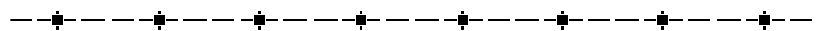


# Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

# Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners  
Adaptable for all ages including adults

# Old Testament

## A Daughter-in-law is Blessed

Ruth

Last week we learned about Hannah. She was very unhappy because she had no children. Hannah prayed and asked God for a son. She promised God that if He gave her a son, she would give Him that son. God answered her prayer. Hannah had Samuel. When Samuel was old enough, she took Samuel to Eli, the priest. Hannah kept her promise to God.

Ruth 1-4

### Read the Bible

**READ: Ruth 1:6-17 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

## A Daughter-in-law is Blessed Ruth 1:6-17

### Memory Verse:

Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by **Ruth**, and Obed the father of Jesse.  
(Matthew 1:5 NIrV)

### Lesson Goals:

1. Learn that Ruth was loyal to Naomi.
2. Learn that Ruth chose to serve God.
3. Recognize that Ruth was a Moabite.
4. Understand that God blessed Ruth.

### Begin With Prayer

This week we will learn about Ruth. Ruth was the daughter-in-law of Naomi. Naomi was an Israelite. She and her husband had gone to live in Moab because there was not enough food in Judah. Naomi's two sons married there. In time, Naomi's husband and both of her sons died. (Ruth 1:1-5) Naomi was left with her two daughters-in-law. She told them to go back to their families. Orpah went back after trying to refuse, but Ruth would not leave Naomi. (Ruth 1:14) Naomi tried to talk Ruth into leaving her and going back to her own family. "But Ruth replied, 'Don't try to make me leave you and go back. Where you go I'll go. Where you stay I'll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God... I won't let anything except death separate you from me.'" (Ruth 1:15-17) Ruth was loyal to Naomi. God wants us to be loyal to Him. God wants us to choose to serve and follow Him always. When Naomi heard that, she stopped trying to make Ruth leave her. The two women traveled to Bethlehem. (Ruth 1:18-19) Ruth talked to Naomi about going to the fields to pick up grain. Naomi agreed. Ruth went to work in a field that belonged to Boaz. He was a relative of Naomi's husband, Elimelech. (Ruth 2:1-3) One day Naomi told Ruth that she would try to find a home for her. She told her that Boaz was a relative who could marry her. (Ruth 3:1-2) Naomi instructed Ruth to go to Boaz and that Boaz would tell her what to do. (Ruth 3:3-4) Ruth told Naomi that she would do all that she had asked her to do. Ruth did everything that Naomi had asked her to do. (Ruth 3:6) Ruth was not an Israelite. But she chose to serve God. Ruth was loyal to Naomi. God blessed Ruth. When Boaz encountered Ruth, he said, ""Dear woman, may the Lord bless you." (Ruth 3:10-11) Because of the rules of the Israelites, Boaz had to make sure that a closer relative had the opportunity to buy the land that Naomi owned. By buying the land, the person was obligated to

### Ruth—Bible Facts

1. Ruth was a Moabite.
2. Naomi was Ruth's mother-in-law.
3. Ruth was a widow.
4. Ruth chose to follow Naomi and serve God.
5. God richly blessed Ruth.

marry Ruth. (Ruth 4:7) Boaz wanted to marry Ruth so he said that he would talk to that relative (Ruth 3:12-13)

Boaz met with the town leaders and the relative. He told him that Naomi had land to sell and buying the land meant marrying Ruth. The relative said that he could not do that. So Boaz reminded the town leaders that they were witnesses. Boaz would buy the land and he would marry Ruth. (Ruth 4:1-7) The town leaders agreed that they were witnesses. Thy spoke a blessing to Ruth. They said," May the Lord make her to be like Rachel and Leah. Together they built up the nation of Israel. May you be an important person in Ephrathah. May you be famous in Bethlehem." (Ruth 4:11 Nlrv) Does anyone remember where Jesus was born? (Bethlehem)

