

# Old Testament

## Ruth

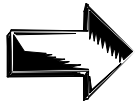
## Ruth 1-4

### Younger Verse

Let your light shine. Matthew 5:16

### Older Verse

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven. Matthew 5:16



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

### Welcome Time

If you had a choice of which relative you could live with—who would it be? In our story today, a girl named Ruth chooses to stay with her husband's mother.

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

A lady named Naomi and her husband lived in the town of Bethlehem. There was not enough food to eat so they moved to the land of Moab. It was there that their 2 sons married. Ruth and Orpah were the names of their wives.

Years later Naomi's husband died and so did her 2 sons. So she and her daughters-in-law were left. Naomi heard that the people in her hometown of Bethlehem were surviving.

She decided to go back to her town. Orpah and Ruth pleaded with Naomi to let them go with her. Finally Orpah decided to go back to her home. However, Ruth told Naomi that she wanted to stay with her. Ruth left everything to follow Naomi.

Ruth and Naomi traveled to Bethlehem. When they arrived, the people in the town became excited. The people were so glad to see Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth.

One day Ruth told Naomi that she would go to the fields and collect the leftover grain, so they would have some bread to eat.

She went to Boaz's field. She didn't know that he was one of Naomi's distant relatives. She patiently gathered lots of grain. The people were nice to her. They let her gather much grain.

### Lesson Goals

**To learn how Ruth loved her mother-in-law, listened to her and followed God  
To see how God had been at work, preparing the way for Jesus  
Just as Ruth followed Naomi, God wants us to follow Him**

Later, Boaz saw her and told his workers to give her lots of grain. He spoke to Ruth and told her not to go anywhere else—he would help her with all her needs.

When Naomi saw how much grain Ruth brought home, she was excited! She knew that God had been good to them. Then she found out that it was Boaz’s field. She was overjoyed. Back in those days, a widow like Ruth, could marry a relative to keep her name and property. Naomi knew that Boaz was that man!

Naomi had a plan. She told Ruth to dress up and quietly sit down by Boaz after he had eaten supper and was asleep. Ruth did all that Naomi asked. Sure enough, Boaz woke up and found Ruth at his feet. He told her that he would marry her. But first he had to talk to a relative that was closer to Ruth than he. In that culture, the closest relative had the first opportunity to marry the girl.

In the morning, he went to the relative and asked if he wanted to marry Ruth and have her land. The man told Boaz “No.” In Boaz’ time, as a sign to show that he was giving up his rights, he took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz.

Boaz was so happy. He told the group that he would marry Ruth. Later Ruth and Boaz had a son. His name was Obed. He was king David’s grandfather. Believe it or not, this son was even a relative of Jesus! (see Matthew 1:5)

Just like Ruth went to a new place to help her relative, Jesus came to us to help us. He lived with us and died. But the BEST news of all is that Jesus is alive. He was alive 3 days later. When we trust Him in our heart and believe that He died and rose for us and our wrongs, we will be with Him in Heaven. What an awesome promise! God had a plan even way back in time with Ruth. You see Bethlehem was the town where Jesus was born! We are so thankful that Ruth listened to Naomi and God. She followed His direction.

#### Learning Activities

Please do NOT see the activities as the ONLY way to teach your kids. They are wonderful tools, but please spend time with the kids, asking questions and being involved in their lives. In other words don’t let a piece of paper substitute for YOU!

#### Memory Verse Activities

Let the kids make a rap using today’s verse. Have fun—this is a great way for kids to remember the verse (kind of like how they remember songs on the radio) (p.s.—don’t forget to include the reference)

#### Prayer Time

Explain to your kids how they can pray. Use some sample sentence prayers to help them see how. Explain that their prayers do not have to be just like yours—they can talk to God just like they are talking to you!

#### Snack Time/CleanUp

Try serving some kind of grain food—like bread with jelly or pretzels. Explain that the food has grain in it like the grain that Ruth gathered in the lesson.

Planning for July 25th  
Hannah has a son  
1 Samuel 1:1-28

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Preschool Lesson  
For  
Ruth

A lady named Naomi and her husband lived in the town of Bethlehem. There was not enough food to eat so they moved to the land of Moab. One of her sons married a woman named Ruth.

Years later Naomi's husband died and so did her son. Naomi decided to go back to her home town. Ruth told Naomi that she wanted to stay with her. Ruth left everything to follow Naomi.

Ruth and Naomi traveled to Bethlehem. When they arrived, the people in the town became excited. The people were so glad to see Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth.

One day Ruth told Naomi that she would go to the fields and collect the leftover grain, so they would have grain to make bread to eat.

She went to Boaz's field. She didn't know that he was part of Naomi's family. She patiently gathered lots of grain. The people were nice to her. They let her gather much grain.

Later, Boaz saw her and told his workers to give her lots of grain. He spoke to Ruth and told her not to go anywhere else—he would help her with all her needs. He liked Ruth.

When Naomi saw how much grain Ruth brought home, she was excited! She knew that God had been good to them.

Naomi had a plan. She told Ruth to dress up and quietly sit down by Boaz after he had eaten supper and was asleep. Ruth did all that Naomi asked. Sure enough, Boaz woke up and found Ruth at his feet. He told her that he would marry her.

Boaz was so happy. He told the group that he would marry Ruth. Later Ruth and Boaz had a son. His name was Obed. He was king David's grandfather. Believe it or not, this son was even a relative of Jesus! (see Matthew 1:5)

God took care of Naomi and Ruth. They loved God and He made sure that they were cared for. God loves us too. He will take care of us because He loves us.

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## Hands-On Activities For Ruth

Cut out the Puppet or paper doll to use with the story.

Make a Placemat for the kids to use as they eat. Talk about how wheat is ground into flour and used to make bread.

Use leftover yogurt containers to make little “Harvest baskets.” Decorate with pictures of wheat.

Try this 3-D picture of Ruth’s hand holding wheat.

Concoct the Goopy grain goodies. These treats are easy Rice cereal treats.

Play Follow the leader. Talk about how Ruth followed Naomi to Bethlehem.

Make a wreath out of wheat or raffia.

Sing “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” Talk about how God knew all things. He knew that Ruth would marry Boaz and have children in the town. This is why, many years later, Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem with Mary. God knew that Jesus would be born there!!

Ruth and Naomi had many obstacles as they traveled by themselves. Arrange an Obstacle course for the group. Let everyone find a partner. The partners will hook arms and together, maneuver through the course.

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