



RUTH AND NAOMI

Ruth 1-4

Memory Verse

“Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.” Ruth 1:16b

Context/Background

The Book of Ruth is part of the Old Testament and falls within the section of historical narratives.

The events of the Book of Ruth occur during the time of the Judges in ancient Israel, a period characterized by political instability and moral decline.

The Book of Judges provides historical context for the period in which Ruth takes place. The Judges were leaders and deliverers raised up by God to guide the Israelites during times of crisis. In this time period, widows and orphans were cared for by their wider family. If they had no family who would take them in or provide for them, they were in great danger.

Summary

The story is about a Moabite woman named Ruth who, after the deaths of her husband and father-in-law, chooses to stay with her Israelite mother-in-law, Naomi. She accompanies Naomi back to Bethlehem, where Ruth gleans in the fields to provide for them. Ruth catches the eye of Boaz, a wealthy landowner and relative of Naomi's family. They marry, and Ruth becomes an ancestor of King David and, later, Jesus Christ.

Relevance/Application **Themes: Love, Compassion, Service, Hope, Loyalty**

Younger students:

- God loves everyone.
- Ruth loved Naomi and God. Ruth chose to stay with Naomi and look after her even when times were hard.
- God is with us even when we are having a hard time.
- Boaz took care of Ruth and Naomi and made sure they were protected. We should also take care of the vulnerable people in our community.

Older students:

- **God's love is inclusive of all** Ruth, a Moabite woman, is embraced by the Israelite community. This demonstrates God's inclusiveness and love for all people, regardless of their nationality or background.
- **Hope and New Beginnings:** The story of Ruth and Naomi offers hope and new beginnings after a period of loss and grief. It reminds us that God provides hope and fresh starts in our lives.
- **Caring for the Vulnerable:** God's love for the vulnerable is seen in how Ruth cares for Naomi, who was in a vulnerable position as a widow. Boaz also made sure Ruth could get enough grain to survive. This story reminds us of God's heart for those in need.

- **Loyalty** – Ruth was loyal to Naomi and Boaz was loyal to Ruth. God is loyal to his promises to love and redeem his people.
- **Redemption** – Boaz is described as the 'kinsman redeemer' – the head of the family who has the responsibility to help a relative in need or danger. This person avenges (in the case of a relative being murdered via manslaughter), delivers, rescues, and in many cases, redeems property. Jesus is the ultimate kinsman-redeemer, who redeems us. He pays our debts, marries us into the family of God, and restores us.

Christian Studies Framework

Christian Living

Key Idea 1: Christians believe that God creates people to live in relationship with him and with each other

Catechism Connections

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

Honor your father and your mother, that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God, so that we do not despise our parents or superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honour, serve, obey, love and esteem them.

Discussion/Wondering Questions:

Early Years

- What qualities make a good friend, like Ruth was to Naomi?
- How can we care for our family members, like Naomi cared for Ruth?
- How does God care for us?

Primary

- How can we show loyalty and support to our friends and family, especially when they are going through difficult times?
- Ruth made many sacrifices for Naomi. Can you think of ways we can be selfless and help others, even if it means giving something up ourselves? What sacrifices has God made for us?

Secondary

- Ruth and Naomi trusted in God's plan even when life was hard. What can we learn from their experience?
 - Ruth, a Moabite woman, became the great-great grandmother of King David, and is one of Jesus' ancestors. What does that imply about God's attitude towards outsiders?
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Images or objects to spark discussion

- **Family Photos:** Share images of families or bring in family photos. Talk about the importance of family bonds and how Ruth and Naomi's story highlights the love and support found within families.
 - **Barley grain or barley whole grain bread.**
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Telling the Story

Bibles: The Beginner's Bible
The Big Rescue Bible
The NIV Bible

Other Resources

GROW Ministries

[Woven Together – May - Ruth 1-2 God gives Ruth and Naomi a good friendship](#)

Audio Stories/Podcasts

Bible.is - <https://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/audio-bible-resources/bible-is>
Audio recordings of the Bible in many different languages and several English translations. All four gospels also available in film versions, searchable by book and chapter. Excellent resource for NESB learners.

Kids Corner – Bible Stories – [The Story of Ruth](#)

Videos: Early Years / Junior Primary

[Saddleback Kids – Stories of the Bible](#)

Middle – Upper Primary

[God's Story: Ruth - Crossroads Kids' Club](#)

Secondary/Staff

[Summary of the book of Ruth – Bible Project](#)

Invocation

Welcome to our school worship service today. As we gather together, we are drawn to a beautiful story from the Bible, a story of love, loyalty, and support—Ruth and Naomi.

As we begin, we remember that God is with us during this time of Worship.

In the name of the Father, whose love surrounds us always,

In the name of the Son, our friend and guide through life's journey,

And in the name of the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with compassion and understanding. Amen

Prayers

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come before you with thankful hearts today, thinking about the special story of Ruth and Naomi. We thank you for the love and loyalty they showed to each other, just like you love us so much.

We ask you to help us be like Ruth and Naomi in our lives. Help us be good friends, who are there for each other, especially in hard times. Teach us to be kind, to care for our families, and to be loving and loyal, just like they were. Lord, help us trust you, even when things are tough. Show us that you're always with us, just as you were with Ruth and Naomi. Help us be thankful for the people who love and support us, and may we show them love and gratitude in return.

We pray for those who may be going through hard times, just like Ruth and Naomi did. Please comfort them and bring them hope, knowing that you are with them.

Thank you for the story of Ruth and Naomi, which reminds us of your love and the importance of friendship. In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

OR

Dear God,

Help us to be loyal and true to our family and friends, and to help all people when they are going through hard times. Thank you that you are always with us, and that you sent Jesus to rescue us and make us part of your family. **Amen.**

Mealtime Prayer

For food in a world where many walk in hunger;
for faith in a world where many walk in fear;
for friends in a world where many walk alone –
we give you thanks, O Lord. Amen.

Blessing

May the God who loves us like a friend and fills our hearts with kindness bless each one of you today. Just as Ruth and Naomi were the best of friends and showed love and care for each other, may you be the kind of friend who sticks by others in good times and bad. And as you leave today, remember that God is with you, guiding your steps, and helping you be a great friend to those around you. Amen

Music

['Blessed be your name' by Matt Redman](#) - This song can be sung to express gratitude and trust in God's providence, a theme central to the story of Ruth and Naomi.

['Your love never fails' by Jesus culture](#) - This song emphasises God's unwavering love and faithfulness, which mirrors the loyalty and support between Ruth and Naomi.)

['Good Good Father' by Chris Tomlin](#) - A song that highlights God's loving and caring nature, which is reflected in Ruth and Naomi's relationship.

['Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me' by CityAlight](#) – This song emphasises Jesus as the redeemer, who rescues us in times of hardship and restores us.

Activities

Early Years:

- Act out key moments in the story (everyone was hungry and very sad, Naomi told Ruth and Orpah to go home, Ruth stuck with Naomi and they go on a long walk, Ruth picked up grain in the fields, Boaz saw Ruth and helped her, Naomi and Ruth making a plan, Ruth and Boaz get married, Ruth had a baby, Naomi was very happy)

Primary:

- Make friendship bracelets. You could include beads with symbols to reflect the story – a heart, cross, grain etc.
- Create a diorama or a classroom altar display to reflect the story

Upper Primary/Secondary:

- Reflect on how vulnerable Ruth and Naomi were in this story. Think of ways you can help the vulnerable people in your community/in the world.
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