

# Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE PROCLAMATION  
OF THE WORD OF GOD

for Children



**Psalm 119:105**  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
and a light unto my path.

Winter 2017

## NAOMI & RUTH

Ruth, chapter 1

**I**n the time when the judges ruled Israel, there was a great famine in the land. Elimelech and his wife Naomi, and their two sons, left Bethlehem in Judah. They went to live in Moab, a neighboring country. Moab was an enemy of Israel, and many wars were fought between the countries. The people of Moab did not serve the living God of Israel.

While they were living there, Elimelech died, and Naomi and her sons were alone in Moab. Naomi's sons married Moabite women named Orpah and Ruth. The families lived in Moab for ten years, and then both of Naomi's sons died, too! That left Naomi and Orpah and Ruth to survive alone.

Naomi had heard rumors in Moab that the Lord had brought food to Israel, and that the famine was over. She planned to return home to her country and her people. The younger women went with Naomi as she started her journey to Judah.

As they went, Naomi told both of the women with her, "You each should go back to your mother's house. May the Lord be kind to you, as you have been kind to my dead family and to me. May the Lord give you rest at home with a new husband." Then Naomi kissed them, and they all cried loudly together.

The women said to Naomi, "No, we will return with you to your people."

But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters! Why do you want to go with me? I won't have more sons to be your husbands. Turn around and go back. I'm too old to have a husband. Even if I hoped to have a husband and more sons, would you wait until they grew up? Would you not get married? No, my daughters! It is very bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the Lord has come against me." Then they all cried again, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law and turned back toward Moab. But Ruth hugged Naomi and wouldn't leave her.



Naomi and Ruth

Naomi told Ruth, "Look, your sister-in-law went back to her people and to her gods. You should go back, too!"

Ruth said, "Please don't beg me to leave you or to turn back from following you. For where you go, I will go; and where you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord do so to me, and more, if anything but death separates me from you."

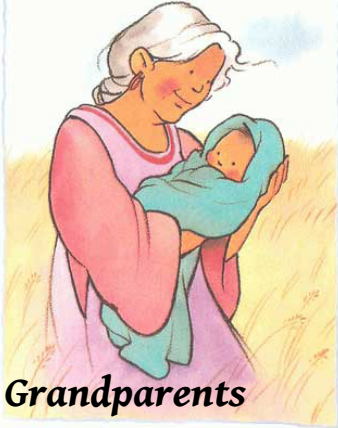
When Naomi saw that Ruth was very determined to go with her to Israel, she said no more, and the two of them went on to Bethlehem together.

So Naomi returned to Israel from the country of Moab, and Ruth her Moabite daughter-in-law came with her. They arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

There's more to this story! See page 4

# Toddlers

Through Three Years



## Grandparents

Do you know your grandma and grandpa? Your mommy and daddy's mommy and daddy are your *grandparents*. Hopefully you know and love your grandparents, and they know and love you, too.

Ruth married Boaz and they had a baby named Obed. Naomi was Obed's grandma, and she rocked him on her lap and took very good care of him. Naomi was happy to have a grandson! Obed brought joy to her life again.

May you always bring joy to the life of your grandparents. I pray they can watch you grow and be a part of your life for years to come.

Who's your great-grandmother? Your great-grandmother is your mother's mother's mother, your grandma's mother.

When Ruth left Moab to move to Israel, she probably had no idea that she would marry again and have a child, and that she would eventually be the great-grandma of a king of Israel.

## God Knows Everything



Ruth may not have known what was in her future, but GOD knew what would happen to Ruth! God has existed forever in the past, and He will exist forever in the future, and He has known everything forever.

God knew before He created the world that Adam and Eve would fall into sin, and He made a plan before He created the world to save people. He planned for His Son Jesus to come to earth at the proper time as a little baby, and to grow up and die for the sin of all the world.

Before Ruth was born, God knew her. He knew that she would have a husband who would die, and that she would go to Israel with Naomi. God knew that Ruth would have baby Obed, and that she would become the great-grandmother of King David. God knew that Jesus would be born of King David's family line.

God knows us, too. God knew us before we were born, before He formed us inside our mother's womb. God knows the end of our days, how long we will live. He knows where we will live and what we will do every day of our lives.

