Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

RUTH

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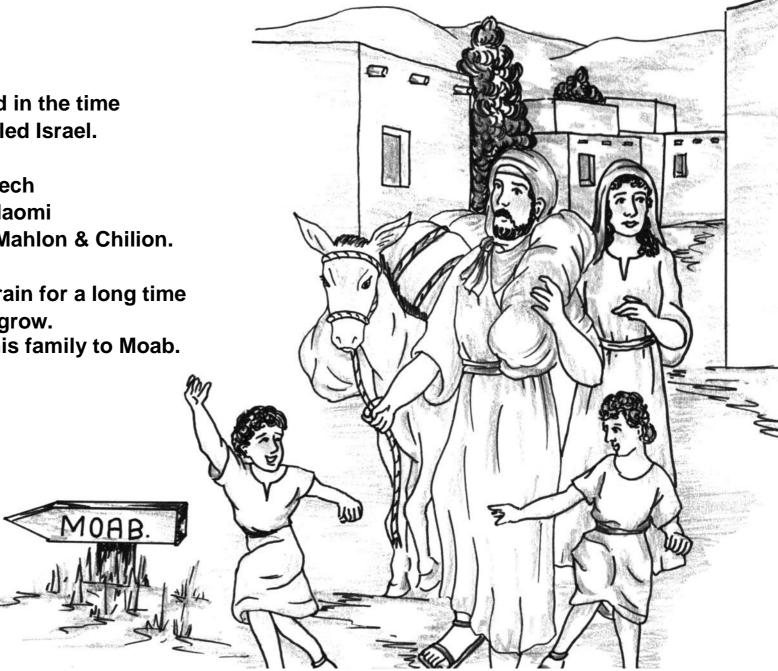
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RUTH 1:1 – 4:22; Leviticus 19:9,10 **RUTH** File no. 49

This story happened in the time when the Judges ruled Israel.

A man called Elimelech lived with his wife Naomi and their two boys Mahlon & Chilion.

There had been no rain for a long time and food could not grow. So Elimelech took his family to Moab.



After some time Elimelech died. Mahlon and Chilion grew up and they married Orpah and Ruth.

Ten years later both Mahlon and Chilion died. Naomi was alone in a strange land with her son's wives.

Then Naomi heard that the Lord had sent rain to His people in Israel and there was plenty of food.

Naomi decided to go back to her home in Bethlehem. Orpah and Ruth said they would go with her.



On their way Naomi said to Orpah and Ruth, 'Go back to your mother's house. You have been very kind to me. I trust God will be kind to you.'

Naomi kissed Orpah and Ruth and they began to cry. Orpah said goodbye and went home.

Ruth held on to Naomi and said, 'Don't ask me to leave you! Every place you go, I will go. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God. May the Lord punish me if I don't keep this promise.'

Then they went on to Israel.



