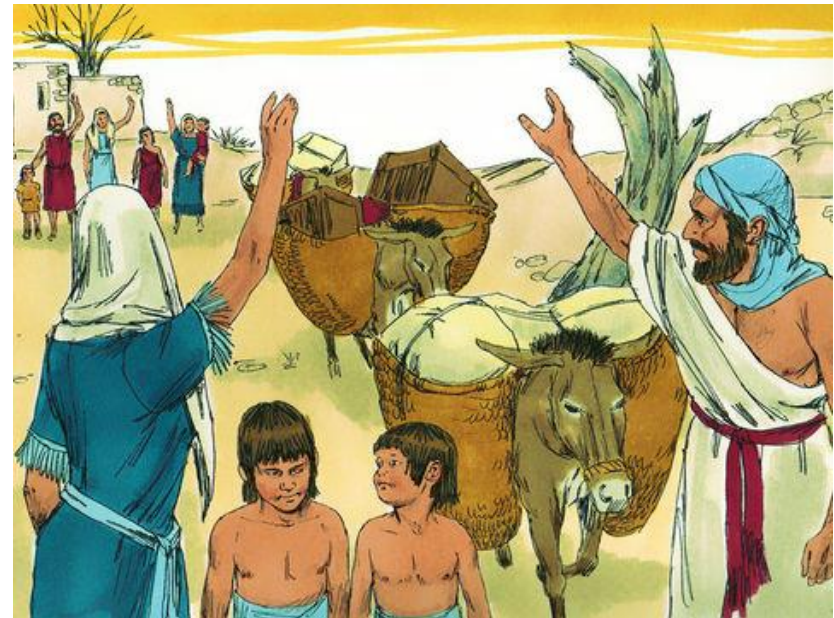


Review

Last week we learned about Samson and Delilah. Samson did not listen to God and did not follow God. Samson gave away the secret of his strength to Delilah. Telling Delilah his secret meant that his enemies, the Philistines, would finally conquer Samson. During the time of Samson and the judges there was a woman named Ruth. Today we will learn something very special about Ruth and continue to learn that God always keeps His promises.



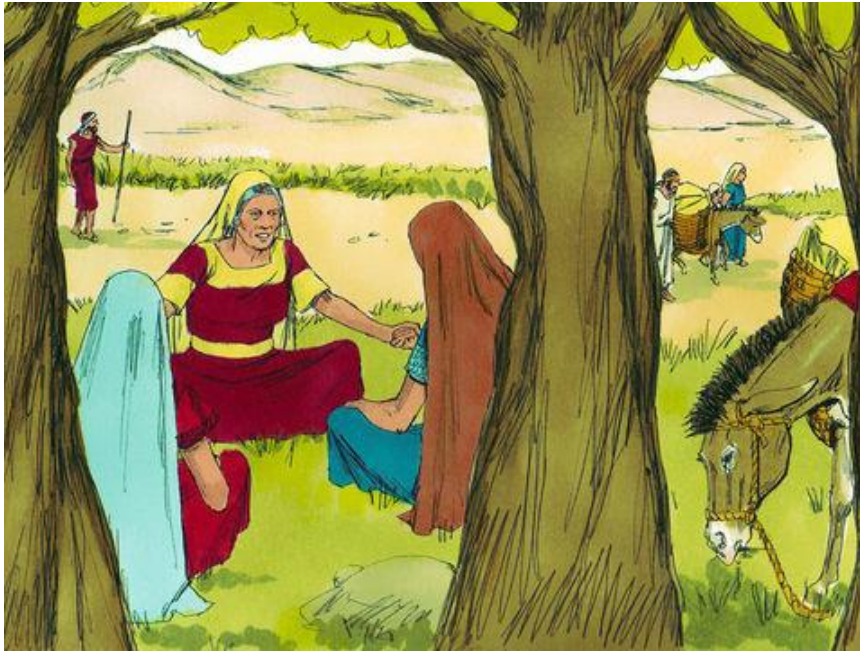
In Moab

Naomi and her husband were Israelites. They were God's people. But they had to leave the town where they lived, the town of Bethlehem, and move to a foreign country called Moab. Naomi and her husband had to do that because there was a famine in the land. There was no food to be found. They had two sons who moved to Moab with them. But after the family moved to Moab, something sad happened; Naomi's husband died. The Bible doesn't say, but I bet he got sick. Soon after their father dies, the two sons found ladies that they loved and married them. The ladies were from Moab, the country where Naomi and her sons were living.



