

Ruth and Naomi

In the days of the judges, an Israelite family went to live in the land of Moab. The father died, leaving his wife Naomi and his two sons. Each of the sons took a wife from among the women of Moab. Ten years passed, and both sons died. Naomi was left alone with her two daughters-in-law.

Naomi said to them, "Go back to your families, and I will return to my home in the Land of Israel." She hugged and kissed them and all three women began to weep. The young women said to her, "Let us go with you, to your people." But Naomi shook her head and said, "Turn back." Then one of the young women kissed Naomi and returned to her home.



But the other, Ruth, refused to leave. Ruth said to Naomi, "Where you go, I will go. Where you make your home, I will make my home. Your people shall be my people. And your God shall be my God. Where you die, I will die. And there I will be buried."

So together they crossed the Jordan River and came to Bethlehem. It was the harvest season. The poor went out to the fields to glean. They would pick up the grain that the farm workers left behind. Ruth told Naomi, "I will go out and glean so that we may have food." Naomi sent Ruth to the field of her relative, a rich man named Boaz.

When Boaz saw Ruth he asked his servant, "Who is this young woman?" And the servant replied, "She returned from Moab with Naomi." Then Boaz went to Ruth and said, "Glean only in my field. I have heard how you left your home in Moab to honor your mother-in-law, Naomi. God will reward you." And Boaz told his workers to leave grain behind where Ruth could find it easily.

Every day, Ruth went to the field of Boaz. And every night, she returned home with her basket filled with grain.

One night Naomi said, "Daughter, you need a home. Do as I say: Put on your best clothing and your perfume oil. Find Boaz and wait until he goes to rest. Then go to him and he will tell you what to do."



Now Boaz finished eating and his heart was filled with cheer. He went to rest. Ruth came up to him softly. "I am your relative, Ruth," she said. "And I need your help."

Boaz said, "Have no fear, I will help you." He went to the city gate to find Naomi's closest relative. "Either you or I must buy the land of Naomi and marry her daughter," Boaz said to the man. "It is up to you, because you are Naomi's nearest cousin. What will you do?"

"I am already married," said the man.

Boaz turned to the others in the marketplace. "You are all my witnesses," he said. "I will marry Ruth the Moabite, and give her children, to carry on our family name." And the people near the gate heard and said, "May God bless you both."

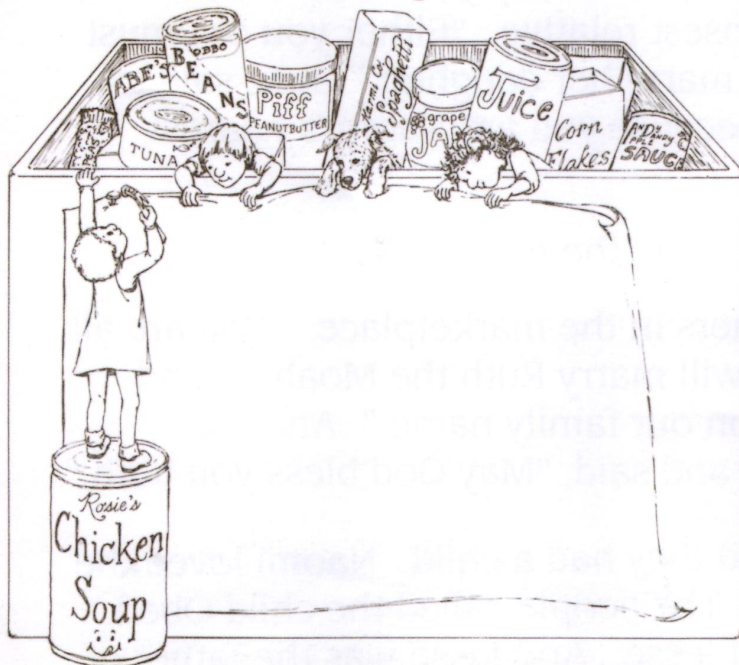
Boaz married Ruth and they had a child. Naomi loved the child as if it were her own. The people called the child Obed. And Obed was the father of Jesse. And Jesse was the father of David, who rose to become the King of Israel. This was the special blessing that God gave to Ruth who had remained loyal to Naomi and converted to the faith of the Jews.



Make a Sign

It is important to help people who do not have enough food. Make a sign or draw a picture telling people to give food and money to feed the hungry.

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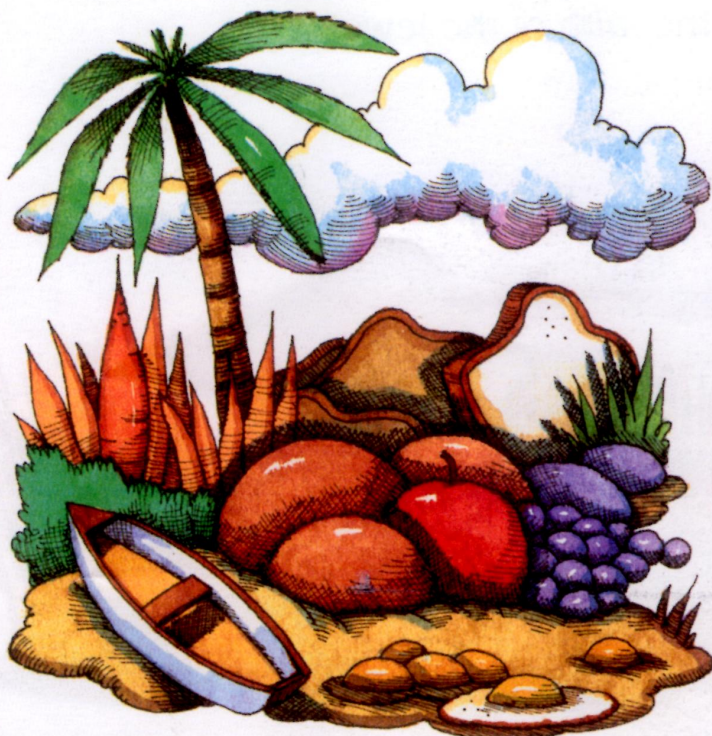


My Family Tree

Obed was Ruth's son.
Obed was the father of Jesse.
Jesse was the father of King David.
Ruth was King David's great grandmother.

Find out about your great grandparents.

Food Find the things to eat hidden in this picture.



Great Grandparents

Grandparents

Parents

Me

? A BIG QUESTION Why is it important to help other people? **?**