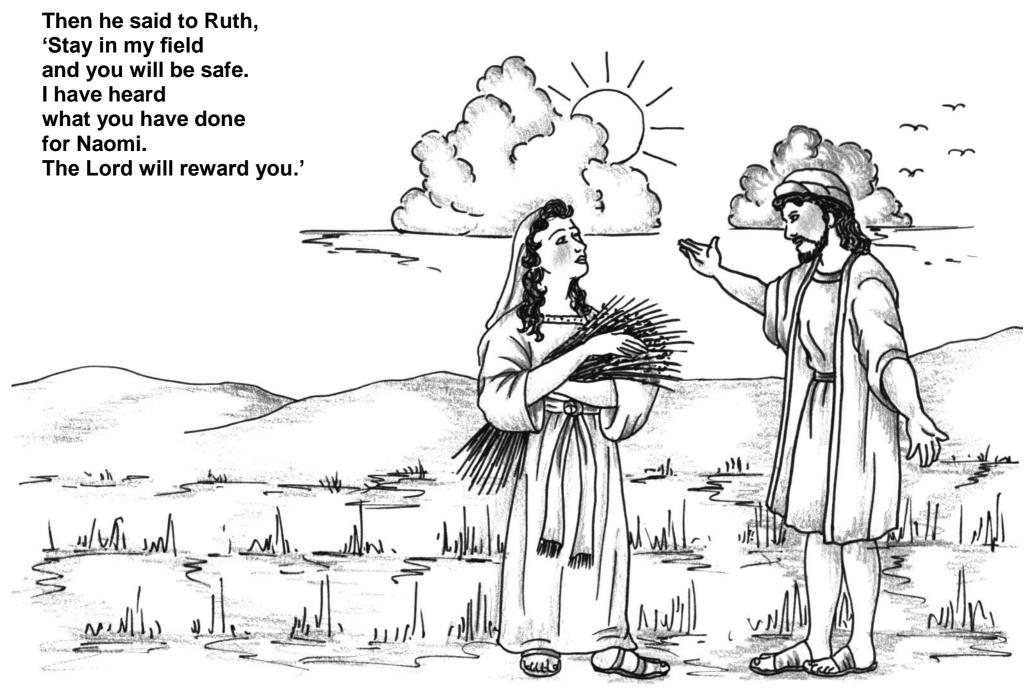
From Naomi's home in Bethlehem Ruth went to the fields to gather grain. She did not know that the field she went to belonged to Boaz and that he was related to Naomi.

Boaz saw Ruth and he asked, 'Who is this lady?'

Boaz's men said, 'She is the one who came back with Naomi.'

So Boaz said to his men, 'Leave extra grain for Ruth.'



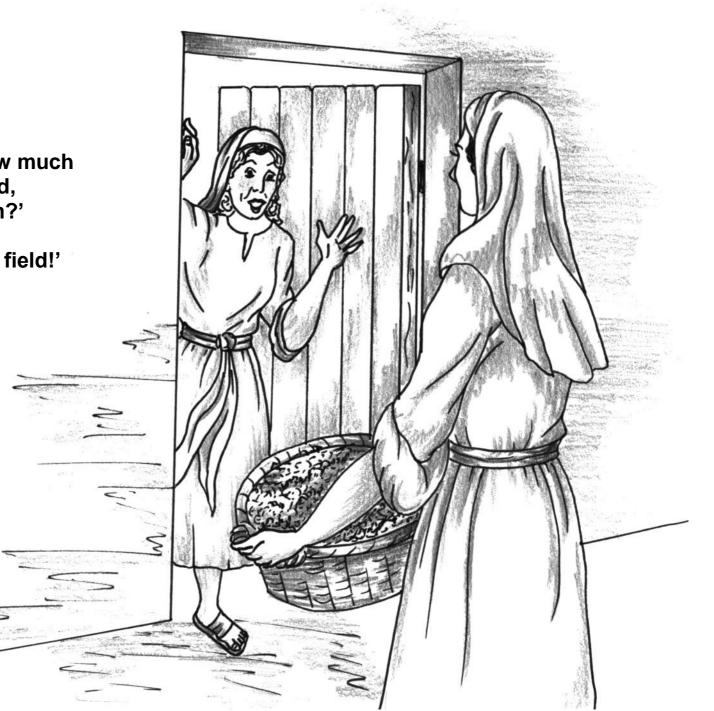


At the end of the day Ruth took lots of barley home to Naomi.

Naomi was surprised at how much she had gathered and asked, 'Which field did you work in?'

Ruth replied, 'It was Boaz's field!'

Naomi saw that God was looking after them.



When harvesting was finished Naomi told Ruth to go to Boaz with a special request.

Ruth went to him and said, 'I am your servant. You are a close relative and can save Naomi's family by marrying me.'

Boaz said, 'God bless you Ruth. Don't be afraid I will do what you have asked. Everyone knows that you are a good lady.'



Boaz married Ruth. God gave them a son and they called him Obed.

Naomi's friends praised the Lord for His kindness to Naomi.

