## Uchaguzi wa Ruta: Urithi Mkubwa

## RUTH'S CHOICE: A GREAT INHERITANCE

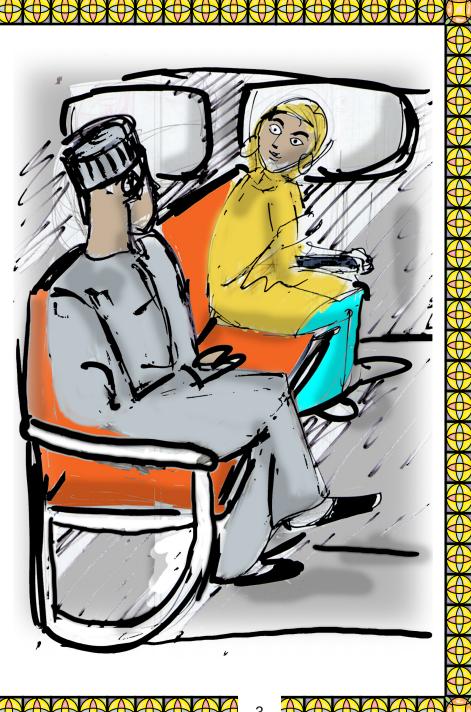
Imerekebishwa na Ruta Dickson

Ruth was a young Moabite princess who lived in the town of Moab. Moab was a funny sort of town. It was a small nation compared to those around it. Everyone lived as they pleased. The people of Moab worshipped idols. Ruth's father, mother, brother's and sister's worshipped a god called Chemosh.

Ruta alikuwa Moabu princess vijana waliokuwa wakiishi katika mji wa Moabu. Moabu alikuwa funny aina ya mji. Ni mara taifa dogo ikilinganishwa na wale walio karibu yake. Kila mmoja aliishi kama wao radhi. Watu wa Moabu wakaabudu sanamu. baba, ya Ruta, mama, ndugu na wadada

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waliabudu mungu aitwaye Chemosh.



rands for her mother, she met a young man by the name of Mahlon. He was a good looking young man and a foreigner in the land of Moab. Ruth and Mahlon became friends and one day they decided to get married. Ruth and Mahlon were a very happy couple, but little did Ruth know that all was about to change. \*\*\*\*

Siku moja, wakati yeye alikuwa akikimbia safari fupi kwa mama yake, alikutana na kijana mmoja kwa jina la Mahlon. Yeye alikuwa kijana mzuri na mgeni katika nchi ya Moabu. Ruta na Mahlon wakawa marafiki na siku moja waliamua kuoa. Ruta na Mahlon walikuwa na furaha sana wanandoa, lakini kidogo gani Ruta kujua kwamba wote

One day Ruth's husband, Mahlon, became very ill. She had watched him

mara kuhusu kubadilika.

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grow thinner and thinner every day as he refused to eat. Ruth cried a lot because she did not know what to do about her husband. The only thing that gave her hope were the constant prayers of her husband's mother, Naomi. She was a widow and had experienced much sorrow in her life. Ruth would watch Naomi, day in and day out, praying to her God. She wondered about the God of Naomi. He was very different to the god she and her family worshipped, Chemosh. \*\*\*\* Siku moja mume wa Ruta, Mahlon, alikuwa mgonjwa sana. Alikuwa kumwangalia wakondefu na wakondefu kukua kila siku kama alikataa kula. Ruta kelele sana kwa sababu yeye hakujua nini cha kufanya juu ya mumewe. Kitu pekee kwamba alitoa matumaini yake walikuwa daima maombi ya mama wa

mume wake, Naomi. Mjane na alikuwa na uzoefu kiasi huzuni katika maisha yake. Ruta skulle angaria mama mkwe, mchana na siku nje, kuomba kwa Mungu wake. Hon kujiuliza juu ya Mungu wa Naomi. Yeye alikuwa tofauti sana mungu yeye na familia yake abudu, Chemosh.

