

# RUTH

*My life experiences  
and God's faithfulness*

# Ruth 1

(The first chapter of my story)

Some time ago, Elimelech, Naomi and their two sons came to live here in Moab because there was a famine in Judah.

But sadly after a few years, Naomi's husband, Elimelech, died.

Naomi's sons, Mahlon and Chilion, both got married. I (Ruth) became a wife of the one, and Orpah married the other. We were married for about ten years when both our husbands died as well. Naomi was very, very sad, and so were we.

Now Naomi had no husband and no sons, and so she decided to go back to her people in Judah. The famine was over and there was enough food again. So the three of us set off. We were well on our way when Naomi said, "Why don't you two rather stay here in Moab and marry someone else from our own people?"

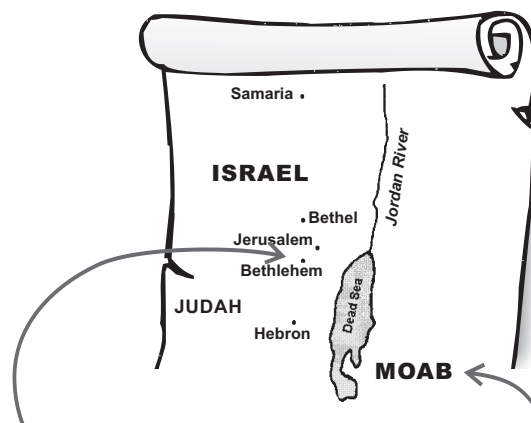
So Orpah decided to go back home, but I said to Naomi,

"Please don't tell me to leave you and return home! I will go where you go, I will live where you live; your

people will be my people, your God will be my God."

When Naomi saw that I had made up my mind to go with her, she stopped urging me to go back. So we kept on walking and eventually reached the town of Bethlehem.

As we got there, everyone came out to greet us and made us feel at home.



This map shows the country of Moab and the town of Bethlehem.

1

Memories of my home country, Moab.

← Some sand  
.... and a leaf →  
that I picked up as I was leaving.

## What I have learnt about faith, trust and knowing God

- ★ I learnt about faith from watching Naomi. Life was tough for her but she just carried on believing in God and trusting Him.
- ★ I learnt about life; we can never know for sure what will happen. But when we know God, we can trust him to help us through those difficult times.
- ★ I learnt that the most important thing in life is to live for God and follow in His ways. I guess that's why I wanted to stay with Naomi and go with her to the land where they worship the true God.

2

## Ruth 2

(The second chapter of my story)

One day I had an idea. I told Naomi that I was going out to see if I could find someone who would let me pick up stalks of grain that the workers in the fields had dropped.

Naomi thought it was a good idea, so off I went. Soon, I found a field where workers were harvesting. I went to ask them if I could pick up the stalks they had dropped. The workers were kind and let me work behind them.

It wasn't long before an important looking man came along. It turned out that he was the owner of the land - a man called Boaz. I wondered whether he'd be angry to find me there. But then he came walking over to me and said, "I think you should not go anywhere else to pick up grain - stay here with my men. They will look after you."

Wow, he was so kind to me even though I was a stranger from a different country.

He seemed to know all about me - that I had come from Moab with Naomi and that my husband had died.

Then he invited me to have lunch with them. After lunch, when everyone carried on working, I noticed that the men were dropping extra stalks for me to pick up.

Before sunset, I beat out the grain and managed to fill a whole basket, which I carried back to Naomi.

When Naomi saw all the grain, she said, "Where did you get all the grain? Where did you work today? God bless the person who helped you."

So from then on, I worked in the fields of Boaz until the end of the harvest, and Naomi and I had plenty of food.

3



This is some of the grain I gathered.

### What I have come to realise over the past while

- ★ That God cares for us all the time - every day.
- ★ That God sometimes uses other people to help us.
- ★ That if we all help each other, everyone will have enough.



"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" Matthew 6:26.

4

## Ruth 3

(The third chapter of my story)

Earlier on today, Naomi came to me and said, "Ruth, have you thought about getting married again? You know, Boaz on whose fields you have been working is kind of responsible for looking after us because of our family ties.

I happen to know that tonight he will be at the threshing floor where they separate the grain from the husks. So, go and get yourself dressed in your nicest clothes and put on some special perfume.

Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know that you're there until he has had supper and gone to sleep. Then quietly go and lie at his feet."

I did exactly as my mother-in-law had suggested and went down to the place where Boaz and his workers were.

Although it was pretty dark, I had seen exactly where Boaz went to lie down. So when everyone was fast asleep, I crept down to where Boaz was sleeping and went to lie at his feet.

Around midnight, Boaz suddenly woke up. I think he got a fright when he felt me lying at his feet.

"Who are you?" he asked. (It was dark so he couldn't see.)

"I am your servant, Ruth," I answered.

"The Lord bless you," he said. "Don't be afraid. I know that you are a woman of noble character. Stay here for the night, and in the morning I will speak to your closer relative. I have a plan, but I need to sort some things out with him first."

So I stayed there for the night, but left to go back home very early in the morning.

As I was leaving, Boaz gave me a whole lot of barley to take back home to Naomi.

5

# Love

The people and the things I am grateful for

- ★ Those like Naomi who care about me.
- ★ For practical and wise advice from those who know me best.
- ★ For good, dependable people like Boaz who are always kind and helpful.