So Boaz and Ruth were married. God blessed them and Ruth became pregnant. They had a son and named him Obed. (Ruth 4:13) In Matthew 1:5, the Bible tells about Jesus' ancestors. In that segment the Bible says, "Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by **Ruth**, and Obed the father of Jesse." (Matthew 1:5 Nlrv)

"The women said to Naomi, 'We praise the Lord. Today he has provided a family protector for you... He will make your life new again. He'll take care of you when you are old. He's the son of your very own daughter-in-law. She loves you. She is better to you than seven sons.'" (Ruth 4:14-15 Nlrv)

### Review questions

1. **Who was Ruth?** Ruth was a Moabite.
2. **Who was Naomi?** (Naomi was Ruth's mother-in-law.)
3. **Where was Ruth's husband?** (Ruth was a widow.)
4. **What did Ruth do?** (Ruth chose to follow Naomi and serve God.)
5. **What did God do?** (God richly blessed Ruth.)

### Do you know Jesus?

Ruth was loyal to Naomi. God wants us to be loyal to Him. God wants us to choose to serve and follow Him always. God sent Jesus so that we can know Him. If you will ask for God's forgiveness, He will forgive you. God will come to be a part of your life.

### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God.
3. Ask God to help you be loyal to Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to choose God.

### Application

Even though she was a Moabite, Ruth was loyal to Naomi and chose to serve God. God blessed Ruth. Ruth's loyalty to Naomi is something we admire. God wants us to choose to serve Him and to be loyal to Him. Ruth did not grow up knowing about God. God wants us to choose Him, no matter what our age. If we pray and ask God to help us to be loyal to Him, He will answer our prayer.

### Planning for the next week:

**Samuel (A Son is Given to God) — I Samuel 2, 6, 8-9**

# Preschool Lesson

## Read the Bible

**READ: Ruth 1:15-17 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

(Have the children draw a picture of a friend. Bring cut outs of body parts like hands, mouth ears, eyes, nose, feet, etc. Talk about what a good friend does. Example: A good friend uses his hands to help. A good friend listens, etc. )

Ruth was the daughter-in-law of Naomi. Naomi was an Israelite. She and her husband had gone to live in Moab because there was not enough food in Judah. Naomi's two sons married there. In time, Naomi's husband and both her sons died. (Ruth 1:1-5) Naomi was left with her two daughters-in-law. She told them to go back to their families. Orpah went back after trying to refuse, but Ruth would not leave Naomi. (Ruth 1:-14)

Naomi tried to talk Ruth into leaving her and going back to her own family. "But Ruth replied, 'Don't try to make me leave you and go back. Where you go I'll go. Where you stay I'll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God... I won't let anything except death separate you from me.'" (Ruth 1:15-17) Ruth was loyal (stayed with her when she did not have to do so) to Naomi. God wants us to be loyal to Him. God wants us to choose to serve and follow Him always.

When Naomi heard that, she stopped trying to make Ruth leave her. The two women traveled to Bethlehem. (Ruth 1:18-19)

God sent Jesus so that we can know Him. When we are loyal to God, we obey Him and stick with Him, like Ruth did with Naomi.

### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know Him.
3. Ask God to help family members who need to know God.

**Did you know?** Preschoolers can learn about being friends.

Consider this: Have the preschoolers model different things a good friend does. For example: Have a child greet another child and say, "Hi, I am glad you are here. Would you like to come play with me?" Have another child model listening. Have another child model helping, etc. Create stickers that say, "I'm a good friend." Give one to each child.

## Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity** — Bring coloring pages of wheat stalks with the Bible verse printed on them. Have the children color the pages. Practice the verse.
- **Test your memory** — Use finger puppets of Naomi, her husband and sons, Ruth, Orpah, Boaz and Obed. Have the children retell the story using the finger puppets.
- **Taste activity** — Bring wheat bread or a wheat item for a snack.
- **Think about it** — Ruth was a Moabite. She could have chosen to go home to her parents and her family, but Ruth was loyal to Naomi and chose to serve God. God blessed Ruth. Talk about Ruth's loyalty to Naomi and to God.
- Ruth did not grow up knowing about God but she chose to serve God. Talk about how we must choose to serve and what that means.
- Very often mother-in-law and daughter-in-law relationships are difficult. Talk about the relationship between Naomi and the wives of her sons. She must have been a good mother-in-law for both daughters-in-laws to want to stay with her.
- **Touch activity** — Bring some stalks of wheat. Talk about how Ruth gleaned from the wheat field.
- **Run and play** — In the time of Ruth, wheat fields were harvested with a sickle. Have the children pretend that they are harvesting wheat.
- **Listen** — As they take time to listen to God, remind the children that Ruth was a Moabite. She grew up with different gods, but chose to serve God. God wants us to choose to serve Him.
- **Sing** — Sing “ I Will Serve Him, Because I Love Him,” “Oh How He Loves You and Me,” or other songs based on Scripture.

## Memory Verse

Salmon was the father  
of Boaz by Rahab,  
Boaz was the  
father of Obed  
by Ruth,  
and Obed the  
father of Jesse.  
(Matthew 1:5 NIV)

## Word Art

Trace the letters.

Ruth

chose

to

serve

God.

# Word Puzzle

V S D N A B S U H J S I  
H G E D N R A U O H M P  
H A S H E J L E E O O R  
E S D C T I E S A L N A  
S M L U K U G N E I E Y  
I E F O J B R N E M G E  
M T N V O E M O I A H D  
O S K A N O B W B K C K  
R E Z O A E M R I E L N  
P I S B H D I A Y D D U  
H R N P D O F E O H O H  
W P E V I T A L E R Y W

RUTH

NAOMI

BOAZ

OBED

MOAB

WIDOW

RELATIVE

HUSBAND

JUDAH



# Word Puzzle

V	S	D	N	A	B	S	U	H	J	S	I
H	G	E	D	N	R	A	U	O	H	M	P
H	A	S	H	E	J	L	E	E	O	O	R
E	S	D	C	T	I	E	S	A	L	N	A
S	M	L	U	K	U	G	N	E	I	E	Y
I	E	F	O	J	B	R	N	E	M	G	E
M	T	N	V	O	E	M	O	I	A	H	D
O	S	K	A	N	O	B	W	B	K	C	K
R	E	Z	O	A	E	M	R	I	E	L	N
P	I	S	B	H	D	I	A	Y	D	D	U
H	R	N	P	D	O	F	E	O	H	O	H
W	P	E	V	I	T	A	L	E	R	Y	W

RUTH

NAOMI

BOAZ

OBED

MOAB

WIDOW

RELATIVE

HUSBAND

JUDAH

## Word Puzzle For Younger Children

F R G E D T R P W L Q F  
P D B R U T H N S W E R  
W I D O W A Q T B K L R  
S R T N A O M I D B C H  
M O A B C E L D E R S W  
B R P B O A Z G M U E L  
P E N J M E R S Z O K F  
R F G O B E D R C W V Q

RUTH

NAOMI

BOAZ

OBED

MOAB

WIDOW

# Word Puzzle For Younger Children

F R G E D T R P W L Q F  
P D B R U T H N S W E R  
W I D O W A Q T B K L R  
S R T N A O M I D B C H  
M O A B C E L D E R S W  
B R P B O A Z G M U E L  
P E N J M E R S Z O K F  
R F G O B E D R C W V Q

RUTH

NAOMI

BOAZ

OBED

MOAB

WIDOW

## Anagram

1. BUSADHN-
2. ONSS-
3. RDEATUHG- NI- WLA -
4. RMEOHT- NI- LWA-
5. YFLAIMY-
6. EOMH-
7. EELOPP-
8. DREEALS-

## Anagram

1. BUSADHN– HUSBAND
2. ONSS– SONS
3. RDEATUHG– NI– WLA –  
DAUGHTER–IN–LAW
4. RMEOHT– NI– LWA–  
MOTHER–IN–LAW
5. YFLAIMY– FAMILY
6. EOMH– HOME
7. EELOPP– PEOPLE
8. DREEALS– LEADERS