And then more sad times came. After Naomi's sons had been married for ten years, the Bible says both of the sons died too. All that was left of the family was Naomi and her two sons' wives. I'm sure it seemed very sad and very lonely. One of the daughters was named Orpah and the other Ruth, the one this book of the Bible is named after.

Return to Bethlehem



As soon as Naomi heard that the famine was over in her own country, she decided to return home. It was probably a very hard day when she told the two ladies that she would be leaving.

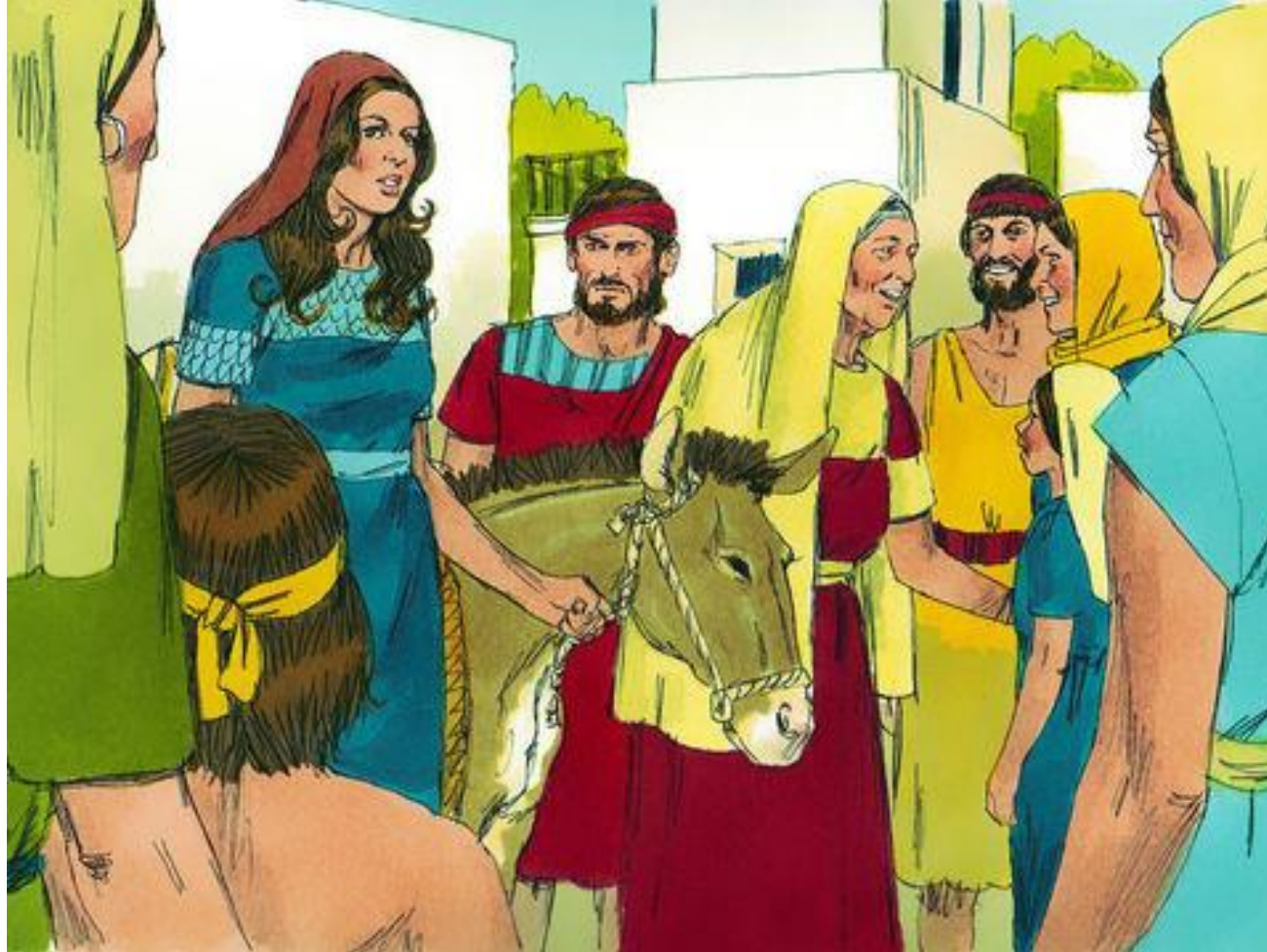
The Bible says as they started to walk toward Judah with her, Naomi turned to Orpah and Ruth and said, “Go, return to your mother’s house. The Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with my two sons when they were alive and with me. I pray that the Lord will give you rest and that each of you will find a new husband.” Then she kissed them and they cried. Both girls said, “We will return with you and go to your country.” But Naomi told them to turn back.