# Tykes

Ages Seven-Ten



When Ruth and Naomi came to Bethlehem, the whole town was excited because of them. The women of the village said, "Is this Naomi?!"

But Naomi said to them, "Don't call me Naomi! Call me "Mara" for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why would you call me Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

## Naomi = Pleasant

Naomi had married and had two sons. In Moab, her husband and sons had died and she was left alone in a strange country. She had no way to provide for herself, and the family line would not continue because she had no more sons. She had left Bethlehem full of life and hope for the future, but the Lord had brought her back empty, without hope.

Naomi had so much unhappiness in her life. Naomi knew that God COULD have prevented those bad things, but God HADN'T prevented them. She felt that God had dealt bitterly with her and had brought the bad things to her life.

Ever since Adam and Eve fell into sin, there have been bad things in the world. Sickness, death, pain, and sorrow all happen because of sin. God doesn't make the bad things happen, though, and Jesus has paid for the sin of the world through His death. God will make all the bad effects of sin stop when Jesus returns. In heaven there will be no sickness or death!

When Obed was born, he became Naomi's grandson, and their family line would continue. Then the women of the village said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord who has not left you without a family line. May your grandson's name be famous in Israel!" Naomi was overjoyed with her grandson, and she was glad to be called Naomi again.

\* Naomi means *pleasant*, and Mara means *bitter*



Ruth acted as a daughter to Naomi. She showed loyalty, humility and kindness to Naomi. What do those big words mean, anyway?!

## Loyal, Humble, and Kind

### **Loyal: faithful, true**

Ruth was faithful and devoted to Naomi. She loved Naomi as a mother, and left her own people and country to stay with Naomi, even though that meant going to live among strangers who worshipped a God she did not know.

### **Humble: modest, respectful, not proud**

Ruth respected Naomi and obeyed her instructions. Ruth knew that her mother-in-law wanted the best for her.

### **Kind: caring, loving, good-natured**

Ruth was hardworking, providing food for Naomi and herself. It must not have been easy to work in the hot field all day, gathering the little bits of grain, separating them from the stalks and grinding them into flour.

Ruth was all those good things to Naomi, but she was still a human person, a fallen sinner in need of God's grace. She came to trust in the God of Israel to save her.

There is Someone who is much more loyal, humble, and kind than Ruth. Jesus is the most loyal, humble, and kind God-Man. He is devoted to His Father, and He left the glories of heaven to come to live among strangers on earth. Jesus was obedient to the Father, even though that meant being rejected by His own people and dying on a cross. Jesus did all the hard work to save us from sin. It must not have been easy!

Jesus is the friend of sinners. Thank Him for giving you faith and saving you by His death.

**Tweens**  
Eleven-Twelve Years



Moab was a neighboring country of Israel, but the people of Moab and the people of Israel were enemies. Many battles were fought between the two countries, though they were not actively at war in the time of Ruth. The Moabite people served many false gods, and they did not worship the true God of Israel.

## Love Your Enemies

When Ruth left Moab, she was depending on the mercy of the people of Israel for her future. And Boaz was kind to Ruth the Moabite although she was a stranger from an enemy country. If Ruth was a foreigner to Israel, why was Boaz kind to her? And how did he come to marry her?

Maybe it was because Boaz had heard about all the things Ruth had done for her mother-in-law Naomi. Ruth had left her people and country and false gods to come to Naomi's people and country, and to Naomi's one true God.

Maybe it was because Boaz could see with his own eyes that Ruth was a faithful, loving woman. She worked in the fields day after day for food. She kept herself away from the men who were troublemakers.

Maybe it had to do with Boaz' family. His father Salmon had married Rahab the harlot, who had hidden the spies that Joshua had sent to Jericho. Boaz' own mother had been a stranger from an enemy country, so maybe he was kind to strangers because he had seen compassion in his father.

Maybe Boaz knew the Scripture where God told His people in the book of Exodus not to be unkind to strangers, because they knew what it was like to be strangers when they were strangers in the land of Egypt.