Naomi was a woman of prayer. Her husband had died not so long ago. Her younger son, Chilion, had also died leaving his young wife Orpah behind. Ruth was worried that her husband was going to die also? Ruth thought about all the sadness her husband's family had been through and wept. Through her tears, she looked at her mother-in law Naomi, "What a strong woman," she thought. Naomi was always praying and singing praises onto her God. "How could she still sing praises to her God," thought Ruth.



"Look at all the sad things that have happened to her," she said out loud.

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Naomi alikuwa mwanamke wa maombi. Mumewe alikufa si muda mrefu uliopita. Mwana mdogo wake, Chilion, alikuwa pia alikufa vijana wake kuacha mke Orpah nyuma. Ruta alikuwa na wasiwasi kwamba mumewe alikuwa anaenda kufa pia? Ruta walidhani kuhusu huzuni yote ya familia ya mumewe amekuwa kupitia na kulia. Kupitia machozi yake, yeye akamtazama mama yake katika sheria ya Naomi. "Ni mwanamke nguvu," yeye alifikiri. Naomi mara zote kuomba na kuimba sifa ndani yake Mungu. "Inakuwaje yeye bado kuimba sifa kwake Mungu," yeye alifikiri. "Angalia mambo yote ya kusikitisha yaliyotokea yake", alisema kwa sauti kubwa.

A few weeks later, Ruth's husband, Mahlon, died. The sickness had claimed his life. She thought about all the dreams they had for the future. He was still very young. How was she going to live without him? Ruth wept bitterly. Naomi's mother-in-law came into the room and Ruth fell at her feet. She held onto Naomi's ankles. Naomi comforted Ruth and asked her to trust in the Lord God of Israel. The faith of Naomi gave her hope. She stood up, then made up her mind that she would look unto the God of Naomi. "This is where Naomi, my mother-inlaw, gets her hope and Strength from." "I must look unto Him also," she said. Wiki chache baadaye, mume ya Ruta, Mahlon, alikufa. Ugonjwa alidai maisha yake. Hon walidhani kuhusu ndoto wote walikuwa kwa siku zijazo. Bado

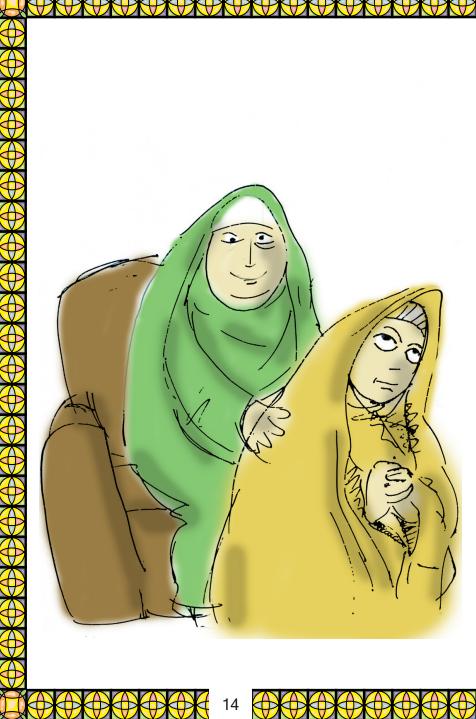


alikuwa mdogo sana. Jinsi mara yeye anaenda kuishi bila yeye? Ruta akalia sana. Naomi mama mkwe alikuja ndani ya chumba na Ruta akaanguka katika miguu yake. Hon uliofanyika kwenye vifundoni ya Naomi. Naomi faraja Ruta aliuliza yake na kumtegemea Bwana Mungu wa Israeli. Imani ya Naomi akawapa matumaini yake. Hon alisimama, kisha linaloundwa akili yake kwamba angeweza kuangalia kwa Mungu wa Naomi. "Hii ni wapi Naomi, mama yangu-i-sheria, anapata matumaini na nguvu yake kutoka". "Mimi ni lazima kuangalia kwake pia," alisema. Over the years, Ruth had developed a strong loving relationship with her mother-in-law. She was so kind to Ruth that even her real mother became jealous about their friendship. Ruth saw something great in Naomi. Naomi would talk to her God like He

was her personal friend. In the face of hardship, she had watched Naomi always praying. Her character never changed, she was always kind and gentle. Naomi had taught her about the great miracles of the God of Israel. Ruth desired in her heart to also have this personal relationship with Naomi's God.