"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" Colossians 3:12.



6

## Ruth 4

(The fourth chapter of my story)

Meanwhile, Boaz had gone to town to wait at the big gate. When our relative came along, Boaz invited him to come over and chat.

Boaz had made sure that there were ten elders there as witnesses.

Then he said to the relative, "Naomi is selling the field that belonged to her husband. If you want to buy it then do so, otherwise I will buy it."

The relative immediately wanted to buy the land. But when he heard that Naomi and I would share in the inheritance of his other properties, he changed his mind.

"You can buy it," he said to Boaz and gave him his sandal. (This was a custom to make their agreement legal.)

Then Boaz said to the elders and the others standing around, "You are my witnesses that I have bought Naomi's land, and by doing so, I now have the right and responsibility to marry Ruth."

So Boaz and I got married! You can just imagine how happy I was.

God had turned my sadness into joy. Now I had someone to love me and look after me, and Naomi also had someone who would take care of her in her old age.

Then God blessed me with a baby boy and I called him Obed. Now, Naomi often puts him on her lap and cares for him.

As I think back of how God worked out His wonderful plan for my life, I wonder what special plan He has for Obed.

7



This is a sketch of us on our wedding day

### The things I pray for

- ★ That God will help me to be a loving wife and a good mother.
- ★ That God will remind me where I came from so that I will always think of others.
- ★ That God will keep using me as He wants to.

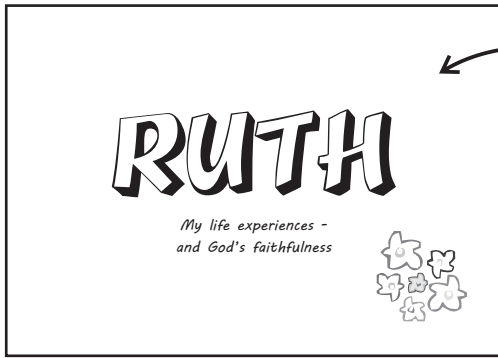
"I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow" Jeremiah 31:13b.



8



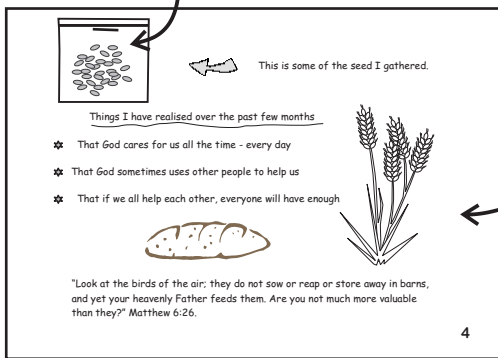
# Decorating the scrapbook



Front cover

Colour in and decorate the cover page.

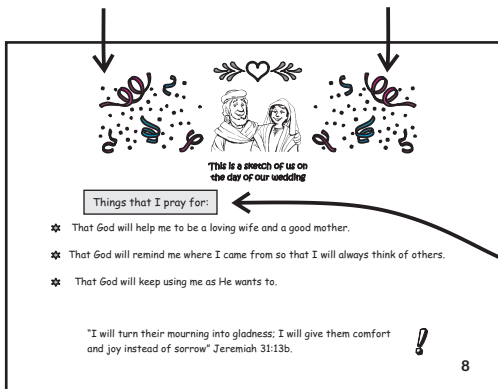
Staple a small Zip-Lock packet with wholewheat kernels to the page. Alternatively, spread a patch of white glue and sprinkle kernels or seeds onto the glue.



Page 4

Colour in the two pictures

Spread some glue along the top of the page and sprinkle glitter or confetti around the couple. Add other decorations if desired.

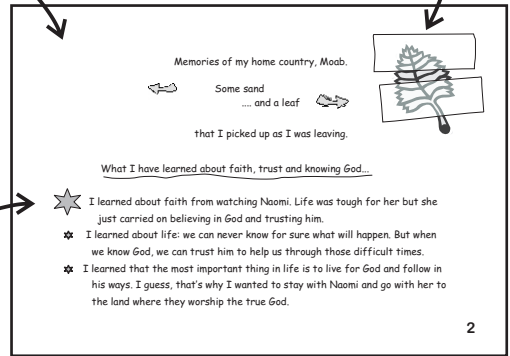


Page 8

Glue the appropriate headings (printed on coloured paper) over the existing heading.

Spread a little glue on the page and sprinkle some play sand onto it.

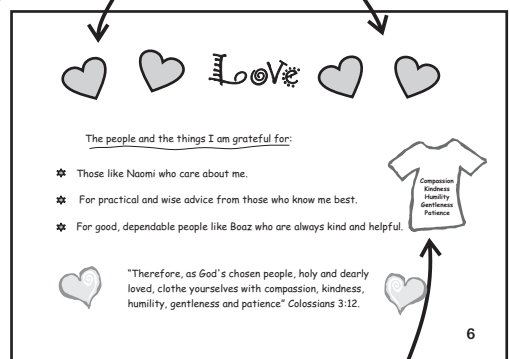
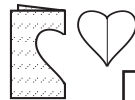
Use clear tape to fix the leaf to the page.



Page 2

Stick stars over the printed bullets.

Cut out the hearts--preferably printed on red paper--and glue them along the top.



Page 6

Shade in the T-shirt with a colour pencil.



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