

RUTH

The Faithful One

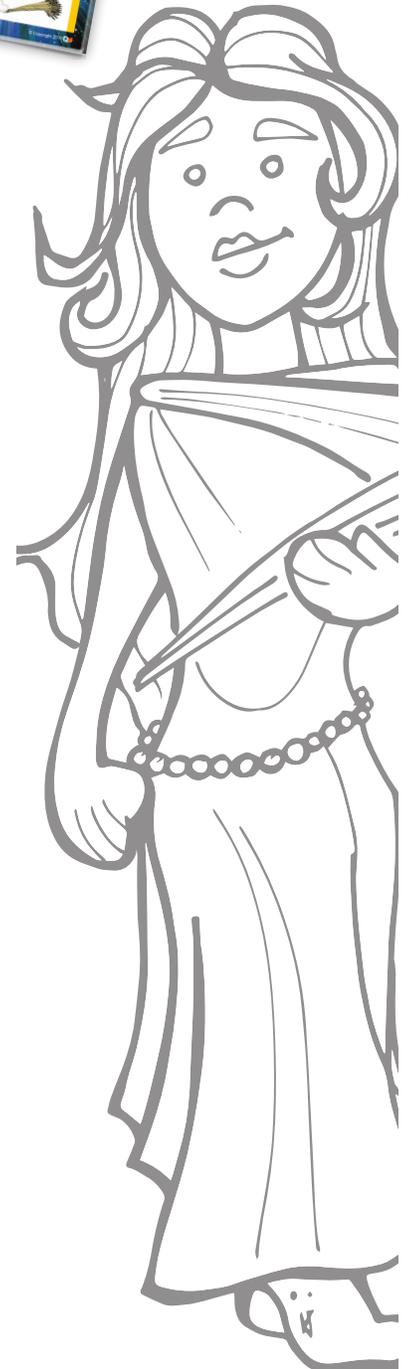
Who was this person?

- Ruth was not an Israelite. She was a Gentile. The word “Gentile” means the person is not Jewish. Ruth was from a country called Moab, so she was also known to be a Moabite. Moab was a country that was often in conflict with Israel.
- Ruth was an honorable and humble woman, virtuous and having noble character. (Ruth 3:11)
- Ruth, and her sister Orpah, were daughters of Eglon, the king of Moab.
- Ruth married an Israelite. Both her husband and her father-in-law die, and she helps her mother-in-law, Naomi, find protection.
- Ruth is one of only five women mentioned in the lineage/ genealogy of Jesus. The five women were: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary, the mother of Jesus.

What is this person known for?

- Ruth’s homeland of Moab was a country with many gods. Ruth chose to not follow the religious practices or traditions of the Moabites, but rather she chose to follow Jehovah, the One True God.
- Ruth was known for being loyal.
- Ruth and her sister Orpah married two brothers, the sons of Elimelech and Naomi. Ruth married Mahlon and Orpah married Chilion. Naomi and her family were Judeans who had settled in Moab when they tried to escape a famine in Judah. Both Ruth’s husband and Orpah’s husbands died, and Naomi’s husband died as well. All three women became widows, meaning their husbands had passed away.
- Naomi plans to return to Bethlehem and she tells her daughter-in-laws that they should return to their families. “Go back to the homes of your mothers (Ruth 1:8). Orpah did, but Ruth wanted to stay with Naomi. She refused to leave her (Ruth 1:16-17).
- Ruth goes with Naomi to Bethlehem, and there she later marries Boaz. He was a distant relative of her late father-in-law.

Making The Bible Come Alive





- Boaz bought the estate from Naomi when he married Ruth. Ruth and Boaz had a son whom they named Obed.
- Ruth is a descendent of King David— Her son, Obed, went on to have a son named Jesse, and Jesse later had a son named David.

WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN GOD'S STORY?

- **To remind us to stay strong.** To show us how a person can remain strong in character and follow God even when society around wants nothing to do with God.
- **To remind us to stay faithful.** Ruth's example to remain faithful to her mother-in-law is a great example of faithfulness. Later in the story we see how God honours Ruth's faithfulness by bringing Boaz into her life. Boaz provides a home and stability for Ruth when he marries her (Ruth 1:6-18; 4:13-15).
- **To remind us to love at all times.** When God lives in us, we are called to love one another regardless of what they may say or do. Naomi went through a tough time when her husband and sons died, and then when the famine broke out in the country where they lived. All these events caused Naomi to complain and become bitter. Ruth, however, demonstrated the love of God as she continued to help Naomi in spite of the challenges. She chose to not abandon Naomi.
- **To remind us to always be kind.** Ruth was kind to Naomi. And later, Boaz was kind to Ruth, even though she was a Moabite woman. Jesus showed His kindness to us by dying on the cross and paying the penalty for our sins. Kindness is listed as one of the Fruit of the Spirit. When we are kind we demonstrate God's spirit at work in our lives. (Ruth 4:16-18; 2:8-20, Galatians 5: 22-23, John 3:16, Romans 5:8).
- **To remind us that God will protect his people.** When Naomi and Ruth left Moab and journeyed back to Israel, God protected these two widowed women as they made this journey on their own after their husbands had passed away (Psalm 91).
- **To remind us that God will provide for those who follow Him.** When Ruth and Naomi arrived in Israel, there was a distant relative of Naomi's by the name of Boaz. Boaz was a wealthy, single man who owned fields of wheat. Naomi encouraged Ruth to go to the fields belonging to this

