



# THE GRACE OF GOD

*Please note that this teaching text has not been proofed.*

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## NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

## Lesson #1

# GOD'S GRACE—SALVATION

## NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Ruth is the record of a godly family living in the terrible times of the judges of Israel. During those years, “every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6; 21:25).

In such a sin-filled setting, Ruth is a bright illustration of the grace of God and His abounding mercy.

Grace is God’s provision for man’s need. It is His eternal and absolutely free favor, shown in salvation which He offers to all.

The entire book of Ruth reveals the character and ways of God: His providence, sovereignty, grace, holiness, and His invitation of salvation to all people.

We do not deserve *anything* from God. He does not have to save us. Nor must He listen to us when we pray. He does not need to guide our lives, nor provide for our daily needs. But He does all this for us—and much, much more—because He is *gracious*.

One purpose of the book of Ruth is to show that even in the Old Testament the grace of God included the Gentiles.

### Suggestions:

1. Have your students learn the song “Amazing Grace” at the time these lessons are taught.

2. If at all possible, use the *Ryrie Study Bible*\* with its excellent notes on the book of Ruth. All the notations throughout this particular edition of the Bible are extremely helpful.

If you have the book, *The Grace of God*\* by Dr. Charles C. Ryrie, study the Old Testament portions before you begin to teach the lessons on Ruth.

4. Print the following on a large piece of cardboard to be shown to class:

**GRACE = Undeserved Favor.**

Display this sign whenever the subject of grace is mentioned.

Because of God’s grace, believers in Christ receive what we *do not* deserve—salvation; we *do not* receive what we *do* deserve—punishment for sin.

5. To illustrate the meaning of grace, use the opening story. Substitute for “mayor” the title of a local official known to your students.

\* Available from Moody Press, Chicago, IL, 60610, U.S.A.

**Scripture to be studied:** Judges 3:12-30; Ruth 1:1-18; verses cited in lesson.

**The aim of the lesson:** In sovereign grace God calls people to trust in Him.

**What your students should know:** God saves and blesses undeserving people.

**What your students should feel:** Joyful because God—in His grace—saves even unworthy, sinful people.

**What your unsaved students should do:** Receive salvation—the gift of God’s grace.

### Lesson outline for the teacher’s and students’ notebooks:

1. Ruth’s childhood (Judges 3:12-30).
2. Ruth meets Elimelech’s family (Ruth 1:1-2).
3. Ruth influenced by Naomi (Ruth 1:3-5).
4. Ruth’s decision (Ruth 1:6-18).

### The verses to be memorized:

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

(Teacher: Use Ephesians 2:4-10 for more advanced students.)