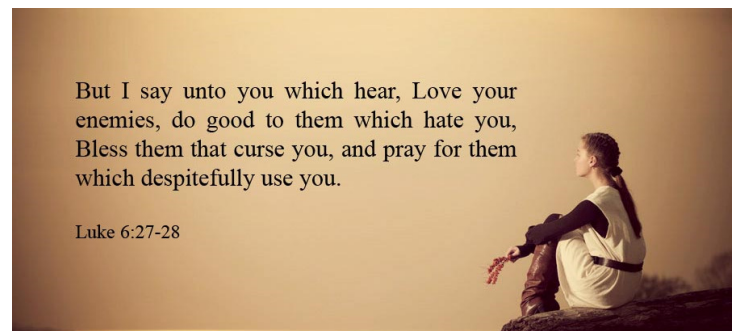
Jesus said: *But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.* Luke 6:27-28

We can't do this of ourselves. We can only love our enemies because of the love of Jesus. He loved us and gave Himself for us, and He changes our hearts so that we can love our neighbor, even if our neighbor is our enemy.

**Teens**

But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

Luke 6:27-28



# BOAZ & RUTH

Ruth and Naomi needed food, so Ruth went to glean in the field that belonged to Boaz. He was a wealthy relative of Elimelech's who lived in Bethlehem. He came to the field and asked the man in charge, "Whose girl is this?"

His servant answered, "She is the Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from Moab. She asked if she could glean here, and she's been working from morning until now, except for a short rest."

Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen, my daughter. Don't go to another field, but stay here and glean with my servant girls. I've charged the young men not to bother you, and when you're thirsty, drink the water that the young men have drawn."

Ruth fell at his feet and said, "Why have I found grace in your eyes, that you would notice me? I am a foreigner."

Boaz answered, "I heard what you have done for Naomi since your husband died, how you left your parents and country and came here. May the Lord repay you! May you receive a reward from the God of Israel, under whose wings you have trusted."

Ruth replied, "I have found grace in your eyes, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to me, though I am not one of your servants."

At mealtime Boaz said to her, "Come here. Have some bread and dip it in the vinegar." Boaz also gave her cooked grain, and Ruth ate until she was satisfied, with some left over. When she got up to go back to gleaning, Boaz told his reapers, "Let her glean among the sheaves, and don't discourage her. Drop some grain on purpose for her to glean, and do not rebuke her."

Ruth gleaned until evening and brought home an ephah of barley. Naomi saw the grain, and the leftover food that Ruth had brought home, and she asked, "Where did you glean today? Blessed be the man who noticed you!"

Ruth told her mother-in-law where she had worked, and that the man's name was Boaz. Naomi said, "May he be blessed by the Lord, who has not stopped being kind to the living and the dead. Boaz is a close relative of ours. It is good for you to work near his servant girls in safety." So Ruth gleaned all through the wheat harvest and the barley harvest, and lived with Naomi.



## DEFINITIONS:

**Glean:** to follow the reapers searching for grain that has fallen to the ground

**Ephah:** about 3/5 bushel

**Spread your skirt over me:** Marry me, and take me under your protection!

Some time later Naomi wanted to find a home for Ruth, her dear daughter-in-law. She gave Ruth these instructions: "Bathe yourself and get ready, put on your coat, and find Boaz at the threshing floor. Wait until he finishes eating and drinking, and watch where he lies down to rest. Then go quietly and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do."

Ruth did what Naomi said to do, and when Boaz awoke about midnight, there was a woman at his feet! He was startled and said, "Who are you?"

Ruth answered, "I am your servant Ruth. Spread your skirt over me, for you are a near relative."

Boaz said, "May you be blessed by the Lord, for you have shown great kindness in the end by not going after the young men, either rich or poor. Don't be afraid. I will take care of everything. There is one closer relative, but I will speak with him and if he doesn't want to marry you, I will."



So Boaz redeemed Ruth for himself, and arranged to marry her. It was their custom that to confirm a transaction a man took off his shoe and gave it to the other person. Boaz sealed the deal with his shoe, and Ruth the Moabite woman became his wife.

Later, Ruth had a baby boy named Obed, who grew up and became the father of Jesse, who was the father of David, the king of Israel. So Ruth the foreign woman, the Moabite enemy of Israel, was the great-grandma of King David, and the many-times-over-great-grandma of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of Kings!