Then the Bible says they cried again and Orpah kissed Naomi and walked away, but Ruth, well, Ruth didn't just kiss her, she clung to her. (That means she held on to Naomi and would not let go.) But Naomi said, "Look, Orpah has gone back to her people and to her gods; return with her."



But Ruth said these beautiful words to Naomi: "Ask me not to leave you or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die." Ruth would not leave her mother-in-law Naomi. Instead of returning to her own people, Ruth chose to be with Naomi's people, with the people of God. When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped asking her to leave and the two of them walked on to Bethlehem.

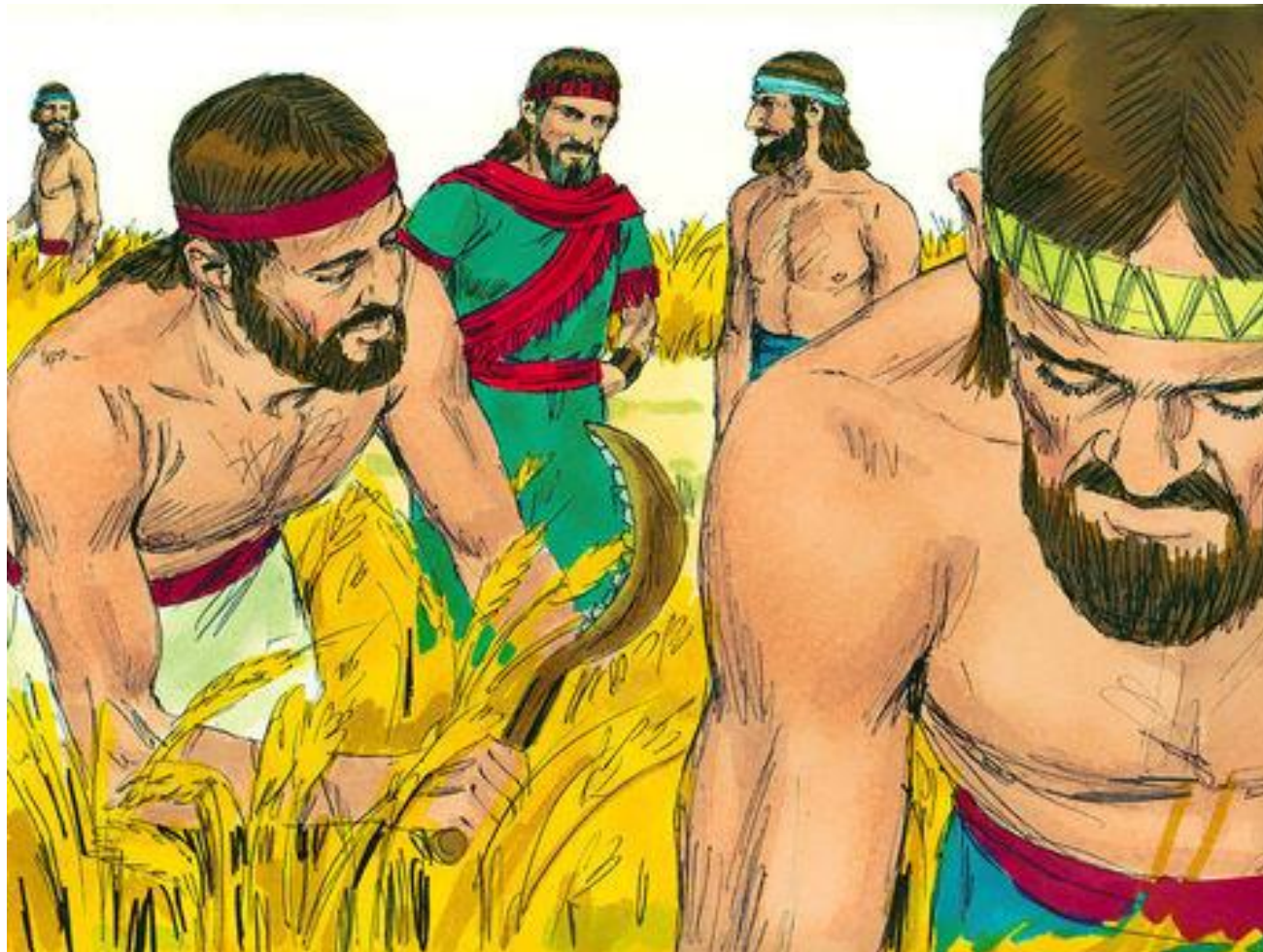