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Zaidi ya miaka, Ruta alikuwa imara upendo kuendelezwa uhusiano na mama mkwe. Alikuwa hivyo aina ya Ruta kwamba hata mama yake halisi akawa wivu juu yao urafiki. Ruta aliona jambo kubwa katika Naomi. Naomi skulle kuzungumza na Mungu wake kama alikuwa rafiki yake binafsi. Katika uso wa ugumu, alikuwa daima Naomi arienderea kuomba. Kamwe tabia yake iliyopita, alikuwa daima mwema na mpole. Naomi alikuwa akifundisha



yake kuhusu miujiza kuu ya Mungu wa Israeli. Ruta taka katika moyo wake pia kuwa na uhusiano na hii ya binafsi Naomi wa Mungu.

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"We are leaving for Bethlehem," Naomi

said. Ruth was shocked about what her Naomi had to say. "I have heard how the Lord has visited my people with great blessings." It is time for us to pack up our things and leave Moab. Ruth thought about her mother and father and how they would feel about her leaving Moab. She was not looking forward to telling them. She would be a foreigner in Bethlehem, just like Naomi was in Moab. Now she would get to know how Naomi felt living in a foreign land. "Would she be accepted, seeing she was not Hebrew?"These thoughts bothered Ruth, but she saw

something greater, far greater. It was something that words could not describe. She felt it deep within her heart.

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"Sisi ni kuondoka kwa Bethlehemu,"

kuhusu nini mama mkwe alikuwa

kusema. Mshtuko, "Mimi nimesikia

jinsi Bwana aritemberea watu wangu na baraka kubwa". Ni wakati kwa sisi

juu mambo yetu na kuondoka Moabu.

Naomi alisema. Ruta alikuwa mshkuto

Ruta walidhani kuhusu mama na baba yake na jinsi gani ungejisikia kuhusu kuondoka kwake Moabu. Alikuwa siyo kuangalia mbele kwa kuwaambia. Yeye atakuwa mgeni katika Bethlehemu, kama Naomi alikuwa katika Moabu. Sasa angeweza kupata kujua jinsi Naomi alijisikia wanaoishi katika nchi ya kigeni. "Je, yeye kuwa aminiwa, ukiangalia alikuwa si Kiyahudi?" Hawa

mawazo Ruta arikuwa naye, lakini yeye



aliona jambo kubwa, mbali zaidi. Ilikuwa kitu kwamba maneno hakuweza kueleza. Alihisi kuwa kirefu ndani ya moyo wake.

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As they prepared to set out on the

long journey, she thought about all she would leave behind. She would no longer have her parents close by. They had wanted her to stay in Moab so that she could remarry and start a family. It was not going to be easy travelling with a poor widow. But Ruth was prepared to follow Naomi, despite her situation. So Ruth went to say goodbye to her family. She knocked on the front door and her mother answered the it. "Why don't you move

and father so much, she could not bear

husband for you?", said Ruth's mother.

Even though Ruth loved her mother

back home so we can find a good

the thought of her mother-in-law, Naomi, making such a dangerous and hard journey on her own. She told them that she was leaving for Bethlehem the following day. They then blessed her and offered to help, but Ruth refused. She had seen Naomi trust her God, Jehovah, over the years and he had never failed. She knew that she must now learn to trust Him also.

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Kama wao tayari yaliyowekwa kwe-

nye safari ndefu, yeye alifikiri kuhusu yote angeweza kuacha nyuma. Angeweza hawana wazazi wake karibu. Wao alitaka yake kukaa katika Moabu ili kwamba aliweza funga ndoa tena na kuanza familia. Ilikuwa inaenda kuwa si rahisi kusafiri kwa mjane maskini. Lakini Ruta alikuwa tayari kufuata Naomi, licha ya hali yake. Basi Ruta akaenda kusema kwaheri kwa familia yake. Hon



