

Ruth

Ruth 1-4

Do you know the names of these three women in the picture?

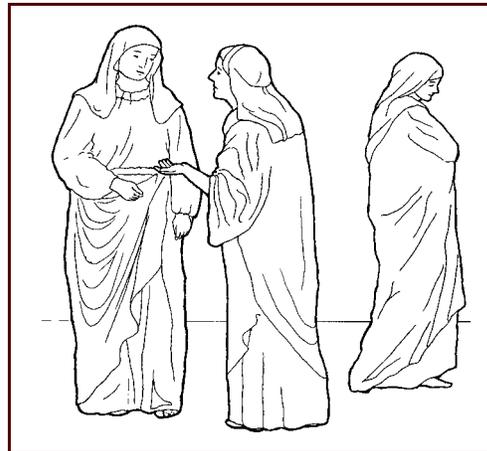
One of them will be important in the family of Jesus?

Do you know her name?

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Be with us as we study the lesson of Ruth. Help us to learn from Your Word and then apply Your Word to our lives as Ruth did. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



The Story

Ruth 1:1-10, 14-17, 19-22, 2:1-13, 15-17. 19-20, 23, 3:1-3, 6, 9, 12,13b, 16, 4:1-6, 13, 17

Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem, Judah, went to dwell in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons.

The name of the man was Elimelech, the name of his wife was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion – Ephrathites of Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to the country of Moab and remained there.

Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left, and her two sons.

Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years. Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.

Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread.

Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her; and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.

And Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.

"The LORD grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." So she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept.

And they said to her, "Surely we will return with you to your people."

Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. And she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my



people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me."

Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

So she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.

"I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech; his name was Boaz.

So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"

Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"

So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.

"And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."

Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women.

"Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."

Then she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.

"The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."

And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.

"Also let some grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."

So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you." So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "The man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."

So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to

her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?"

"Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, is he not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor.

"Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your best garment and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking."

So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.

And he said, "Who are you?" So she answered, "I am Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative."

"Now it is true that I am your close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I."

"It shall be that if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you – good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, as the LORD lives!"

When she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, my daughter?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her.

Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down.

And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.

Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.

"And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.'" And he said, "I will redeem it."

Then Boaz said, "On the day that you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance."

And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son. Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying; "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Outer Aim - God blesses a faithful widow with a new family.

What the Story Tells Us - Crossword Puzzle - Fill in the crossword puzzle using words from the Word Box.

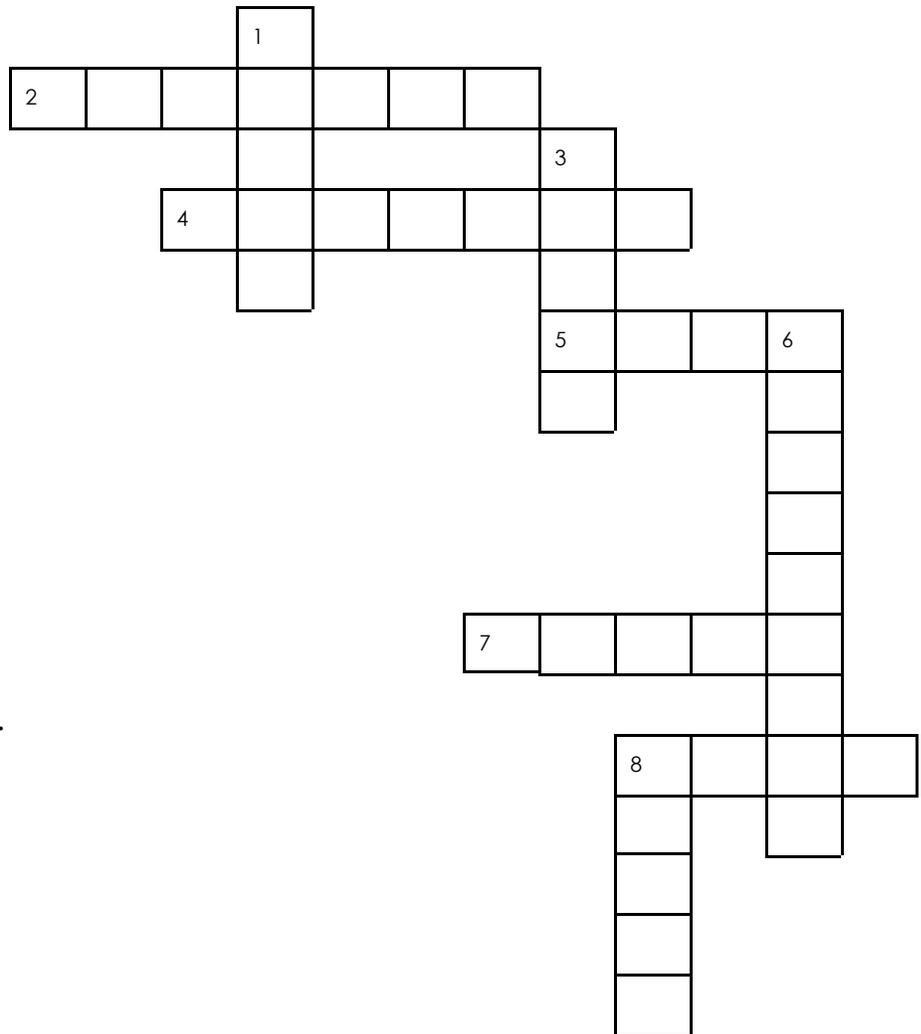
NAOMI	MOAB	DAVID	ORPAH	GLEANED	JESSE
		KINSMAN	BETHLEHEM	OBED	

ACROSS

- 2. What Ruth did in Boaz's field.
- 4. Boaz was this for Ruth and Naomi.
- 5. The country from which Ruth came.
- 7. The grandson of Ruth and Boaz.
- 8. The son of Ruth and Boaz

DOWN

- 1. The king of Israel from whose family Jesus came.
- 3. The name of Elimelech's wife.
- 6. The city in Judah in which Elimelech's family lived.
- 8. The name of Naomi's daughter-in-law (not Ruth).



Inner Aim - God's actions with His faithful people produce many rich blessings.

What God's Word Tells Us - Answer the following questions.

1. Even though Ruth was not a Jew, she was an ancestor of Jesus. Jesus was born from her family line. Why was that a special blessing for Ruth?
2. What are some important lessons we learn from the story of Ruth?

Passages

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Psalms 17:8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings.

Revelation 2:10 Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Hymn TLH #521 v. 1

What God ordains is always good;
His will abideth holy;
As He directs my life for me,
I follow meek and lowly.
My God indeed in ev'ry need
Doth well know how to shield me;
To Him, then, I will yield me.

What God ordains is always good.
This truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm, for with His arm
He shall embrace and shield me;
So to my God I yield me.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

We know Your love for us because You sent your Son, Jesus, to be the Savior, not only of the Jews, but also for us who are not Jews. You know how best to direct our lives for our own good and the eternal good of others. We pray that You would give us trusting and faithful hearts to follow Your direction throughout our life.

Encourage us when we are tempted to become discouraged. Strengthen us when we feel weary. Make our words and actions a blessing to others that through us others may also share in the blessings that You richly provide us. We ask this, trusting that You will receive our prayer because of Jesus who redeemed us. Amen.