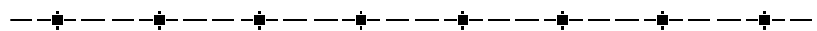


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2009

Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part One



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

Old Testament

Ruth

Last week we learned that from the time he was born, Samson had been set apart to serve God. He was a Nazarite. Samson chose to do wrong and he suffered the consequences for his sin, but God was faithful to deliver Israel.

Ruth 1-4

Read the Bible

READ: Ruth 1:1-19 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Memory Verse:

No one has greater love than the one who gives his life for his friends.
(John 15:13 NIV)

Begin With Prayer

A lady named Naomi and her husband lived in the town of Bethlehem. There was not enough food to eat so they moved to the land of Moab. It was there that their two sons married. Ruth and Orpah were the names of their wives. (Ruth 1:1-3)

Years later Naomi's husband died and so did her two sons. So she and her daughters-in-law were left. (Ruth 1:4-5)

Naomi heard that the people in her hometown of Bethlehem were surviving. She decided to go back to her town. Orpah and Ruth pleaded Naomi to go with her. Finally Orpah decided to go back to her home. However, Ruth told Naomi that she wanted to stay with her. Ruth left everything to follow Naomi. (Ruth 1:6-19)

Ruth and Naomi traveled to Bethlehem. When they arrived, the town became excited. The people were so glad to see Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth. (Ruth 1:19-22)

One day, Ruth told Naomi that she would go to the fields and collect the leftover grain so they would have some bread to eat. (Ruth 2:1-2)

She went to Boaz's field. She didn't know that he was one of Naomi's distant relatives. She patiently gathered grain. The people were nice to her. They let her gather much grain. (Ruth 2:3)

Later, Boaz saw her and told his workers to give her lots of grain. He spoke to Ruth and told her not to go anywhere else—he would help her with all her needs. (Ruth 2:4-16)

Goals:

1. Understand that Ruth was loyal to Naomi.
2. Learn that Ruth was a Moabite.
3. Understand that Boaz was kind to Ruth and Naomi.
4. Recognize that God provided for Ruth and Naomi.

Ruth – Bible Facts

1. Ruth was a Moabite married to Naomi's son.
2. Naomi's husband and both her sons died.
3. Orpah went home but Ruth chose to stay with Naomi.
4. Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem.
5. Ruth married Boaz and had Obed.

When Naomi saw how much grain Ruth brought home, she was excited! She knew that God had been good to them. Then she found out that it was Boaz's field. She was overjoyed. Back in those days, a widow like Ruth could marry a relative to keep her name and property. Naomi knew that Boaz was that man! (Ruth 2:17-23)

Naomi had a plan. She told Ruth to dress up and quietly sit down by Boaz after he had eaten supper and was asleep. Ruth did all that Naomi asked. Sure enough, Boaz woke up and found Ruth at his feet. He told her that he would marry her. But first he had to talk to a relative that was closer to Ruth than he. In that culture, the closest relative had the first opportunity to marry the girl. (Ruth 3:1-18)

In the morning, he went to the relative and asked if he wanted to marry Ruth and have her land. The man told Boaz "No." In Boaz' time, as a sign to show that he was giving up his rights; he took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz. (Ruth 4:1-12)

Boaz was so happy. He told the group that he would marry Ruth. Later Ruth and Boaz had a son. His name was Obed. (Ruth 4:13-17) He was King David's grandfather. Believe it or not, this son was even a relative of Jesus! (Matthew 1:5)

Review

1. **Who was Ruth?** (Ruth was a Moabite married to Naomi's son.)
2. **What happened to Naomi?** (Her husband and both her sons died.)
3. **What happened next?** (Orpah went home but Ruth chose to stay with Naomi.)
4. **What did Naomi and Ruth do?** (Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem.)
5. **What happened next?** (Ruth married Boaz and had Obed.)

Do You Know Jesus?

Jesus came to us to help us. He lived with us and died. But the BEST news of all is that Jesus is alive. He came alive three days later. When we trust Him in our heart and believe that He died and rose for us and our wrongs, we will be with Him in Heaven. What an awesome promise! God had a plan even way back in time with Ruth. You see Bethlehem was the town where Jesus was born! We are so thankful that Ruth listened to Naomi and God. She followed His direction.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to deliver us.
3. Ask God to help you choose to follow Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to choose to follow God.

