

Ruth Stays With Naomi
Ruth 1



WEEK 10

POINT ➔ **WE HELP OUR FAMILIES.**

Open your Bible to Ruth 1, and show children the words. As you read the narrative below, have children act out *kiss* by blowing a kiss, *cried* by rubbing their eyes, and *go back* by standing up, turning around, and walking in place.

SAY: ➔ **WE HELP OUR FAMILIES.**
Let's hear how God used one family member to help another.

Naomi had a happy family. She had a husband and two sons. Naomi's family ran out of food in Israel, and they had to move to a new place called Moab.

While in their new land, Naomi's sons got married to Ruth and Orpah. But then all the men in Naomi's family died. Naomi and her daughters-in-law were very sad. They *cried*. Pause.

Naomi wanted to go home to Israel, so she started to *go back* (pause) with Ruth and Orpah.

On the way, Naomi took Ruth and Orpah by the hand and gave them each a *kiss*. Pause.

"It's better for you to stay in Moab," Naomi said. "*Go back.*" Pause. But Orpah and Ruth said they wanted to stay with Naomi, and they *cried*. Pause.

Then Orpah changed her mind about staying with Naomi. She said goodbye and gave Naomi a *kiss*. Pause. But Ruth wouldn't *go back*. Pause.

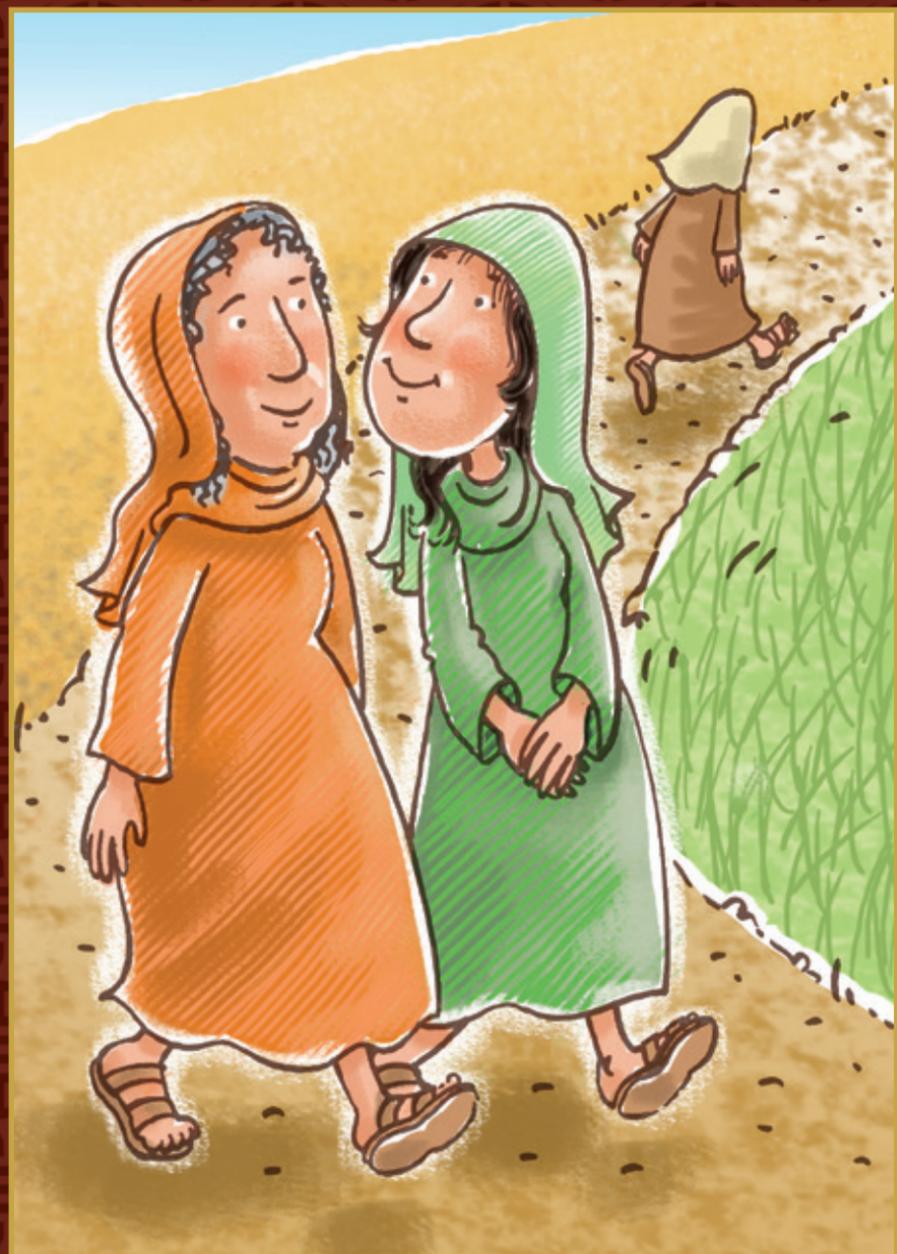
Ruth told Naomi, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live."