# BibleMath

Do the multiplication problems to find out the code numbers for each letter. How does Jesus say we should treat our enemies? See Luke 6:27 for help.



<b>A</b>	<b>3x4=</b> ___	<b>I</b>	<b>4x7=</b> ___	<b>S</b>	<b>4x4=</b> ___
<b>C</b>	<b>7x9=</b> ___	<b>L</b>	<b>5x4=</b> ___	<b>T</b>	<b>8x4=</b> ___
<b>D</b>	<b>5x5=</b> ___	<b>M</b>	<b>7x8=</b> ___	<b>U</b>	<b>6x5=</b> ___
<b>E</b>	<b>9x9=</b> ___	<b>N</b>	<b>6x6=</b> ___	<b>V</b>	<b>7x7=</b> ___
<b>G</b>	<b>5x7=</b> ___	<b>O</b>	<b>3x8=</b> ___	<b>W</b>	<b>8x6=</b> ___
<b>H</b>	<b>3x5=</b> ___	<b>R</b>	<b>9x5=</b> ___	<b>Y</b>	<b>3x9=</b> ___

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_  
20 24 49 81 27 24 30 45 81 36 81 56 28 81 16

\_\_\_ \_\_\_  
25 24 35 24 24 25 32 24 32 15 81 56

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_  
48 15 28 63 15 15 12 32 81 27 24 30



## Who Said It...?

- The Lord deal kindly with you...  
Ruth 1:8
- Let me now go to the field, and glean...  
Ruth 2:2
- Whose damsel is this?  
Ruth 2:5
- Where hast thou gleaned to day?  
Ruth 2:19
- All that thou sayest unto me I will do.  
Ruth 3:5
- We are witnesses.  
Ruth 4:11
- Blessed be the Lord, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman...  
Ruth 4:14

Puzzle Fun

## THE STORY OF RUTH

Answer Key: page 7

MECLELHEI

17	13			12					2

NIMOA

	21		16	

MAOB

		6		

HURT

		24	10	

ZAOB

14		27		

MEBEEHLHT

			19	5	25			29	

GAILYTMH

			26		1	3	

PEARERS

	20		4	15		

NUBHADS

		9			23	

GLNAE

30		7		

NASNODRG

	11		28		18	22	

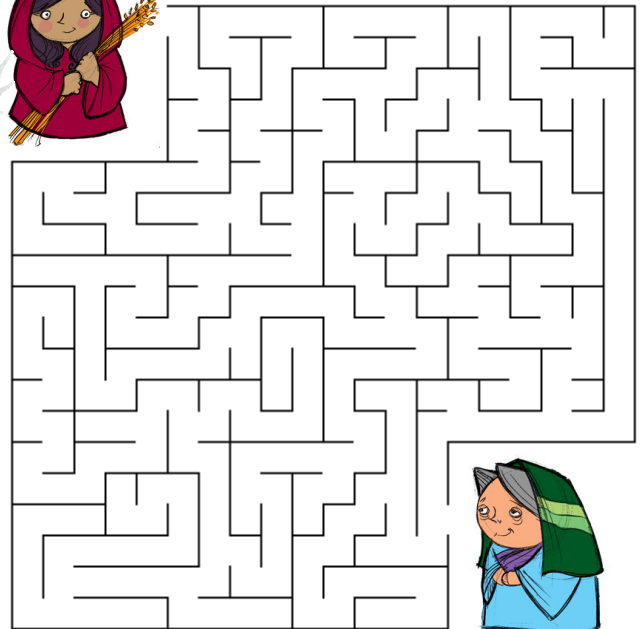
BEDO

31		8	32

How many stalks of wheat are on this page?



Help Ruth through the maze to her mother-in-law.



## DoublePuzzle

Unscramble each of the clue words to the left. Then copy the letters in the numbered cells to the cells below with the same number.

1	2	3	4	5	6	4	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	3	4	17	18	4	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	3	26	27	28	29	3	30	31	32																

Ruth 1:16



*And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee,  
or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go;  
and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.*

*Ruth 1:16*



## Ruth's Song

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gardenofpraise.com

## Ruth's Song Tune "Bring Them In"

Patsy Stevens

Naomi sings about her sadness that her husband has died, and that she plans to return to Bethlehem.