The Bible tells us it was the beginning of barley harvest. That means that all the fields around Bethlehem were filled with reapers. These were workers who would cut down the barley and tie it into bundles.

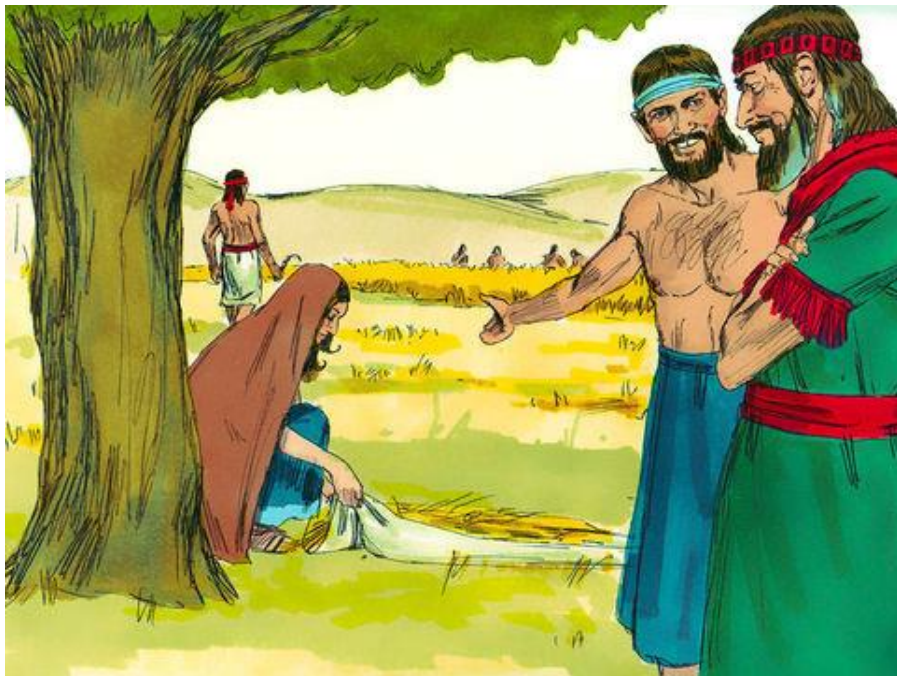


Ruth Meets Boaz

After they arrived in Bethlehem, Ruth went to the fields to work. Long ago, in Moses' time, God had given his people a law that said if stalks of barley dropped to the ground, the reapers could not pick them up. Instead, they needed to be left for the poor, those who had no barley of their own. So the poor would come behind the workers and pick up the leftover barley. It was called "gleaning". God took care of the poor that way so they would have food to eat.