relative and he would not turn her away. Ruth was given the job of collecting the wheat that the other gleaners (wheat collectors) dropped. It was a very humble job, yet she worked hard to provide for her mother-in-law (Ruth 3:7-15, 18; 4:1-12 and Colossians 3:22).

- **God desires to bless His children.** Ruth and Naomi didn't have much when they returned to Bethlehem. They were very poor. However when Ruth and Boaz got married Ruth didn't need to worry about finances anymore. Ruth and Boaz had a son, Obed, and as they got older they became the great-grandparents of King David. When we put our faith and trust in God He will take care of the details of our lives according to His plans and purposes! (Ruth 2:11-12; 4:1-17, Proverbs 3:4-6)

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Pose the following two questions to your children, one at a time. Allow for interaction and discussion, letting them share their thoughts while you guide the conversation.

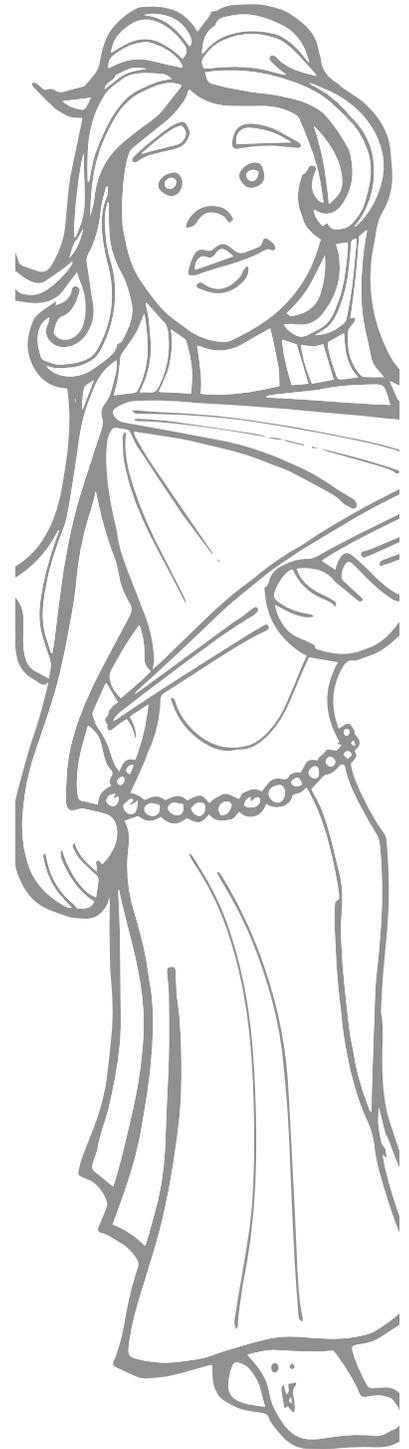
- What life lessons can I learn from this Bible character about how I should and should not live?
- Based on what I have learned from this Bible character, how can I live in a way that is pleasing to God.

MORE IN GOD'S WORD

Galatians 5:22-23—The Fruit of the Spirit:

As we grow and mature in life, it is important that we seek to have the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives, both for our own purposes and so that people can see the character and nature of God within us. The Fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control.

In the Greek language the word translated “fruit” refers to the natural product of something that is living. The Fruit of the Spirit should be evident inside every person who follows Jesus. Those “Fruit” are produced in us by the Holy Spirit, as we give our lives to Jesus and choose to live according to the ways God set out for us. As we grow, the characteristics of Jesus will be seen in our lives. All the “Fruit” don't just appear immediately. Like real fruit on a tree, each one takes time to grow and form into something living that becomes appealing or attractive to others. For instance, when we are kind, people like us. When we show patience, our friends are thankful. When we are gentle with others, people like being around us. When we show self-control and are able to handle our emotions, not letting them get out of control, we tend to have more friends, and our family members like having us around! Just like Naomi and





Ruth, Naomi liked having Ruth around when they returned to Bethlehem. The Fruit of the Spirit that she lived out on a daily basis in their tough situation made her a joy to have around!

Give each child a paper listing each of the Fruit of the Spirit, and a pen. Beside each, have a scale from 1 to 10. Tell the children to take some quiet time to reflex on the Fruit in their own lives, and circle the number where they feel they are at. This will help them know what areas they still need to grow in, so they can work on those areas, asking the Holy Spirit for His help.

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|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Love: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Joy: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Peace: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Patience: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Kindness: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Goodness: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Gentleness: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Faithfulness: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Self-control: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |