

Dramatic Reading of Ruth story

Narrator A very long time ago, God's people were living in a country called Judah. One year there was a famine, and everyone was hungry as there wasn't enough food to eat. **[Hug tummies and beg for food]** Naomi, her husband Elimelech and their 2 sons were very worried.

Naomi: What shall we do? There's no food left and none to buy in the market.

Elimelech: It's no good staying here to starve. I hear there is food in Moab. Let's go there and try our luck.

Naomi: Isn't it a long way away?

Narrator So they packed their bags and left the town of Bethlehem where they lived. **[Picture 1]** They left all their friends and family behind them. They went to live in a hilly country called Moab where they hoped to have plenty to eat and a better life. In Moab the people didn't know the one true God.

Life did get better for them for a while. But as with all families, sadness came. Naomi's husband died and she missed him very much. **[Picture 2]** But she was pleased when her 2 sons got married to girls from Moab. Naomi now had 2 lovely daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth. **[Picture 3]** But sadly, after a few years, both Naomi's sons died, and the 3 women were on their own. Naomi felt very sad.

Ruth and Orpah: Why did your God let this happen? What are we going to do now?

Naomi: I don't know why, but I'm still part of God's family and my God has promised to always look after his people. I think I should go back to my home town of Bethlehem to be with the rest of God's people. I've heard that God has ended the famine and provided them with food.

Ruth and Orpah: We'll go with you.

Narrator They all set out together, but on the way, Naomi said

Naomi: I've been thinking. I'm going back to where I used to live, and I think you should also go back to your families and find new husbands. May God show you kindness as you have shown kindness to me.

Orpah: Are you sure, Naomi?

Naomi: Of course, I'll be fine. [She hugs Orpah]

Narrator So Orpah decided to go back, but Ruth decided to stay with Naomi. [Picture 4]

Narrator Ruth had heard Naomi talking about the one true God and she wanted to know this God too and be His friend.

Ruth: Don't ask me to leave you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your friends will be my friends and your God will be my God.

Narrator Ruth could see that God cared for His people.

Naomi was very happy! When they came to Bethlehem Ruth felt a bit anxious, but everyone was very pleased to see them and made them welcome. [Picture 5] Naomi was still very sad, and Ruth decided to do something to help her.

Ruth: The farmers are harvesting the barley crop just now. Would it be alright for me to follow behind the workers and try to pick up the left over grain? We could do with more food!

Naomi: That's a great idea. Off you go, and may the owner of the field be kind to you.

Narrator So Ruth went out into the fields. [Picture 6] She walked along behind the workers and picked up the leftover grain to make bread.

The owner of the fields was called Boaz. He was a friend and follower of God and he treated his workers kindly. Whenever he saw them, he would say

Boaz: The Lord be with you.

Workers (everyone): And may the Lord bless you.

Narrator Boaz noticed Ruth and asked about her.

Boaz: Who is this new girl following the reapers?

Worker: She's the girl from Moab who has come back with Naomi.

Narrator When Boaz found out who she was and that she was trying to help Naomi, he was very kind to her. He made sure she found plenty of grain to make bread and he told her to share the water that he provided for his workers. **[Picture 7]**

Ruth was surprised that he was so kind. After all she was a foreigner from another land. But he told her that Naomi was part of his family and Ruth was part of his family now too. When he saw how Ruth was helping Naomi he said

Boaz: God will bless you for the good things you have done. You have come to him for safety and he will protect you.

Narrator When Ruth told Naomi, what had happened she was so happy.

Naomi: May God bless him!. Isn't it wonderful that we are part of Boaz's family and part of God's family. I told you God would help us and bring good things into our lives again.

Narrator And that's exactly what God did! It was not long before Boaz asked Ruth to marry him and he took care of Naomi too. Naomi was thrilled when Ruth had a baby boy. That little boy became the granddad of the famous King David (the one who killed the giant Goliath!)! **[Picture 8]**

Elimelech

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