

Bible Story 15: RUTH TAKING CARE OF HER MOTHER-IN-LAW NAOMI

SCRIPTURE: Ruth 1:1-11,14-19,22; 2:1-23; 4:13-17

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 121:1-2

BIBLE STORY:

A great famine was in Israel and everyone was hungry. So Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and two sons moved to Moab, where there was food. Their sons married Orpah and Ruth, women from Moab. After about ten years, Naomi was very sad. Her husband and two sons had died. When she heard that the famine was over, she decided to go back home to Bethlehem.

Naomi kissed her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, good-bye. She told them that they should not go on this long trip and leave their homeland and family. Each should return to her mother's home. They cried. Finally Orpah kissed Naomi and went back to her home, but Ruth stayed. Naomi once again told her to return home. Ruth loved her mother-in-law and wanted to take care of her. Ruth told Naomi that she would go wherever she went. Ruth also wanted to serve God. So Naomi took Ruth with her.

Time passed and they finally arrived in Bethlehem. Ruth took care of her mother-in-law Naomi. In order for them to have food to eat, Ruth went out each day to a field owned by Boaz. She walked after the harvest workers, picking up the grain from stalks of barley that was left on the ground. Boaz saw Ruth and was very pleased when he learned how she was taking care of her mother-in-law Naomi. He protected and took care of Ruth. He made sure his men were kind to her, leaving some barley stalks for her, and allowing her to drink their water.

After a period of time, Boaz married Ruth. God blessed their home. They had a son, Obed, who would become the grandfather to king David.

PART 1: PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. What did you learn from the story?

2. How can you apply this story to your life?

PART 2: GENERIC QUESTIONS

1. What do you like about the story?
2. What is there in the story that you do not understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

PART 3: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. Why did Elimelech, Naomi and their two sons leave Bethlehem and move to Moab? What happened to Naomi's family after living in Moab for ten years?
2. Who were Naomi's daughters-in-law? What did Naomi tell Orpah and Ruth to do when she decided to return to her home in Bethlehem?
3. What did Orpah do? What did Ruth do? Do you think it was hard for Ruth to leave her parents and country and move to a strange, foreign land? Why? Why do you think Ruth went with her mother-in-law Naomi?
4. Have you ever moved from one country to another country? Moved from one place to another? Where did you move? Was it hard? Why?
5. When they arrived in Bethlehem, what did Ruth do to get food for them to eat? Who was Boaz? Did he help Ruth? How? Why?
6. How can you help a foreigner or new person that moves into your community, school and/or church?
7. As God had Boaz help Ruth, who are some people who can help you when you face changes in your life, such as a move, a death in the family, a new job, a new school, a new church? What are some other ways God can help you?