

RUTH AND NAOMI

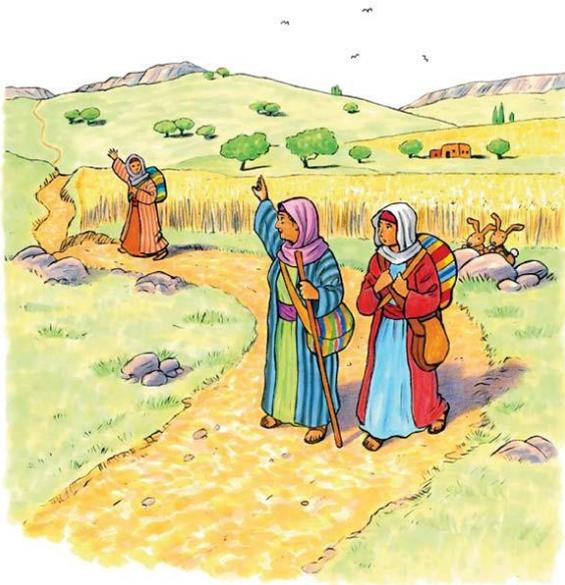
Ruth



Contents

Message	God blessed both Ruth and Naomi because they remained faithful.
Learning Objectives	The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Ruth acknowledged Naomi's God, who is the true God, as her God.■ Although it was not easy, Ruth took care of Naomi.■ It is important to talk about their experiences with friendship and faithfulness.
Bible Text	Ruth

Ruth and Naomi



Naomi lived with her husband and two sons in the country of Moab. They had left their home town of Bethlehem in Judah because of a famine. Following her husband's death, her sons married Moabite women. Not long after, her sons died too and Naomi was left on her own. Only her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, were with her.

Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem as she had heard that there was once again enough food to eat there. Her daughters-in-law went with her. Part way through the journey, Naomi decided to send them back. Orpah cried, kissed her mother-in-law and said goodbye.

But Ruth said, "I am going with you. Your people are my people. Your God is my God." She went to Bethlehem with Naomi.

When they arrived there, it was harvest time. The poor were allowed into the fields after the harvest had been collected to pick up any grain that had been left behind. Ruth went into a field belonging to Boaz. He was a wealthy farmer and a relative of Naomi.

Boaz asked his servant, "Who is that woman?"

The servant replied, "That is Ruth who came with Naomi."

At midday Ruth was allowed to eat with Boaz's servants. He was happy to see how she had looked after Naomi. He realised that she had chosen to leave her homeland to stay with Naomi. She could easily have decided to stay with her family at home.

By evening Ruth had collected a lot of grain. Naomi was happy. She realised that God was helping them. Ruth went to the fields every day until the harvest was finished. Later Ruth and Boaz married. They had a son whom they named Obed.

Naomi was delighted. She watched over Obed like he was her own son.

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel....

Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- What does Ruth mean when she says, "Your people are my people. Your God is my God." (Ruth is from Moab where they worship Chemosh. She does not worship God.)
- Why is Ruth's decision to go with Naomi an example of faithfulness? (Ruth recognises that with Naomi she can continue worshipping God.)
- How does Ruth help Naomi? (Supporting her, gathering grains left behind in the fields)

Have the children repeat...

- Ruth acknowledged Naomi's God as her own God.
- Although it was not easy, Ruth took care of Naomi.
- They talked about their experiences with friendship and faithfulness.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- Why do you spend so much time with friends from our church? (You sing, worship together. Often your activities bring you closer to God.)
- Ruth knew if she wanted to continue worshipping God, she must remain with Naomi.
- Our actions, as a result of the choices we make, reflect our faithfulness to God.

<p style="text-align: center;">Repeat the Message God blessed both Ruth and Naomi because they remained faithful.</p>
--