ikigoga kwenye mlango wa mbele na mama yake akamjibu yake. "kwa nini hauwezi kusonga nyuma nyumbani ili tuweze kupata mume mzuri kwako!", Alisema Ruta mama. Hata ingawa Ruta alimpenda mama yake na baba sana, asingeweza kubeba dhana ya mama mkwe, Naomi, maamuzi kama hatari na safari ngumu juu yake mwenyewe. Hon aliwaambia kwamba alikuwa kuondoka kwa Bethlehemu zifuatazo siku. Wake zao hao aliwapa baraka na alitoa msaada, lakini Ruta alikataa. Yeye alikuwa ameona Naomi matumaini yake Mungu, Yehova, juu ya miaka. Alishindwa hajawahi Naomi. Yeye alijua kwamba yeye lazima sasa kujifunza kumtegemea Yeye pia. \*\*\*\* So Ruth, Orpah and Naomi arose and set off for Bethlehem. It was a long

hard journey and Naomi felt very sorry for these young women. "Would Ruth and Orpah not be better off in Moab," she thought. Naomi had many reasons why she felt Ruth and Orpah should return to their Parents homes. They had been so kind to her and surely the Lord would return this kindness to them. They could meet future husbands as she was too old to give birth to any more sons. They were too young to go through all the misery she had been going through. Naomi thought hard and long about the situation of peaceful Ruth and beautiful Orpah. \*\*\*\* Basi Ruta, dada yake mkwe na mama mkwe akaondoka na kuweka mbali kwa Bethlehemu. Ilikuwa safari ndefu

mee sana kwa vijana hawa wanawake.

ngumu na Naomi alijisikia wa kusa-



"Je, Ruta na Orpah kuwa bora katika ini ya Moabu ", yeye alifikiri. Naomi alikuwa na sababu nyingi kwa nini yeye alihisi binti-i-sheria wanapaswa kurudi Wazazi zao majumbani. Wao umekuwa hivyo aina yake na hakika Bwana wangerudi hii wema kwao. Wangeweza kukutana baadaye waume kama alikuwa mzee sana kujifungua wana yoyote zaidi. Walikuwa vijana mno kupita yote taabu yeye alikuwa anapita. Naomi alifikiri ngumu na muda mrefu kuhusu hali ya binti-i-sheria. \*\*\*\* With much persuasion, Orpah agreed to return to Moab. She kissed and embraced her mother-in-law and then Ruth. She said good-bye, picked up her bags and returned to Moab. Ruth was sad to see her leave. She would miss all

the fun times they had spent together as a family. Orpah went back to her

gods and her people, but Ruth stayed with Naomi. "Why are you staying with me?," cried Naomi. You should also return to your land and your family, said Naomi. But Ruth refused to listen to a word she said. Ruth said, "Your God shall be my God and your people shall be my people." Ruth recognised the God of Naomi as a great God, mighty in power and greatly to be praised. Naomi then gave up persuading Ruth to return to her family in Moab.

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Kwa kiasi kushawishi, Orpah walikubaliana kurudi Moabu. Hon mwingi na kuvutiwa mama mkwe na kisha Ruta. Alisema mema-bye, ilichukua mifuko yake na kurejea Moabu. Ruta mara yake ya kusikitisha kuona kuondoka. Miss angeweza nyakati fun wote walikuwa ilitumia pamoja kama familia. Orpah akarudi miungu yake na



watu wake, lakini walikaa pamoja na Naomi Ruta. "Kwa nini unakaa pamoja nami?", Kelele Naomi. Pia unapaswa kurudi nchi yako na familia yako, alisema Naomi. Lakini Ruta alikataa kusikiliza neno alisema. Ruta alisema, "Mungu wako atakuwa Mungu wangu na watu wako watakuwa watu wangu". Ruta kutambuliwa Mungu wa Naomi kubwa kama Mungu, Mwenye nguvu na kusifiwa sana. Naomi kisha akatoa kuwavuta Ruta kurudi katika familia

yake Moabu.

