GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Ruth Stays with Naomi

Ruth 1:1-22



YOUR BIBLE READING

Faithful love stays near people who are grieving.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

Three Women on the Road

Ruth 1:1-22



During a famine, a man from Bethlehem named Elimelech went to live in Moab with his wife Naomi and their two sons. They had left a place short of food and made a home in another country. Elimelech died there, leaving Naomi and the sons. The young men married Moabite women named Orpah and Ruth. After about ten years in Moab, both sons died too. The household had suffered great losses.

Naomi was left without her husband and sons. Ruth and Orpah had each lost a husband. Then Naomi heard that God had provided food for his people in her homeland. She prepared to return from Moab to Judah. The two younger women began the road with her. The news of bread gave Naomi a reason to travel, but leaving Moab did not remove the sorrow the three women carried from the deaths in their family.

Along the way, Naomi told her daughters-in-law to return to their mothers' homes. She remembered the kindness they had shown to the men who had died and to her. She prayed that God would show kindness to them and give them rest in new homes. Then she kissed them goodbye. They cried aloud and said they would go with her. Their first answer was to remain together on the road toward her people.

Naomi urged them again to go back. She explained that she could not offer them new husbands from her own family and described the bitterness of her situation. She grieved for their sake as well as her own. The conversation did not make an easy choice appear. Each woman faced a changed life after loss. Naomi was asking the younger women to consider their future rather than simply follow because the journey had already begun.

Remember: I can show love by walking beside someone in sadness.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Ruth Chooses to Stay

Ruth 1:1-22



They cried again. Orpah kissed Naomi and returned, but Ruth stayed close to her. Naomi pointed out that Orpah had gone back to her people and her god, and told Ruth to follow. The passage does not call Orpah cruel or describe a punishment for her departure. She had shown kindness and grief. The two daughters-in-law now chose different paths, with Ruth determined to continue beside Naomi.

Ruth answered that Naomi should not urge her to leave. Wherever Naomi went, she would go; where Naomi stayed, she would stay. She would make Naomi's people her people and Naomi's God her God. She spoke of remaining together until death. Her answer was not only a promise to finish a short walk. It joined her future home, community, and worship to the woman she had chosen to accompany.

When Naomi saw Ruth's determination, she stopped urging her to turn back. The two continued until they reached Bethlehem. The town was stirred by their arrival, and people asked whether this was Naomi. She answered honestly about her sorrow, asking to be called Mara, meaning bitter, rather than Naomi, meaning pleasant. She felt that she had left full and returned empty. The account lets her speak her grief rather than requiring a cheerful answer.

Naomi returned with Ruth, identified again as the Moabite woman who had come with her. They arrived at the beginning of the barley harvest. That timing gives the ending a concrete setting: the women have reached Bethlehem as grain is being gathered. This passage stops there, before the next events in the fields. Ruth's loyalty has not erased Naomi's losses, but it has meant that Naomi does not finish the journey alone.

Pause and think: What might it look like to offer steady company without expecting someone's sadness to disappear?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Walk Beside Someone Without Trying to Fix Everything



When someone is grieving, you may not know what to say. An adult can help you offer simple company, a kind note, or a practical task that the person welcomes. You do not have to make them cheerful. Ruth cannot bring back the family members who died, but she can remain with Naomi. What is the difference between caring for someone and trying to control how they feel?

People may make different choices after a loss. Orpah returns home and Ruth continues. The passage has already said that both women showed kindness. We do not need to invent a bad ending for one to understand the other's loyal choice. Think about an ordinary situation in which two people can choose different ways to help without either person becoming worthless or unkind.

Moving to a new place can involve new customs, people, and routines. If a newcomer joins your group, ask a respectful question rather than assuming you know their whole story. They may want help finding a room or understanding an activity, or they may prefer time to watch. A thoughtful welcome begins with noticing the person and listening to what they actually need.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Ruth stays with Naomi through grief and a journey into a changed life in Bethlehem.

What might it look like to offer steady company without expecting someone’s sadness to disappear?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What choice did Ruth make?

2. What was beginning when they reached Bethlehem?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ They arrived as the barley harvest began.
- ☐ Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem.
- ☐ Ruth chose to stay with Naomi.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw Ruth and Naomi walking together toward Bethlehem.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

I can show love by walking beside someone in sadness.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Ruth 1:16-18

A thoughtful conversation

Allow room for Naomi's grief. Ruth's loyalty does not make sadness disappear, and the text does not call Orpah cruel for returning home.

Activity answers

1. She chose to stay with Naomi, join her people, and worship her God.
2. The barley harvest.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 1, 2. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

God, help us be gentle companions to people who are sad. Amen.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Ruth 1:1-22. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 08_Ru_01_06_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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