Ruth was gleaning in a field owned by a man named Boaz. He's the one I told you "points" us to Jesus. When Boaz came to his field, he said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered him, "The Lord bless you!" Then Boaz looked around. When he saw a young woman gleaning in his field who had not been there before, he asked his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"



The servant answered, “She is the young woman from Moab who came back to Bethlehem with Naomi. She asked, ‘Please let me glean and gather after the reapers.’ She has been working from morning until now and only rested a little.”

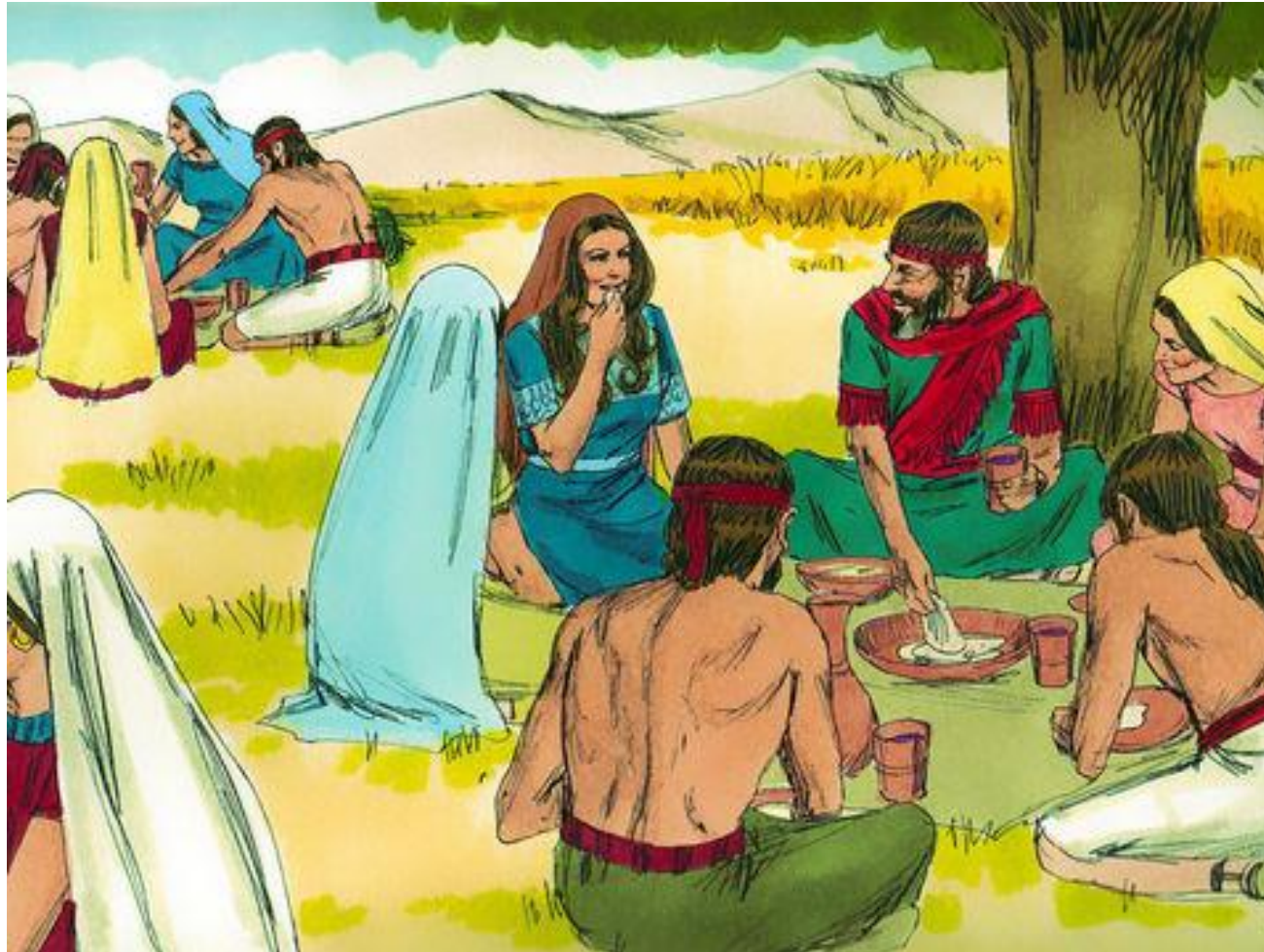
Boaz went to Ruth as she was gleaning and told her, “Do not go to glean in another field, or leave here, but stay close by the other young women. When you are thirsty, go and drink.”