ASK: If you've ever had to move, tell what it was like.

Explain whether you agree or disagree: A good family is more important than a good house.

SAY: Ruth loved Naomi, a new family member. She knew that being with her family was more important than staying in the home she knew. So she followed Naomi. Like Ruth, we stick by our families and ➔ **WE HELP OUR FAMILIES.**





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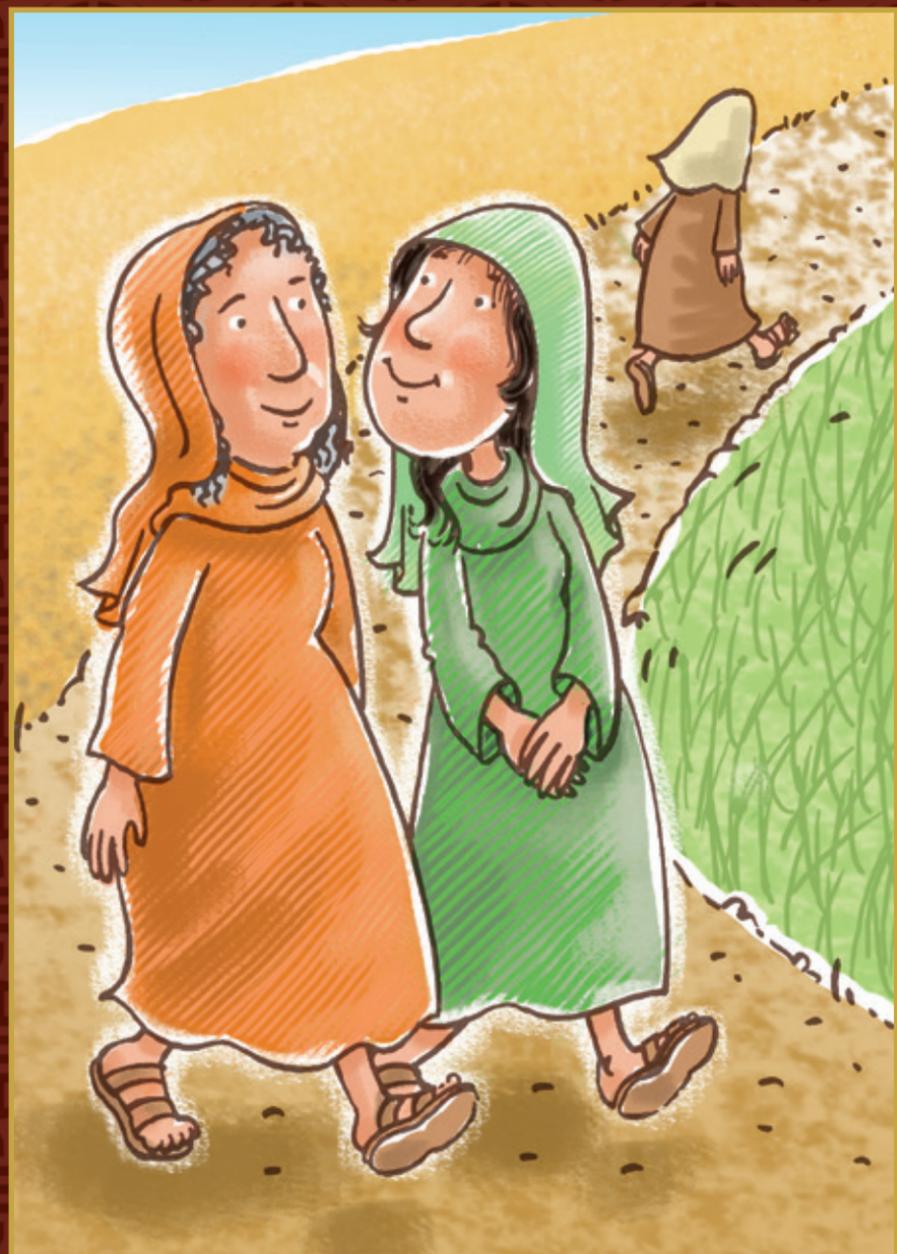
SAY: Ruth wouldn't leave Naomi and promised to follow Naomi wherever she went. I'll pretend to be Naomi, and you'll be Ruth. Follow me wherever I go, and move just the way I do.

