD! You have blessed me and all who have worked with me!

Boaz (lays down and starts snoring, *Ruth comes onto stage and lays at his feet.*)

Boaz (sleepily): My feet are cold!

Oh! There's a woman lying here! Lady, who are you?

Ruth: I'm your servant Ruth. Please spread your blanket over me since you are the guardian-redeemer of our family.

Boaz: Of course! Here is my blanket. Sleep here. Before it is too light for others to see you, go home. I will take care of you. The Lord bless you.

Narrator: The next morning

Boaz and Ruth leave the stage Ruth carries a bag of grain

Ruth and Naomi enter stage and go to home setting

Naomi: How did it go my daughter?

Friend: Oh tell us all about it! I can't wait to hear all the juicy details!

Ruth: Boaz said he will care for me, for us. He also gave me these 6 measures of barley!

Naomi: I know Boaz will take care of this first thing.

Narrator: Boaz went to the city gate the first thing that morning. He gathered the city elders for business. God had given each tribe land that was theirs to keep. Each family had land that belonged to them. If they sold the land during hard times, they could get it back in several ways. They could buy it back when they were able. Or in the year of Jubilee – that was every 50 years, all land was to return back to its original family. The third way was a kinsman redeemer could buy it back. This family member would pay the price for the family and would ensure the family had a male to be the inheritor of the property if there wasn't a male to give the land to.

There was a closer relative to Naomi that could be her kinsman redeemer. Boaz went to talk to him and brought him to the city gate because they needed witnesses in a business setting. This always took place at the city gate where the city elders gathered.

Boaz and Joktan enter stage right. Extras enter also and sit around them.

Boaz: “Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. ⁴I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line.”

Joktan: **I will redeem it.**

Boaz: “On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man’s widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property.”

Joktan: **Then I can not redeem it. You redeem it.**

(gives Boaz his shoe)

Narrator: Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.

Boaz: Today you are witnesses that I have bought for Naomi all of the property of Elimelek, Killion, and Mahon. I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahon’s widow, as my wife in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property so that his name will not disappear among his family nor home town. Today you are witnesses.

Extras: We are witnesses

(gives his own shoe to Joktan) (Now they each have 1 of own shoe and 1 of the other’s they can act a bit goofy and invite a few laughs)

Narrator: **So, Boaz and Ruth were married.**

Ruth and Naomi enter stage. Ruth and Boaz stand in center and everyone skips around them.

All: **Congratulations!**

All: But now, this is what the Lord says— He who created you, Jacob, He who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

Everyone leaves stage

Boaz, Ruth, and Noemi enter stage and go to the home setting. Ruth is holding a baby.

Naomi: God has blessed me with a loving family! He has blessed us with a new son!

Ruth: Blessed be the LORD! You, Boaz, are a blessing! This little one is such a blessing too! His name is Obed! We will worship and serve the LORD!

Narrator: Obed became the father of Jesse. Jesse became the father of David, king of Israel.

Narrator: This story mirrors our story with God.

Naomi's family had land. God created us and made this beautiful earth for us.

There was a famine. We have a famine of truth and love.

Naomi's family went in search of food. We search for truth and love.

There they found food and love, but it was temporary. This world's solutions are temporary.

Ruth chose God as her LORD and returned with Naomi to Judah. We turn to God.

Ruth gleaned bits of grain during the harvest. We find traces of God's truth.

Boaz generously shared grain with Ruth. God generously shares His love, truth, and many blessings with us.

Boaz redeemed and married Ruth. God redeems us. Jesus paid the price of our sin; He died and rose again. He calls us his bride and is preparing a place for us that we may live together forever! Praise His Holy Name!

Lead congregation in singing Redeemed!