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Ruth and Naomi approached the gates of the city wondering what would happen to them. A group of women spotted them and started to whisper. "Is that not Naomi, the wife of Boaz, whom left many years ago?" They spoke in hushed voices amongst themselves. Some of them clasped

their mouths with their hands because they were so surprised at how much Naomi had aged. Others looked at Ruth with suspicion. They knew that she was a foreigner. They asked after her husband and her two boys. She bowed her head as she found it very difficult to tell them her sad story. Naomi's heart was full of sadness and she asked them to call her Marah, which meant bitter. They shook their heads in dismay as they remembered the happy family that left Bethlehem. "O, Naomi has come back empty," they gossiped. \*\*\*\* Ruta na Naomi erbjudits milango ya mji anashangaa kitakachotokea kwao. Kundi la wanawake warishangaa yao na ilianza sema. "Je, ni kwamba si Naomi, mke wa Boazi, ambaye aliondoka miaka mingi iliyopita? "Wao aliongea



kwa sauti hushed miongoni mwa wenyewe. Baadhi yao funga vinywa vyao kwa mikono yao kwa sababu walikuwa hivyo kushangaa saa Naomi kiasi gani alikuwa na umri. Wengine akamtazama Ruta kwa tuhuma. Walijua kwamba alikuwa mgeni. Wao aliuliza baada ya mume wake na wavulana wawili. Hon wakainama kichwa chake kama yeye wakakuta vigumu sana kuwaambia hadithi yake ya kusikitisha. Naomi moyo mara kamili ya huzuni na aliwataka wao kufika Mara simu yake, ambayo ilimaanisha machungu. Wao shook vichwa vyao katika walipokumbuka alisikitishwa kama familia ya furaha kwamba waliondoka Bethlehemu. "O, Naomi ina kurudi tupu", wao warisema. \*\*\*\* With no money and merely a roof over their heads, Ruth set out to find work. She went to the land of a local farmer

and found favour with the workers. They let her glean on the field. Ruth worked very hard and was noticed by the owner of the land. He sent for Ruth and asked her many questions. He had heard how kindly she had treated her mother-in-law, Naomi. He asked all his servants to be especially kind to her. He gave her lots of food to take home. When she got home, Naomi was full of questions and expectant to hear good news about the days events. She said, "Where did you work today?" I worked in the field of a rich man named Boaz. Naomi was silent for a while, as she paused to think about that name, Boaz. Then she exclaimed, "I remember now, he is actually a relation of mine". She remembered the times before they left Bethlehem and how courteous a man he was. Naomi marvelled at how kind he had been to her and how he still showed this kind-



ness. "Boaz is certainly a relation of mine," she repeated several times. Her mind was racing back and forth. She had a smile and a mischievous grin on her face. She chuckled and thought up a plan.

\*\*\*\* Na hakuna pesa na paa tu juu ya vichwa vyao, Ruta kuweka nje kutafuta kazi. Hon akaenda nchi ya mkulima mtaa na kukuta neema na wafanyakazi. Wao kubariki mwacheni juu ya shamba. Ruta kazi ngumu sana na kulionekana na mmiliki wa ardhi. Yeye alimtuma kwa Ruth na kuulizwa maswali mengi yake. Alikuwa amesikia jinsi kindly alikuwa kutibiwa mama mkwe Naomi. Aliuliza watumishi wake wote kuwa hasa aina yake. Yeye alitoa kura yake ya chakula kuchukua nyumbani. Wakati yeye arifika nyumbani, Naomi mara kamili ya maswali na kutarajia kusikia habari njema kuhusu matukio

ya siku. Alisema, "Ulifanya kazi wapi leo?" Mimi kazi katika shamba la tajiri aitwaye Boazi. Naomi alikuwa kimya kwa muda, kama yeye ameaca kufikiria kuhusu kwamba jina, Boazi. Kisha yeye wakasema,"Nakumbuka sasa, yeye ni kweli ni uhusiano wa mgodi ". Hon ikumbukwe nyakati kabla waliondoka Bethlehemu na jinsi adabu mtu alipokuwa. Naomi wakastaajabu saa jinsi alikuwa aina yake na jinsi yeye bado ilionyesha hii wema. "Boazi ni hakika uhusiano wa mgodi", yeye alirudia mara kadhaa. nia yake ilikuwa jiuriza nyuma na nje. Hon alikuwa na tabasamu na mischievous grin tarehe uso wake. Hon walidhani ajiuriza na mpango. \*\*\*\* Naomi thought about her cousin Boaz and how he would make a good husband for Ruth. It was her desire to bring Ruth and Boaz together. She



