



Bible Drama Scripts presents

SCARLET CORD OF REDEMPTION

By Patricia Souder

SYNOPSIS: RUTH, an outsider from Moab, and RAHAB, a former harlot from Jericho, share their joy over the birth of Obed: Ruth's son, Rahab's grandson, and King David's grandfather. Both women are named in Jesus' genealogy, showing the importance of faith-filled mothers in extending God's scarlet cord of redemption to all people, regardless of background or nationality.

SETTING: Soon after Obed's birth

CHARACTERS: RAHAB and RUTH

PERFORMANCE TIME: About 7 minutes

PERFORMANCE NOTES: With warmth and wonder. Rehearse lines spoken together to achieve rhythm and balance.

TOPICS: Importance of faith-filled mothers. God's grace. God's provision. Extending the scarlet cord of redemption to new generations. The gift of life.

PERFORMANCE POSSIBILITIES: Mother's Day. Women's events. Quilt or craft weekends. Pro-life services.

PROPS: Biblical dress (Optional). Rocker. Small table. Baby. Basket large enough to hold baby. Memory blanket with embroidered (or painted) scenes: center scene: Rahab's house with scarlet cord in window on crumbled walls of Jericho; left scene: barley field at harvest time; right scene: wheat field at harvest time. Blanket is bordered with scarlet cording.

BIBLE REFERENCES: Joshua 2 and 6; Ruth; Matthew 1:5; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25.

Rahab enters SR with basket containing memory blanket. Places basket on floor by rocker. Sits in rocker. Pulls out blanket to examine it.

RUTH enters SL singing to baby. Possible tune: "Open My Eyes, Lord."

RUTH: "Obed, my *boychik* . . .
Precious and priceless . . .
Marvelous treasure . . .
Sweet gift from God . . ."

RAHAB: Oh, Ruth . . . (*Places blanket on table, goes to greet RUTH and looks at baby*) What a beautiful little *boychik*!

RUTH: Your *boychik's boychik*, Rahab! (*Smiles warmly*) When I look at him, I see Boaz's eyes. I pray I'll be as good a mother to Obed as you were to Boaz so Obed grows up to be as kind as Boaz is.

RAHAB: Oh, Ruthie . . . (*Shifts weight and looks down*) I did so many wrong things. God was gracious to spare my life. And even more gracious to give me a wonderful husband and son.

RUTH: Well, your son and I now have a son. Would you like to hold him? (*Offers Obed to Rahab*)

RAHAB: Would I ever! I love babies. (*Smiles as she takes baby from RUTH. Fusses over him*) Especially this one! O little Obed, you are such a wonder! (*Shakes head in amazement*)

RUTH: I keep asking myself why I should be so blessed. I'm a foreigner. A Moabite. But now I'm a Jewish Mama!

RAHAB: You ask why *you're* so blessed? What about me? I'm a Canaanite . . . an enemy from Jericho . . . And now I'm a Jewish Grandmama!

(Both shake heads and laugh in wonder)

RAHAB: Sweet little Obed . . . (*Holds Obed where she can see his face.*) I cannot tell you how much I love you. (*Cuddles Obed and dances around with him.*) You're a gift from God who will extend His scarlet cord of redemption to a whole new generation.

RUTH: Naomi, his other Grandmama, also calls Obed a gift from God. She's thrilled to have a grandson. When her husband and sons died in Moab, she felt forsaken. Heartsick, she decided to return to Bethlehem. But she had no idea how she'd survive.

RAHAB: She wouldn't have survived if you hadn't come with her. You were her companion in grief and her helper in putting life back together. (*Sits in rocker and rocks Obed on her shoulder*)

RUTH: It's all so amazing! Jewish laws allowed me to gather leftover grain during harvest season. When Boaz saw me in his field and found out I was Naomi's daughter-in-law, he told the

workers to leave extra grain for me. You should have seen the look on Naomi's face when she saw how much barley I brought home that first day!

