

Welcome to Kids Corner!

Sunday, October 15, 2023

RUTH FOLLOWS NAOMI

Ruth 1:1-17 [4:13-17]

Key Verse:

“Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
Your people shall be my people,
And your God my God.”
Ruth 1:16

The Point:

Like Ruth, we should love others.

Making Connections:

Responding to God’s Love

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Ancient History

Spiritual Practice:

Service



RUTH & NAOMI

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her. - Ruth 1:16-18 (NIV)



RUTH & NAOMI

Read about the story of Ruth and Naomi in Ruth 1.

<p>List the key words from the passage.</p>	<p>What biblical figures are present?</p>
<p>Rewrite one verse from the story.</p>	<p>Is this story in the Old or New Testament?</p> <p>Summarize the story in two sentences.</p>

BACKGROUND

Making Connections

Though God is not described as being directly active in this story, the relationship between Ruth and Naomi continues to demonstrate the power of living in response to a loving relationship with God. While God showed up and spoke to Moses directly in the last two stories, this week will uncover the power of trust and devotion demonstrated in the face of fear and famine.

Story Summary:

Ruth Follows Naomi

Ruth's story begins with Naomi, her future mother-in-law. Naomi is living in Bethlehem when famine and misfortune turn her homeland into a frightening place. Naomi and her family flee to Moab, where her two sons defy the commandment not to marry foreigners and wed two Moab women, Ruth and Orpah.

Happiness is fleeting, however, and soon all three men in the family have died, leaving only Naomi and her two daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah. As women, they have few resources, for they cannot own land and might be forced to beg for food. Thus, Naomi decides it would be best if she returns to her family in Bethlehem, but she gives her widowed daughters-in-law her blessing to stay behind and return to their own families instead of following her to a new land. While Orpah agrees to stay, Ruth refuses to leave Naomi's side.

The Point

Like Ruth, we should love others. Ruth promises to be faithful and true to Naomi, to follow Naomi back to Bethlehem, and to stay by her side and follow her God forever. The story of Ruth is an example of how we should respond to God's love by loving those around us, and showing that love in the ways that we care for and serve them.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Ancient History

Today's story moves us out of the Torah, or Law, and into portion of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) known as the Histories, which includes the books from Joshua through Esther. A modern way of understanding history is to ask the question "Did this really happen?" That question was not as important to the writers of the Bible. They focused on "How is God interacting with Israel?" They also focused on how the story about the past could help the readers of the stories deal with what was going on in their lives

Spiritual Practice: Service

Service is an essential element of the story of Ruth. By pledging her lifelong devotion to Naomi, by promising to go where Naomi goes, to live where Naomi lives, and to believe in Naomi's God, Ruth demonstrates essential ingredients of service—trust, faith, devotion, and love.