Application

Ruth was a Moabite. When her husband died, Ruth could have returned to her homeland, but, she was loyal to Naomi and followed her to Israel. Boaz showed kindness to Ruth and Naomi. God provided for Ruth and Naomi. God will provide for us, as well.

Planning for the next week:

Hannah – I Samuel 1:1-28

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Ruth 1:1-19 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Play a game. Have all the kids take off their shoes and line them up. Then have several children try to decide who the shoes belong to. Let everyone have a turn.

A lady named Naomi and her husband lived in the town of Bethlehem. There was not enough food to eat so they moved to the land of Moab. One of her sons married a woman named Ruth.

Years later Naomi's husband died and so did her son. Naomi decided to go back to her home town. Ruth told Naomi that she wanted to stay with her. Ruth left everything to follow Naomi.

Ruth and Naomi traveled to Bethlehem. When they arrived, the people in the town became excited. The people were so glad to see Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth.

One day Ruth told Naomi that she would go to the fields and collect the leftover grain, so they would have grain to make bread to eat.

She went to Boaz's field. She didn't know that he was part of Naomi's family. She patiently gathered grain. The people were nice to her. They let her gather much grain.

Later, Boaz saw her and told his workers to give her lots of grain. He spoke to Ruth and told her not to go anywhere else—he would help her with all her needs. He liked Ruth.

When Naomi saw how much grain Ruth brought home, she was excited! She knew that God had been good to them.

Naomi had a plan. She told Ruth to dress up and quietly sit down by Boaz after he had eaten supper and was asleep. Ruth did all that Naomi asked. Sure enough, Boaz woke up and found Ruth at his feet. He told her that he would marry her.

Boaz was so happy. He told the group that he would marry Ruth. Later, Ruth and Boaz had a son. His name was Obed. He was king David's grandfather. Believe it or not, this son was even a relative of Jesus! (see Matthew 1:5)

God took care of Naomi and Ruth. They loved God and He made sure that they were cared for. God loves us too. He will take care of us because He loves us.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to deliver us.
3. Ask God to help you choose to follow Him.

Memory verse for younger children

No one has greater love than the one who gives his life for his friends. John 15:13

Learning Activities

Memory verse activity — Make a rap song using today's verse.

Have the children trace their shoes. Write the verse on the shoe.

Test your memory — Bring a suitcase. Talk about things needed to travel. Then talk about what Naomi and Ruth probably took on their trip. Ask the children to retell the story.

Bring wheat stalks.

Taste activity — Bring wheat bread. If possible make toast with jelly. Talk about how wheat is ground into flour and used to make bread.

Bring squeeze cheese and wheat crackers.

Think about it — Talk about the choice that Ruth made to follow Naomi. Instead of going home to her family, Ruth chose to go with Naomi who was of a different nationality, different faith, and different country.

Ruth chose to go with Naomi. Talk about loyalty and what that means. Talk about loyalty to God.

Touch activity — Make puppets or paper dolls of the characters in the story.

Bring maps that show how far Naomi and Ruth travelled.

Run and play — Play "Follow the Leader."

Ruth and Naomi had many obstacles as they traveled by themselves. Arrange an obstacle course for the group. Let everyone find a partner. The partners will hook arms and together maneuver through the course.

Play a game. Have all the kids take off their shoes and line them up. Then have several children try to decide who the shoes belong to. Let everyone have a turn.

Listen — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to choose to follow Him.

Explain to your kids how they can talk to God. Use some sample sentence prayers to help them see how. Explain that their prayers do not have to be just like yours—they can talk to God just like they are talking to you!

Sing — Sing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," "Wherever He Leads, I'll Go," or another song related to the story.

Reach out — During class, pray (by name) for kids that did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts to those who were absent. Teach them the rap song of the memory verse. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

No one has
greater love
than the one
who gives his
life for his
friends.

