

The Book of Ruth

Chapter 1

In the days of the judges, there was famine in the land.
Because of the famine,
a man from Bethlehem named Elimelech moved to Moab.

Elimelech took with him his wife Naomi and his two sons.

Elimelech died.
The two sons married Moabite women: Orpah and Ruth.
But then the two sons also died.

Naomi was heart-broken.
She had lost her husband and two sons.

She decided to return to Bethlehem and
told her daughters-in-law to go back to their own homes.

Orpah went back to her people.
But Ruth with great loyalty and love
chose to go with Naomi.

Ruth said:
"Wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you live, I will live.
Your people shall be my people.
Your God shall be my God.
Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried."

Dear God, in time of trouble,
please help people to be loyal and kind to each other

Chapter 2

Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem at the time of the barley harvest.

Ruth went to the fields to look for leftover ears of corn. She came to the attention of Boaz, Elimelech's clansman.

Boaz was a kind man and he told the men harvesting his crop to let Ruth take some sheaves of corn, not just left-overs. As one of Naomi's closest relatives, Boaz was in a group of several men from which one man was required by law to marry Ruth and produce children for Elimelech.

Lord, please bless all wives who have become widows

Chapters 3, 4

Naomi told Ruth to go to the threshing shed of Boaz and to sleep there at the feet of Boaz, this action symbolizing her wish to marry Boaz.

When Boaz discovered Ruth there during the night, he praised Ruth for wanting to continue Elimelech's family.

The next day, Boaz went to the gate of Bethlehem and met the only man who preceded him in the legal right to marry Ruth.

The man agreed to let Boaz marry Ruth and so Boaz took Ruth as his wife.

Boaz and Ruth had a son, Obed.

Obed was the father of Jesse whose son was King David.

Dear God, please bless all grandparents, as you blessed David's great grandparents Ruth and Boaz