

TITLE AND NUMBER: 52. The story of Ruth



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Ruth 1:16-18

But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." When Naomi realised that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

LOOKING FURTHER: Genesis 17:7-8, Matthew 28:20, Revelation 21:1-4

What does this Bible passage tell us?

The book of Ruth is a short book between Judges and 1 Samuel in the Old Testament. It is a story of hope which starts with sadness and ends in joy.

To summarise the story: Naomi, her husband and their sons leave Bethlehem because of famine and go to live in Moab. The sons marry local women, Ruth and Orpah. Ten years later, both sons and their father die. Orpah goes back to her own family. Ruth and Naomi are again facing famine in Moab. Naomi urges Ruth to go back to her own family as Naomi returns to Bethlehem. Naomi is filled with grief and bitterness.

Ruth loves her mother-in-law and speaks these words in response: "Your people will be my people and your God my God." This is a picture of God's love. Ruth's words echo God's promises at the beginning and at the end of the Bible.

In Genesis, we read of God's promise to Abraham. In Matthew, Jesus assures us that He is with us always to the end of the age. Looking forward to the beautiful picture in Revelation of the new heaven and the new earth, God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Death, mourning and pain will be no more.

Ruth fulfilled her promise to Naomi. God blessed them both. Ruth married Boaz and bore a son, the grandfather of King David, and Naomi enjoyed her old age.

Reflections:

- Ruth shows great kindness to Naomi. Give thanks to God for anyone who has shown you kindness this week.
- Do you know of someone in trouble who you could help?
- Think about Jesus' words, **I am with you always to the end of the age**. Write down your thoughts on the back of the sheet.
- We look forward to the beautiful picture in Revelation when God will wipe away every tear. Use this image to help you in prayer.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



He will wipe every
tear from our eyes

Do you have any questions about this
week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply
to your life?



What can we learn about God from this
week's passage?



What would you like to ask God
this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this
week in the way you had hoped for?
It's okay to talk to God about this.

