

Friends and Family



MEMORY VERSE: Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. **Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.**
Ruth 1:16b



RUTH 1:1-7 Tragedy Strikes

1. Why did Naomi and her family go to live in Moab?
2. What sad things happened to Naomi while she lived in Moab?
3. Have you ever lost someone you love very much? How can friends or family members help each other when something bad happens?



RUTH 1:8-13 Naomi Releases Her Daughters-in-law

4. Naomi decided to go home to Judah. What did Naomi tell the girls to do?
5. What do you think would be easier for the girls to do — stay in Moab or go with Naomi? Why?

6. Do you think Naomi really wanted the girls to stay in Moab or to go with her?
Why do you think so?



RUTH 1:14-18 Ruth Is Determined to Follow God

7. What did Orpah decide to do? What did Ruth do?

8. What promise did Ruth make to Naomi? What promise did Ruth make to God?

9. Why do you think Ruth was so determined to go with Naomi? What makes a person worth “clinging tightly” to?

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

Have you ever felt lonely or sad because you lost someone you love very much? Even though God is always with us, He knows that it is not good for us to be alone. He puts special people in our lives to comfort us and to help us learn to love and serve. He also puts us in other people's lives so we can help them. Friends and family are best when they love God and are loyal to each other.

PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear Lord, thank You for giving me friends and a family to live with and to love. Help me to love You so much, and to love others so well, that my family and friends want to know You and love You more. Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



Proverbs 17:17 says, “A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.”

How can you be a loyal friend and helpful family member?

Ruth 1:1-18

Ruth 1:1-7

1 In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him. 2 The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there.

3 Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons.

4 The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth. But about ten years later, 5 both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband.

6 Then Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland. 7 With her two daughters-in-law she set out from the place where she had been living, and they took the road that would lead them back to Judah.

Ruth 1:8-13

8 But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back to your mothers' homes. And may the Lord reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me. 9 May the Lord bless you with the security of another marriage." Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept.

10 "No," they said. "We want to go with you to your people." 11 But Naomi replied, "Why should you go on with me? Can I still give birth to other sons who could grow up to be your husbands? 12 No, my daughters, return to your parents' homes, for I am too old to marry again. And even if it were possible, and I were to get married tonight and bear sons, then what? 13 Would you wait for them to grow up and refuse to marry someone else? No, of course not, my daughters! Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the Lord himself has raised his fist against me."

Ruth 1:14-18

14 And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi.

15 "Look," Naomi said to her, "your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same." 16 But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

17 Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!" 18 When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.

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