asked Ruth to wash, anoint herself and put on her best clothes. Her plan was that Ruth would indirectly ask Boaz to marry her by lying at his feet. This was the custom in those days. Ruth was a virtuous woman and she trembled at the thought. "I do hope our prayers will be answered," she said to Naomi. Looking her straight in the eye, Naomi chuckled. She had a very confident look on her face and Ruth trembled no more. Boaz was happy about this plan. He praised her because she wanted to marry him and not any of the other young men around. \*\*\*\* Naomi alifikiri kuhusu binamu yake Boazi na jinsi gani atafanya mumemwema kwa Ruta. Ilikuwa shauku yake ya kuleta Ruta na Boazi pamoja. Ruta aliwataka kuosha, mafuta lenyewe na kuvaa nguo zake nzuri. Mpango wake ulikuwa kwamba Ruta skulle indirekt

kuuliza Boazi kuoa wake kwa kulala katika miguu yake. Hii ilikuwa desturi katika siku hizo. Ruta alikuwa mwanamke wema na yeye akatetemeka katika kufikiri. "Mimi matumaini maombi yetu itakuwa akajibu", alisema na Naomi. Looking yake katika jicho moja, Naomi chuckled. Alikuwa na uhakika sana angalia kwenye uso wake na Ruta trembled hakuna zaidi. Boazi alikuwa na furaha kuhusu mpango huu. Yeye kusifiwa yake kwa sababu yeye alitaka kuolewa na yeye na si mwingine yeyote wanaume vijana kote. Ruth and Boaz got married and it was

a wonderful celebration. Boaz reminded Ruth about how anxious he got when he discovered that Naomi had a closer relative. By law of the land, he would have been entitled to marry Ruth first. However, this closer relative was not interested in fulfilling the law



of the land. Ruth and Boaz gave birth to a son called Obed. This made Naomi very happy. Now she had a lovely boy to take care of and she was the envy of all her friends. The same friends who had laughed at her, now praised her for the wonderful work God had done in her life. Ruth meant more to her than seven sons. She had shown kindness and loyalty to Naomi.

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Ruta na Boazi warifunga ndoa na ili-

kuwa ni maadhimisho ya ajabu. Boazi aliwakumbusha Ruta wasiwasi kuhusu jinsi alipata alipo Naomi aligundua kwamba alikuwa karibu ndugu. Na sheria ya nchi, yeye ingekuwa haki ya kuoa Ruta kwanza. Hata hivyo, huyu jamaa alikuwa karibu hawapendi katika kutimiza sheria ya nchi. Ruta na Boazi aliyemzaa mwana inayoitwa

Obedi. Hii ilifanya Naomi furaha sana. Sasa alikuwa na mvulana upendwa kumtunza na alikuwa wivu wa marafiki wake wote. Sawa na marafiki ambao walikuwa alicheka saa yake, sasa kusifiwa yake kwa kazi ya ajabu Mungu aliyoyafanya katika maisha yake. Ruta ilimaanisha zaidi kwake kuliko wana saba. Yeye kukuonyesheni wema na uaminifu na Naomi.

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Ruth's choice, though costly, earned

