

Chapter 6

🌀 Ruth & Naomi 🌀

“Be loyal, like Ruth”

LONG LONG AGO, in the town of Bethlehem in Israel, Naomi lived with her husband and two sons. There was a famine in the land, and they didn't have any food. Naomi and her family moved to Moab, which is a country next to Israel, where there was food. They lived in Moab for several years. Then Naomi's husband died. Her two sons married Orpah and Ruth, women from the town they were living in. They lived there happily for ten years, though neither of the sons and their

Sample Chapter
Cedar Fort, Inc.

Scripture Princesses

wives had any children in those years. Then, unexpectedly, Naomi's two sons also died. All that was left were Naomi and her two daughters-in-law.

Part of the Mosaic Law outlined by Jehovah was that if a brother died without any children, the next brother should marry his brother's widow, and have their children be in the name of his brother, to inherit all the brother's land and status. However, Naomi didn't have any more sons. She had nothing to offer her daughters-in-law anymore.



Naomi heard that there was no longer a famine in Israel, so she decided to go back home.

She told her daughters-in-law, “Go home to your families here in Moab. I’m going to go back to my own land.” Orpah and Ruth loved Naomi, so they cried together.

Orpah decided she would go back to her own family, but Ruth hugged Naomi and said, “Please don’t ask me to leave you. Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.”



Scripture Princesses

The people of Moab didn't believe in the God of Israel. Ruth had a different religion. But she decided to become a faithful Jew, and live with Naomi as her daughter.

So the two of them moved to Israel, two poor widows, with only themselves to help each other.

When harvest time came in Israel, poor people were allowed to glean in the fields. As workers went through a field and harvested the grain, they were not to pick up anything that dropped out of their bundles, but instead to leave it on the ground. Poor people would travel behind, picking up whatever grain was left on the ground. This is called gleaning.

Naomi sent Ruth to glean in the fields at harvest time, so they could have barley and wheat for bread through the winter. She went to a field where people were harvesting, and started to glean.

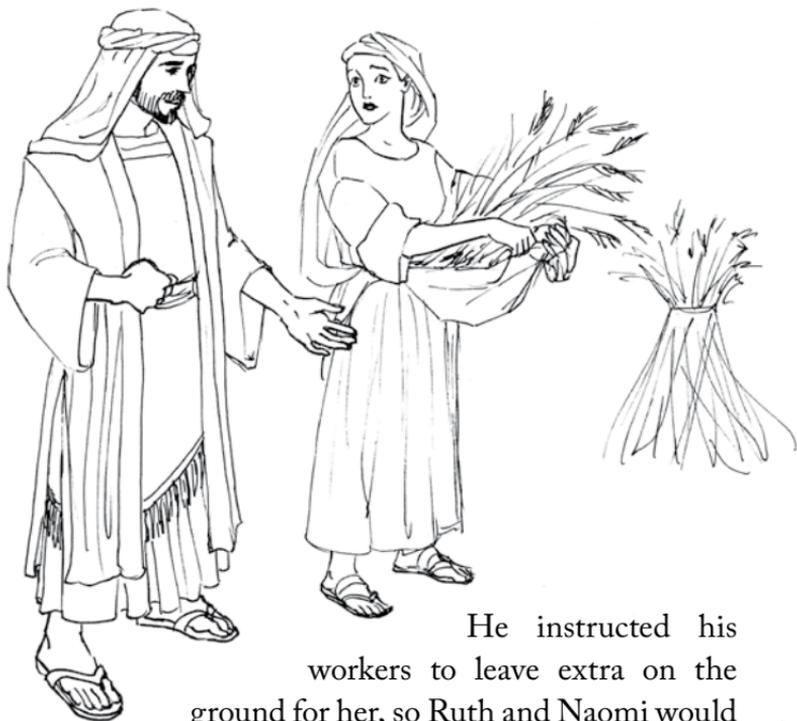
The owner of the field where Ruth was gleaning noticed her, and asked his people around him, “Who is this woman? I don’t know her.”

“This is Naomi’s daughter-in-law, Ruth, from Moab, who has left her own land to help Naomi.”

The land-owner’s name was Boaz, a close relative of Naomi’s dead husband, and he admired Ruth for all she was doing to help Naomi.

He went up to her and said, “You stay in my fields, and glean here. Stay close to my women workers.”





He instructed his workers to leave extra on the ground for her, so Ruth and Naomi would have enough to eat.

When Ruth got home that night, she came with a lot of grain, and told Naomi what had happened. Naomi was excited that her dead husband's relative had shown kindness and admiration to Ruth. Naomi saw a possible opportunity.

Through the harvest, Boaz continued to show kindness to Ruth, and even fed her with his workers.

Naomi decided to try something! She hoped to ask him to marry Ruth like one of her sons would have done, to take care of the two widows, and have children for her dead husband's line.

Naomi gave Ruth very specific instructions on what to do, for she was from a different country, and wouldn't know all the cultural practices of Israel in that time. She was to go and uncover Boaz's feet in the night, and lay down at his feet, and ask him to "cover her with his skirt," or to marry her.

Ruth very bravely did as Naomi instructed. She went to where Boaz was sleeping on the threshing floor, guarding his harvest. She uncovered his feet, and laid down. He did not wake up until midnight, and when he did he was startled to find someone lying there at his feet.



Scripture Princesses

She said to him, “I am Ruth. Spread your skirt over me, because you are a close relative.”

She asked him to marry her!



Boaz admired her even more. and said, “Well, I could. But there is one man who is a closer relative than I am. I will ask him first if he will marry you. If he will not, I will.”

He sent her back home quietly, so no one would know she had been there. He filled her headcloth with grain to take back home with her.



The next morning, Boaz went into town and hailed the other close relative on the street. He called him over, as well as several other elders of the town, and had them sit down. Boaz asked the man, Ploni Almoni, if he wanted to buy the land that Naomi's family owned. "Sure!" he said.

Then Boaz said, "If you buy this land, you will need to marry Ruth, Naomi's daughter-in-law." Ploni was uninterested in marrying Ruth.

Scripture Princesses

So Boaz stated in front of the elders of the town that he was purchasing Naomi's land, and going to marry Ruth.

Once Boaz and Ruth were married, they had a son, Obed. Naomi lived with them, and was so happy with her grandson.

Obed was grandfather to King David and many generations later, Jesus Christ was born to King David's line.

So Ruth was blessed to be an ancestor of Jesus Christ.