RAHAB: And you should have heard what Boaz said about you! Your kindness in caring for Naomi and your faith in God caught his attention. But he also noticed how attractive you are. *(Obed falls asleep while RUTH and RAHAB talk.)*

RUTH: (blushes) Boaz was gracious and protected me while I gleaned barley and wheat. Naomi told me he was a relative who could be our kinsman-redeemer to buy back the land that belonged to my first husband's father and preserve it for future generations.

RAHAB: Ah, yes. *(Smiles)* Boaz followed the Jewish laws of inheritance to help you and Naomi. But he also fell in love with you, Ruthie. And now look at this priceless gift from the Lord. *(Kisses Obed on the head.)*

RUTH: God has been so gracious! *(Lifts Obed from RAHAB'S shoulder and places him in the basket)*

RAHAB: Ruth, come see the memory blanket I made for Obed. *(Stands. Picks up blanket. Holds it out so RUTH can help open it. Points to various scenes on the blanket as she talks)*

RUTH: A memory blanket? *(Looks quizzical)* Sounds interesting.

RAHAB: I started with a simple fleece. Nothing fancy or fine. Just something soft and warm. Like our family is now.

RUTH: Even that's a gift, isn't it, Rahab? *(Smiles)* I'm so happy I can hardly stand it!

RAHAB: Me, too! I had a troubled childhood and tried to find happiness in all the wrong places. I was called the scarlet harlot of Jericho. *(Shakes her head sadly)* I owned a house on Jericho's wall—which was once thick and strong. *(Points to walls of Jericho on blanket)* I wore fancy clothes and flashy jewelry. I looked good on the outside . . . but I was empty and miserable on the inside.

RUTH: *(sympathetically)* Oh, Rahab . . .

RAHAB: The men who came to see me were also hollow. *(Shakes head sadly)* And terrified. We'd heard how God dried up the Red Sea for the Israelites when they left Egypt. We'd heard how God gave them victories over other nations. When they camped across the Jordan River from Jericho, our city went on high alert.

RUTH: So, why did you hide the Jewish spies?

RAHAB: It was my moment of destiny. I had to choose. The soldiers or the spies? Deep inside, I believed the God of the Israelites was the true God. I knew He had promised our land to Israel. *(Shrugs)* So, I hid the men under stalks of flax drying on my roof. And helped them escape on a rope hung from my window. I wanted to serve God . . . not fight with Him.

RUTH: *(smiles knowingly)* I wanted to serve the true God, too. That's why I came here with Naomi. It's funny how you know what's right, isn't it?

RAHAB: And wonderful how God works when we do what's right!

RUTH: You saved the spies' lives, Rahab.

RAHAB: And they saved mine! They told me to hang a scarlet cord in my window so they could rescue my family when they attacked. *(Holds up a thick scarlet cord)* This was my scarlet cord of redemption.

RUTH: And your way of deliverance when the walls fell.

RAHAB: Yes. *(Points to scarlet cord in window amidst the fallen walls of Jericho)* And then, wonder of wonders, Salmon, one of the Jewish spies, not only rescued my family; he also married me!

RUTH: You gave birth to Boaz.

RAHAB: Look at the fields of barley and wheat I've included so you can tell Obed your love story. *(Points to fields of barley and wheat with piles of grain at harvest time on the blanket)*

RUTH: As our kinsman redeemer, Boaz extended the scarlet cord of redemption to Naomi and me. *(Fingers the piles of barley and wheat, then looks lovingly at Obed)* He renewed our hope. And now, I have a Jewish son!

RAHAB: And I have a Jewish grandson!

RUTH: I can't wait to wrap little Obed in this blanket and tell him how God worked in our lives.

RAHAB: I've bordered the blanket with a scarlet cord as a reminder that God's scarlet cord of redemption extends to everyone who trusts in God—regardless of background.

RUTH: Or nationality.

RAHAB: Oh, Ruthie, who can imagine the ways of the Almighty?

RUTH: Or think of a better way to teach little Obed about Him.

RAHAB: This little boy is such a wonder . . .

RUTH: Such a miracle!

BOTH: Such a joy!

(RAHAB and RUTH embrace. RAHAB raises hands in praise. RUTH lifts baby, hugs him, and looks up in wonder)

BOTH: But belonging to the true God is an even greater wonder! A marvelous miracle! An eternal joy!