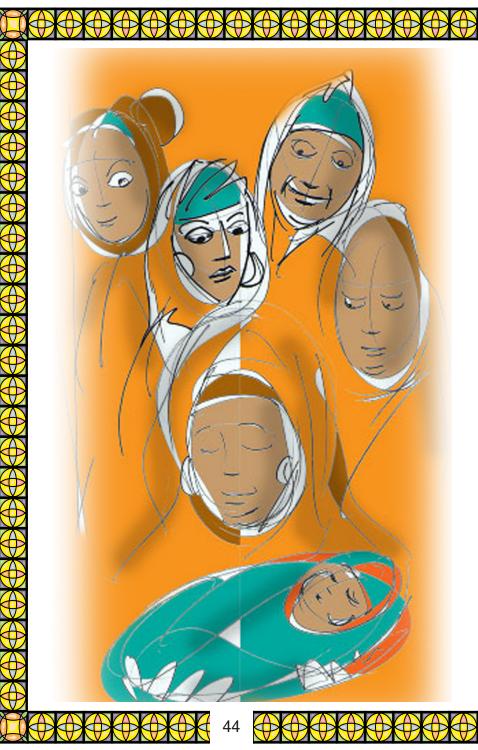
her a heavenly inheritance. She was

a despised foreigner in Bethlehem.
She gave up her family and followed
Naomi. She did not look back. Little
did Ruth know that when she walked
away from the security of Moab, she
would walk into the secure lineage of
Jesus Christ. Ruth recognised the God
of Naomi to be the one and only true



God. Ruth did not see the poverty of Naomi, nor the difficulty of the journey. She looked beyond those things. Ruth made the right choice and God honoured her, by giving her a good husband and blessing her with a lovely son. Now her name is known throughout Israel and indeed the whole world. She is one of the great grandmothers of Jesus Christ! Who would have thought that Ruth, a moabite woman, would be linked to Jesus Christ? Her son Obed, got married, and gave birth to Jesse. When Jesse grew up, he also got married and gave birth to King David. From King David came the link to the King of Kings, Jesus Christ and what a happy ending to a wonderful story. \*\*\*\* Ruta ya uchaguzi, ingawa gharama kubwa, chuma urithi wake wa mbinguni. Yeye alikuwa mgeni katika Beth-

lehemu kudharauliwa. Hon ikawatoa familia yake na kufuatiwa Naomi. Ye ha kuangalia nyuma. Kidogo gani Ruta tunajua kwamba wakati yeye alitembea mbali na usalama wa Moabu, angeweza kutembea ndani ya salama ukoo wa Yesu Kristo. Ruta kutambuliwa Mungu wa Naomi kuwa moja na pekee ya kweli ya Mungu. Ruta haukuona umaskini wa Naomi, wala ugumu wa safari. Hon inaonekana zaidi wale kitu. Ruta alifanya haki ya kuchagua. Mungu heshima yake, kwa kutoa mume wake mzuri na baraka yake na mwana yapendeza. Sasa jina lake inajulikana kote Israeli na hakika dunia nzima. Yeye ni mmoja wa grandmothers kuu ya Yesu Kristo! Nani angedhani kwamba Ruta, en Moabu mwanamke, skulle wanaohusishwa na Yesu Kristo? Mwanawe Obedi, arifunga ndoa , na amejifungua Jesse. Wakati Jesse ilikua juu, yeye pia arifunga ndoa na alimpa kuzaliwa kwa



Mfalme Daudi. Kutoka Mfalme Daudi wakaja zilizounganishwa na Mfalme wa Wafalme, Yesu Kristo. Ni furaha ya ajabu kuishia na hadithi.

## **ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS**

What is the name of the town Ruth lived in?

• What is the name of the man Ruth

What is the name of the God they

- met in Moab?
- Who is Naomi?

What happened to Mahlon?

worshipped in Moab?

• Who is Orpah?

- Describe Naomi's character.
  Describe Ruth's character.
  - What happened when Ruth and Naomi got to Bethlehem?
  - What was Ruth's choice?
  - Who is Ruth related to and how is she related to him?

## JIBU MASWALI HAYA

- Je ni jina la mji Ruta aliishi?
- Ni nini jina la Mungu Wakamwabudu katika Moabu?
  - Ni nini jina la mtu Ruta walikutana katika Moabu?

Naomi ni nani? Ni nini kilichotokea kwa Mahlon? Orpah ni nani? Kufafanua tabia ya Naomi. Kufafanua tabia ya Ruta. Nini ilitokea wakati Ruta na Naomi got Bethlehemu? Ni mara Ruta ya uchaguzi? Nani ni Ruta kuhusiana na jinsi ni yeye kuhusiana na yake? (C) Ruth Dickson

## WHY DONT YOU PUT YOUR CREATIVE SKILLS TO THE TEST AND COLOUR THESE CHARACTERS IN? (WE HAVE HELPED YOU OUT A LITTLE)