The Bible says when Ruth heard his words she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to Boaz, “Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner, from Moab?” Boaz explained how he had heard about all that she had done for Naomi and how she had come to live with a people she didn’t even know. “The Lord repay your work”,

Boaz said, “and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel under whose wings you have come for help.”



When it was time for lunch, Boaz asked Ruth to sit down and eat with the workers. The Bible says he gave her bread. And after Ruth returned to her work in the fields, Boaz told his servants, “Let her glean wherever she wants, and even let some extra stalks fall from the bundles for her.” Boaz wanted to make sure Ruth had plenty of barley to glean.

Ruth gleaned all day. When evening came, she returned with all her barley to Naomi. “Where did you glean today?” Naomi asked. Ruth told her all about Boaz. Ruth was so surprised. “Blessed is the Lord, who has not stopped being kind. Boaz is a relative of yours!” That was very important because in those days it was a custom in Israel that when a man died and had no children, just like Ruth’s husband, a relative would marry the lady. God had planned for Ruth to glean in Boaz’s field. When Ruth first went there, she didn’t know that Boaz was a relative. But God did!





The Bible tell us Ruth stayed close to the other young women who worked for Boaz. She gleaned in his field until the end of the barley season and the wheat season as well. Ruth continued to live with Naomi, her mother-in-law.

But something happened as Boaz watched Ruth glean in his fields. He began to love her. And one day he asked her to be his wife. Ruth and Boaz got married.

In time a baby was born; his name was Obed. Ruth and Boaz were so happy. And so was Naomi. Her life had been very sad when her husband and sons had died. But now the Lord had given a baby boy for her to love. Naomi's friends would look at little Obed and say, "Blessed be the Lord." And there was one



more surprise for Naomi and Ruth, and Boaz as well. A big surprise that they probably never knew about when they lived on earth! Little Obed grew up to be the grandfather of the great King David. And in time a relative of King David would be born, a king greater than David; his name would be Jesus.

God uses the story of Ruth to show us that God always keeps His promises.

Questions for Review

Have the kids answer “Yes” if it is true, or “no” with the correct answer if it is false.

- God wants us to worship and love Him. (Yes)
- God will never leave us. (Yes)
- God always keeps His promises. (Yes)
- Ruth lived during the days of Jesus. (No! Ruth lived during the time of the judges which was a long time before Jesus lived.)
- Ruth’s husband died. (Yes)
- Once Ruth’s husband died, she went back to her mother’s house. (No! Ruth followed Naomi to Judah.)
- Ruth gleaned in the fields of Boaz. (Yes)
- Boaz told Ruth to leave his field and never come back. (No! Boaz told Ruth to come to his field as much as she wanted.)
- Gleaning means to pick up the harvest or grain that the workers dropped on the ground. (Yes)
- Ruth went to different fields. (No! Ruth only went to Boaz’s field.)
- Boaz was very kind to Ruth and Naomi. (Yes)
- Boaz and Ruth were married. (Yes)
- Boaz and Ruth had a baby boy named Obed. (Yes)
- Obed was the grandfather of King David. (Yes)
- God always loves us. (Yes)

Scripture Memory and Hand Motions for Summer:

“The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.” Exodus 14:14

- **The Lord** (point upwards)
- **Will fight** (punch the air or shadow box)
- **For you; you** (point towards audience)
- **Need only to be still.** (stand completely still or frozen)

