

Your God Will Be My God

There once was a woman named Naomi. Naomi and her husband lived in Bethlehem and had two sons. Naomi's husband decided to move their family to a place called Moab so that they might have a better life. Their sons grew up and married women from Moab. Then Naomi's husband died. Naomi was very sad, but she had her sons and their wives to take care of her. Then one day both of her sons also died. Naomi was sad again. Her husband's wives were also sad. All three ladies were left with no one to take care of them. If they couldn't find someone to take care of them, they would become very poor and have to beg for food and a place to live. Naomi loved her daughters-in-law, but she didn't want them to live a life begging for food. She told them to leave her and go back to their families. One daughter-in-law named Orpah listened to Naomi and went back to her family. The other daughter-in-law was named Ruth. Ruth refused to leave Naomi. Ruth told Naomi, "Wherever you go, I will go, your people will be my people, and your God will be my God." She wasn't going to leave Naomi to beg by herself. So, Naomi and Ruth left together to go back to Naomi's family in Bethlehem.

When they arrived in Bethlehem, Ruth decided to go glean in the fields to help provide food for them to eat. So, Ruth went out the fields where men were working, and

she would pick up the grain that they dropped. This wasn't stealing, there was even a law that workers couldn't pick up what they dropped, they had to leave it for the poor. Ruth knew she wouldn't be able to get much grain this way, but she was going to work as hard as she could to help provide for herself and Naomi. The man who owned the field saw Ruth working. His name was Boaz, and he was impressed with her. He had heard all about Ruth and Naomi and how Ruth chose to stay with her mother-in-law instead of going back to her family. Boaz told his workers to drop a little extra for Ruth to pick up. Then he went and told Ruth to always come to his field and even eat with his workers.

When Ruth went home that evening with lots of grain, Naomi asked her where she got it. Ruth told Naomi all about Boaz and how nice he was to her. Naomi knew Boaz. Boaz was part of her husband's family, and he could take care of them! Naomi got so excited and told Ruth to go to him and let him know they would let him take care of them if he wanted to. Ruth did exactly what Naomi told her to do, and Boaz had already been thinking about it and he wanted to help them. In fact, after he met Ruth for the first time, he wanted to marry her. There was only one problem. Naomi's husband had a brother who was first in line to help them. If the brother took them in and helped them, Boaz couldn't marry Ruth. The very next day, Boaz went to talk to the brother. He told him about Naomi and

the brother agreed to take care of her. Then Boaz told him about Ruth. The brother didn't want to have to take care of both ladies so he told Boaz he could take care of them.

Boaz was so excited. He returned and told Ruth and Naomi the good news. Soon he and Ruth got married. Ruth didn't have to work in the fields anymore and Naomi wouldn't have to beg for food or a place to live. God took care of Ruth and Naomi. Not long afterwards, Ruth had a baby. They named the baby boy Obed. Naomi once again had a family to love.

1. What sad thing happened to Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah?
2. What did Naomi tell Ruth and Orpah to do?
3. Why didn't Naomi want Ruth and Naomi to come to Bethlehem with her?
4. Who refused to leave Naomi?
5. What did Ruth do to help provide food for herself and Naomi?
6. What was the name of the man who owned the field where Ruth was working?
7. What did Boaz tell his workers to do?
8. Why was Naomi excited to hear that Ruth was working in Boaz's field?
9. Why didn't Boaz take in Ruth and Naomi as soon as he met them?
10. What happened to Ruth and Naomi at the end of the story?

Thy people shall be my people, and
thy God my God. Ruth 1:16