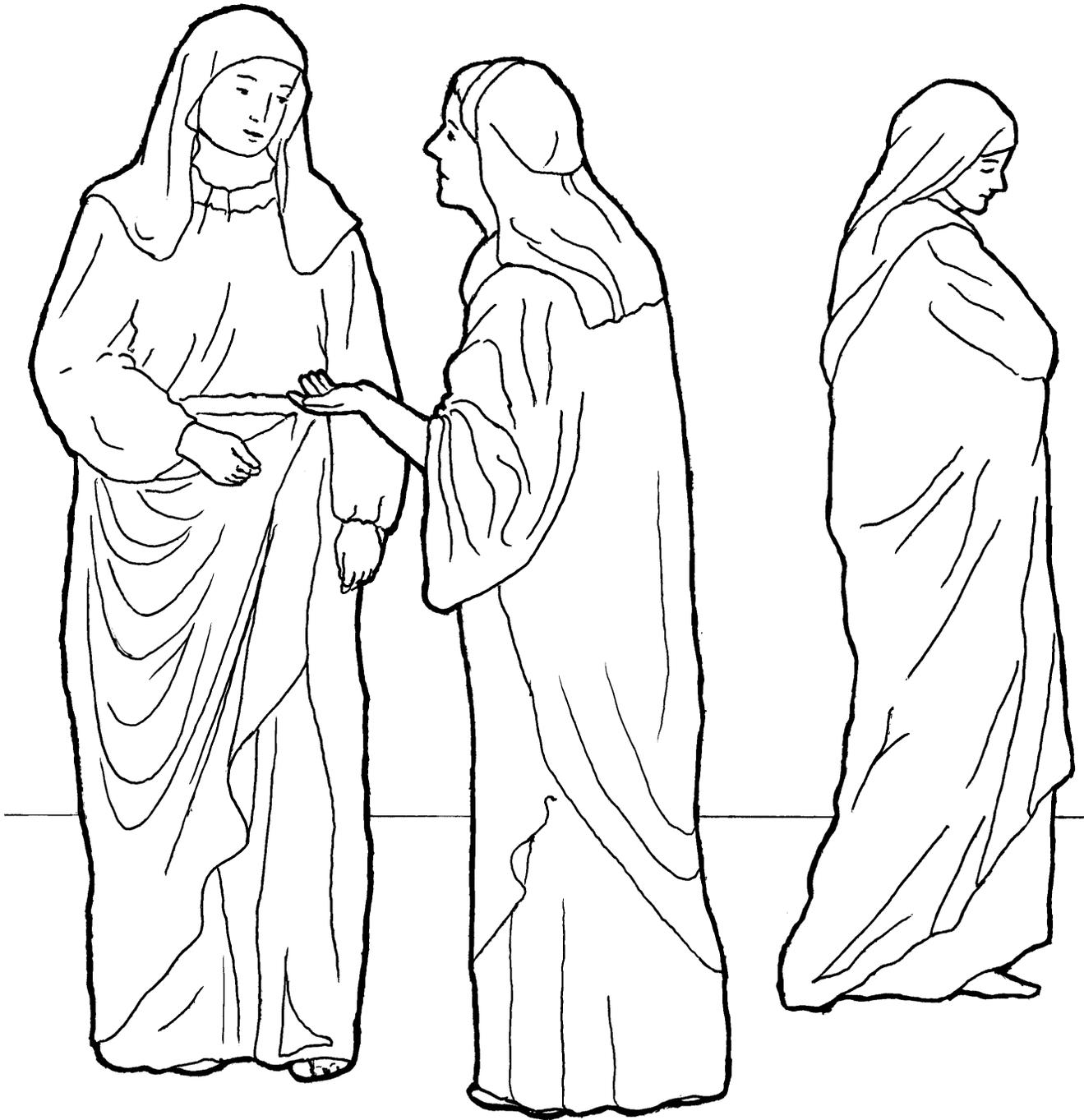


Ruth

Ruth 1-4



The Story

In the days when the people of Israel had no king, many people chose to disobey God and did not worship Him. God caused a famine in the land. A famine is a time when very little food grows in the ground.

Not all the people had forgotten the true God. A man from Bethlehem named Elimelech and his wife Naomi trusted in God. They took their two sons to the land of Moab to live because there was food to eat there. The people of Moab worshiped false gods, but Elimelech's family trusted in the true God.

After some time Elimelech died. Naomi's sons married women from Moab. One woman was named Orpah, the other was named Ruth. Ruth learned about the true God from her new family. After Naomi had lived in Moab for ten years, Naomi's sons died too. Naomi and Orpah and Ruth were all alone.

Naomi soon heard that food was growing again in Bethlehem. She wanted to move back to her old home. Orpah and Ruth said they would go too. But Naomi told them to go home to their own parents. Finally, Orpah said goodbye to Naomi and went home. But Ruth would not leave Naomi alone. She loved and trusted in the true God and wanted to help Naomi. She said to Naomi, "Don't ask me to leave you. I will live where you live, I will worship your God, and I will die where

you die." Then they both moved to Bethlehem. Naomi and Ruth were poor so Ruth worked very hard in a field of grain and gathered up the leftovers to make bread. God caused her to gather grain in the field of a rich believer named Boaz. Boaz was related to Naomi. He saw Ruth and asked who she was. When he heard how much Ruth loved and cared for Naomi, he told his workers to let her eat and drink with them. His workers should also leave extra grain behind just for her to pick up. He talked with Ruth and told her to keep on working in his field. She was very thankful to him for helping her, even though she was from a different country. Through Boaz, God blessed Ruth and Naomi with food to live on.

Ruth kept gathering in Boaz's field. Soon the Lord led Boaz and Ruth to marry. Now Boaz would take care of Ruth and Naomi. God planned a great blessing for them by giving them a baby boy named Obed. When Obed grew up, he had a son named Jesse. Jesse became the father of David, who became a king of Israel. Many, many years later, Jesus our Savior was born from the family of David. Jesus came to earth to live and die for all people, including you, and to take away their sins. Ruth trusted in her Savior and was blessed to be in His family line, even though she was not from the land of Israel.

God blesses a faithful widow with a new family.

Activity One - Answer the questions about the lesson.

1. What is the name of the mother in this lesson?
2. To which country did she and her husband move?
3. Why did they move to that country?
4. What was the name of the lady who trusted in the true God and loved Naomi?
5. What did she do for Naomi?
6. What was the name of the man who loved the true God and wanted to take care of Ruth and Naomi?
7. What did he do in his field that helped Ruth?
8. How did he take care of Ruth and Naomi?
9. Who protected Naomi and Ruth on their move to Bethlehem?
10. Who blessed Boaz and Ruth with a son?
11. Who was born from Ruth's family that is very special to us?
12. Why is He so special to us?

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

Activity Two - Ruth loved the true God and showed her love by helping and obeying Naomi. Because we believe in the true God, we will want to show our love for Him also. Write down 3 ways that you can love and obey your parents. Draw and color a picture that shows one of those ways.

I can love and obey my parents by ...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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

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.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,
Help me to love You as much as
Ruth loved You so that I may trust in You all
the time. Help me to be kind and loving to
my parents and to all people. Help me to
tell all people about how much You love
them too. Thank You for being born from
Ruth's family so that You could die to take
away my sins. Amen.