John 15:13

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

Ruth

was

loyal

Word Search

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

MOAB

RUTH

ORPAH

NAOMI

SONS

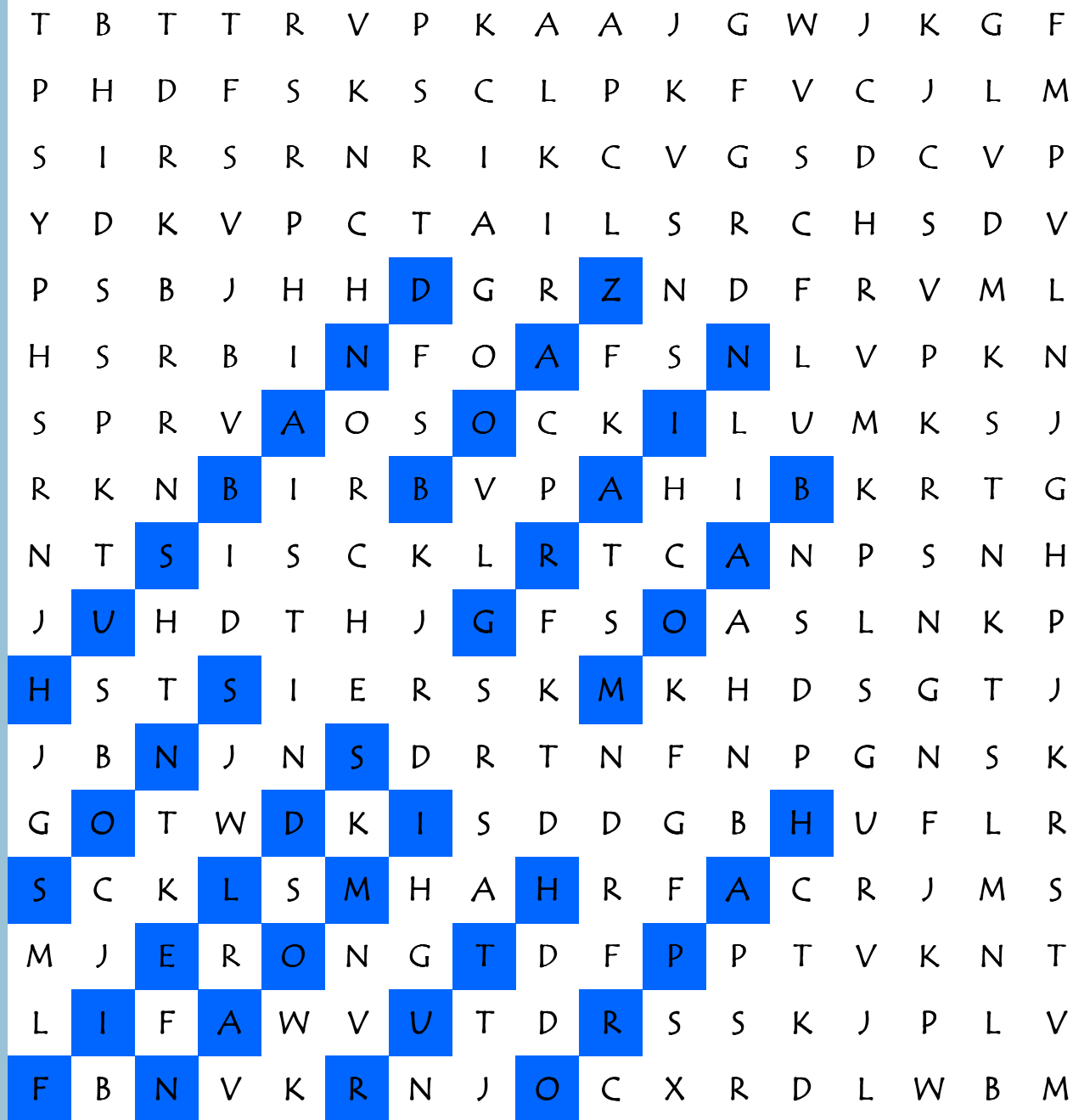
HUSBAND

BOAZ

GRAIN

FIELDS

Word Search



MOAB

RUTH

ORPAH

NAOMI

SONS

HUSBAND

BOAZ

GRAIN

FIELDS

Word Search

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

RUTH

NAOMI

MOAB

BETHLEHEM

BOAZ

GRAIN

Word Search

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

RUTH

NAOMI

MOAB

BETHLEHEM

BOAZ

GRAIN

Anagram

RPHOA

TUHR

AMONI

ZABO

BODE

MEEETBHHL

AMBO

LIDEF

RINAG

Anagram

ORPAH

RUTH

NAOMI

BOAZ

OBED

BETHLEHEM

MOAB

FIELD

GRAIN