Have children follow you as you walk in funny ways, such as backward or around chairs. Then let children take turns being the leader.

ASK: Tell about a person you'd follow anywhere.

Tell about a time you went somewhere new or had to try something new.

SAY: One way families help each other is by sticking together. Our families will be there to help lead us when we need to try new things. And just as they help us, ➔ WE HELP OUR FAMILIES.



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Have children form pairs and line up next to each other at a starting wall. Have the pairs stand back to back with their arms interlocked.

SAY: After Naomi's husband and sons died, she and Ruth decided to stay with each other. In this game, you'll stay with your partner, arms hooked, and follow my instructions for how to move across the room and back.

Use commands such as scoot, hop, walk sideways, or other things that kids can do with interlocked arms. The first pair to get to the opposite wall and back by following each command wins.

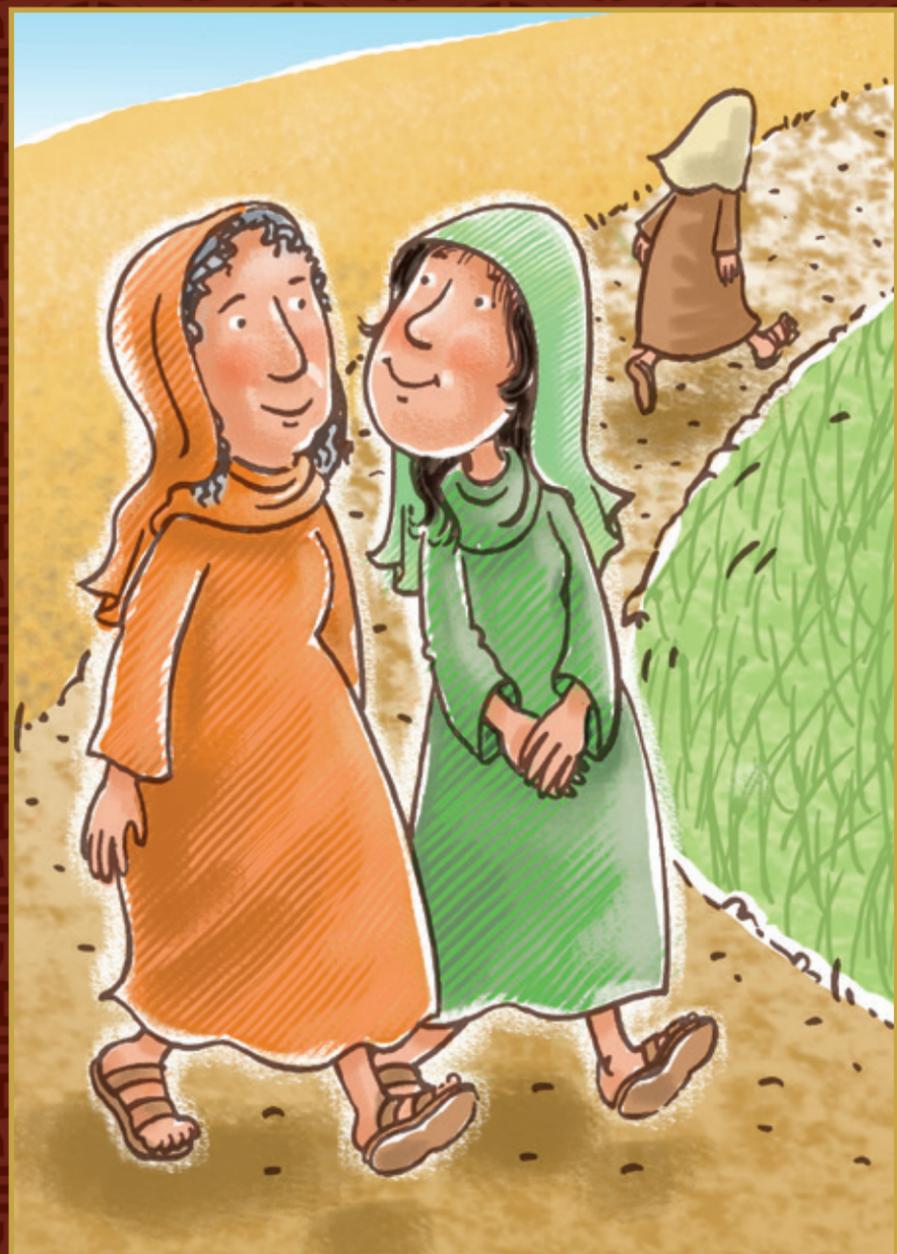
ASK: What was the hardest part about being stuck to your partner as you moved across the room?