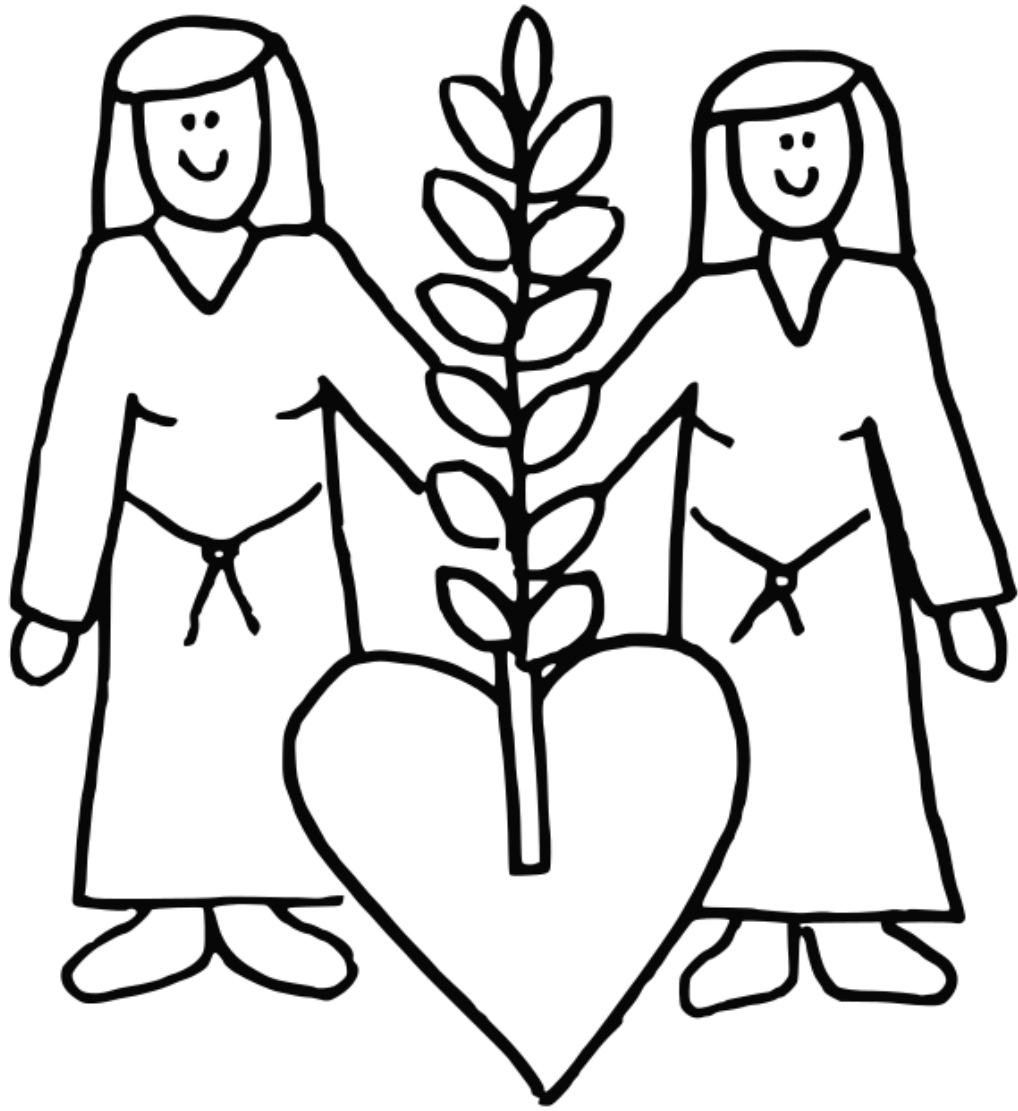
Ruth & Naomi Word Search

B Y U D T M L M C M N C Q B F
B E T F R I E N D S H I P T A
D A T L P P H E D N W F R D M
I L R H A W D V I O P A T E I
M O E L L Y T A E S V R D I L
S K F I E E O E D E O R M R I
B O A Z F Y H L L P O O O R E
T S E V R A H E P P A W Y A S
R E H T O M D U M N T F E M J
H T U R M X S W O R K I N G K

barley
Bethlehem
Boaz
died
drop
families
field
friendship
harvest
leave



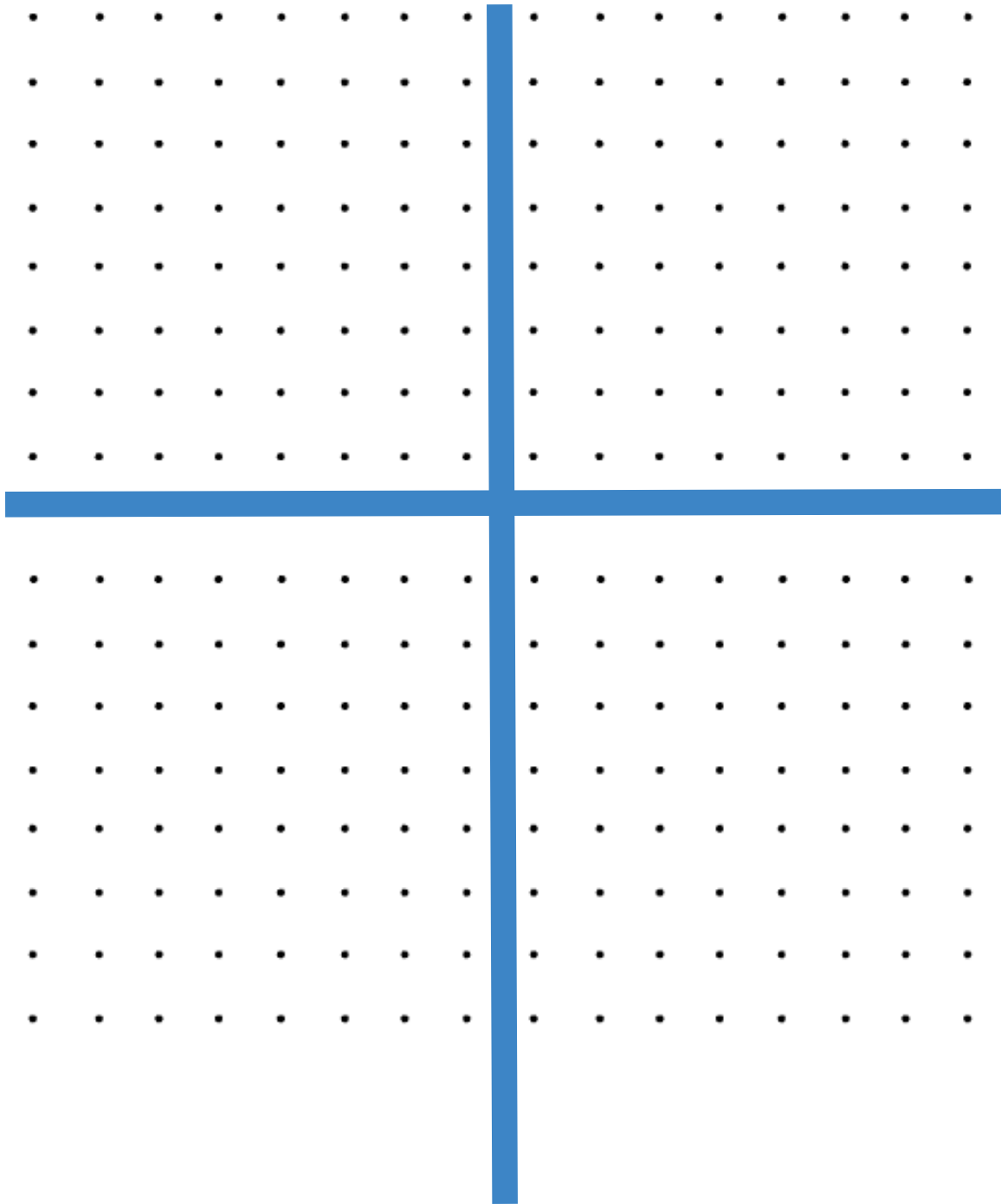
loyalty
married
mother
Naomi
Ruth
sons
support
traveled
two
working



NAOMI

RUTH

Dots and Boxes





THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story

Narrative Lectionary, Year 2 (2023-2024)

Lesson #2-6

Ruth 1:1-17 [4:13-17]

LAST WEEK

After the Israelites have been liberated from slavery, God gives them instructions—laws—to learn how to live in freedom (Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9).

THIS WEEK

After the people of Israel have settled in the Promised Land, a non-Israelite foreigner, Ruth, shows love and loyalty to her mother-in-law, despite the great risk to herself (Ruth 1:1-17 [4:13-17]).

STORY SUMMARY

Naomi is living in Bethlehem when famine and misfortune strike. Naomi and her family flee to Moab, where her two sons wed Ruth and Orpah. But all three men in the family died, leaving only Naomi and her two daughters-in-law. As women, Naomi, Ruth and Orpah have few resources; they could not own land and might be forced to beg for food. Naomi decides to return to her family in Bethlehem, but she gives her widowed daughters-in-law her blessing to stay behind and return to their own families. While Orpah agrees to stay, Ruth refuses to leave Naomi's side.

PRACTICE SERVICE

Service is an essential element of Ruth's story. By pledging her lifelong devotion to Naomi, by promising to go where Naomi goes, to live where Naomi lives, and to believe in Naomi's God, Ruth demonstrates essential ingredients of service—trust, faith, devotion, and love.

THE POINT

Like Ruth, we should love others.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Ancient History

Today's story moves us out of the Torah, or Law, and into portion of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) known as the Histories, which includes the books from Joshua through Esther. A modern way of understanding history is to ask the question "Did this really happen?" That question was not as important to the writers of the Bible. They focused on "How is God interacting with Israel?" They also focused on how the story about the past could help the readers of the stories deal with what was going on in their lives.

NEXT WEEK

Ruth's faith and loyalty are passed down to her great-grandson, the most famous, and faithful, king of Israel: David (2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ In what way does this text teach about the theme, Responding to God's Love?
- ✚ What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✚ What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Ruth 1:1-17 [4:13-17]

Ruth follows Naomi.

Who would you always follow?

Monday—Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

David is anointed.

What does a king look like? Draw a picture of a king.

Tuesday—Read 1 Samuel 18:1-5

David and Jonathan.

Describe your best friend.

Wednesday—Read 1 Samuel 18:6-16

David's success, Saul's jealousy.

What kinds of things make you jealous?

Thursday—Read 1 Samuel 24:1-7

David spares Saul.

This scene reads like a spy drama. Act it out.

Friday—Read 1 Samuel 24:8-15

David speaks to Saul.

Sometimes it can be hard to make the right choice. When were you tempted to do something wrong, but chose to do the right thing instead?

Saturday—Read 1 Samuel 24:16-22

Saul replies.

How do you feel when you learn that someone has extended love and forgiveness to you? How do you respond?