Ruth's voice in the chorus says that she will go with Naomi.

Orpah sadly decides to return to her family home in Moab.

Again, the chorus is Ruth's voice singing that she will go with her mother-in-law wherever she goes.



**Naomi:** Lis - ten my daugh - ters, hear me now, My heart is sad, my soul is bowed.

**Orpah:** Mo - ther, I love you, yes I do, But my - y fam - ily's here, it's true.



My hus - band's gone, I'll leave this land. I will re - turn to Beth - le - hem.

I must re - main though sad at heart. It grieves me great - ly now to part.



**Ruth:** I will go, I will go. I will go - o wher - e - 'ere you go.



I will go, I will go. I will go with you, Na - o - mi.



### Puzzle Answer Key

holding near the maze.  
puzzle page, plus the stalks Ruth is  
There are 23 stalks of wheat on the  
**How Many?**  
thy God my God." Ruth 1:16

"Thy people shall be my people, and  
Obed  
Grandson  
Glean  
Husband  
Reapers  
Almighty  
Bethlehem  
Boaz  
Ruth  
Moab  
Naomi  
Elimelech

**Double Puzzle**

"Love your enemies, do good to  
them which hate you..." Luke 6:27

**Who Said It?**

Naomi  
Ruth  
Boaz  
Naomi  
Ruth  
People and elders  
Women

**Bible Math**  
A - 12 1 - 28 S - 16  
C - 63 2 - 30 T - 32  
D - 25 M - 56 U - 30  
E - 81 N - 36 V - 44  
G - 35 O - 34 W - 48  
H - 15 R - 45 Y - 27

### Holy Father in heaven,

Thank You for Your holy Word, and for the story of Ruth that's written in it. Thank You for faithful people who follow and serve You, even when it takes them away from their people and country. Bless Your servants who preach Your Word in our churches, and who serve us Your holy Sacraments.

Give us servant hearts that are faithful to You and to our neighbors. Let us love one another as Christ has loved us, so that the world will know we are Christians by our love for one another.

Thank You for our families, for parents and grandparents who love us and teach us about You.

Thank You for Jesus who loved us to death. Thank You that He came to earth as a baby, born in Bethlehem, the city of David.

*In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

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## For Parents:

When Ruth was following Naomi, and Naomi was encouraging her to go back to her own people, Ruth does something pretty interesting. She says, “Don’t beg me to leave you, or to turn back from following you! For where you go, I will go; where you stay, I will stay; your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. The Lord do all this to me, and more also, if anything but death separates you and me.”

Ruth was promising to stay with Naomi. She wasn’t ever coming back to Moab. She was going to be with Naomi until she died, and she would be buried nearby. She was leaving her people behind, her country behind, and her false gods behind FOREVER. Naomi would have to lead them, because Ruth was following Naomi to a people and country and God that Ruth didn’t know.

### Forever Love

The speech that Ruth gave is often used at weddings: “*Whither thou goest I will go...*” meaning that a wife should follow her husband to wherever he wants to live, and I don’t say differently, but in many instances the decision of where a couple will live is made together, with mutual consent. God made the husband the head of the wife, though, as Christ is the head of the Church. But the husband also bears ALL the responsibility for the wellbeing and protection of his wife and family. The husband is the leader and provider of his home in all senses: physically, emotionally, spiritually. Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for her, and a husband ought to love his wife the same way.

The wedding vows hold another similar idea as the promise that Ruth made to Naomi. In a marriage, the couple promises to love, honor and cherish each other “...til death us do part.” Marriage is meant to last as long as the man and woman live. In this day of throw-away marriages and instant gratification, it can be difficult to stick with a spouse when things get difficult, when there are disagreements, when it seems that love has faded away. Remember that God has joined you together and He will sustain your marriage if you both will submit and be obedient to His Word.

So when Ruth and Naomi got to Bethlehem, Ruth left Naomi behind and got married, right? Well, she did marry Boaz, but only with Naomi’s approval and arrangement. Ruth continued to care for her mother-in-law. After the birth of Obed, the women of the village told Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord who has not left you without a kinsman. May his name be famous in Israel! Obed will make your life worth living, for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” And Naomi’s grandson is famous in Israel as the great-grandfather of King David!