How did you and your partner work together to follow my commands?

Tell about a time you were sad and someone helped you feel better.

SAY: Ruth did the right thing by staying with Naomi when times were hard. In our families, it's important to be there for each other.

 WE HELP OUR FAMILIES, and they're right there with us when we're sad.



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Pass out paper and *Color Switchers Markers*. **SAY: Naomi and Ruth were a happy family and loved each other very much. Because of that love, they helped each other. Use the Color Switchers Markers to draw a picture of Naomi and Ruth holding hands and smiling.**

Play ● “Family Song” (track 14) on the CD in the background while the children are drawing. Draw your own picture as well. When kids have finished their illustrations, have them gather in a circle with their drawings. Lead them in singing the song to the tune of “Did You Ever See a Lassie?” (not on the CD). Have kids follow you in doing the motions in parentheses as you sing.

SING:

Did you ever see a family, a family, a family? (*Point to picture on “family.”*)

Did you ever see a fam-i-ly with so much love? (*Hug picture.*)

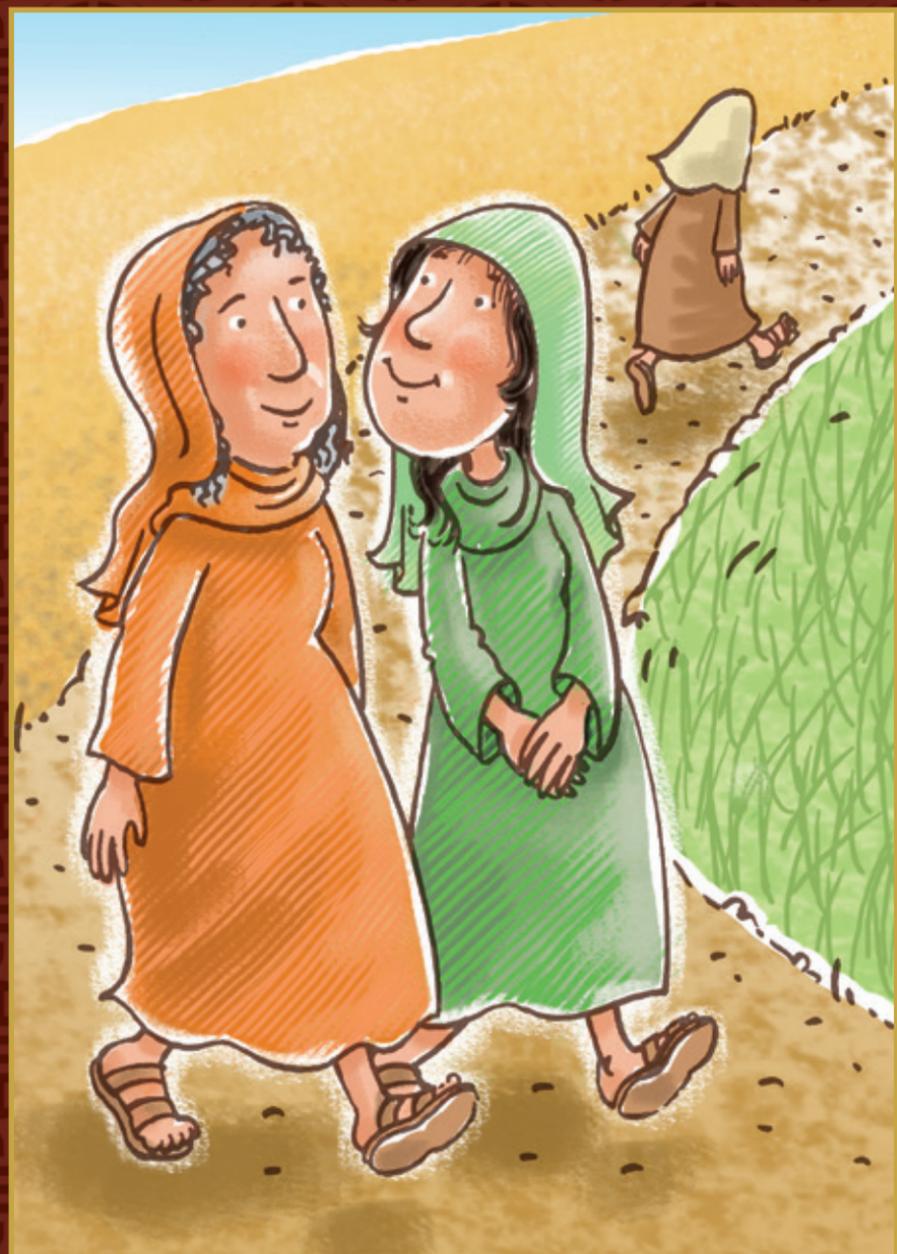
With hugs and kisses and kisses and hugs (*hug picture and sway*), **Oh, we have a special family, with so much love!** (*Step forward and press all the pictures together.*)

(Repeat.)

ASK: Our song talks about a special family with lots of love. What are some ways your family members show love for one another?

How do you know Ruth loved Naomi?

SAY: When we love our families, we want to help them. Ruth didn’t want Naomi to be all alone, because Ruth loved Naomi and was thankful for her family. ➔ WE HELP OUR FAMILIES like Ruth did.



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Have children sit at a table. SAY: **Naomi had two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth. Orpah chose to leave Naomi, but Ruth stayed with Naomi.**

We're going to spin the *Buzz Top*. If the *Buzz Top* spins off the table, we'll answer questions about Orpah, who went away from Naomi. If the *Buzz Top* stays on the table, we'll talk about Ruth, who stayed with Naomi.

Questions about Orpah:

ASK: **Orpah changed her mind about going with Naomi. Tell about a time you changed your mind about something.**

Tell about a time you had to say goodbye to someone in your family, like an aunt or uncle.

Questions about Ruth:

ASK: **Ruth promised Naomi she'd stay with her. Tell about a promise you made to someone.**

Tell why you like spending time with your family.

SAY: **God gave Ruth to Naomi to help her. And God gave us families to help us and spend time with us.**
➔ **WE HELP OUR FAMILIES.**