



LESSON 5: GOD GIVES RUTH AND NAOMI A GOOD FRIENDSHIP

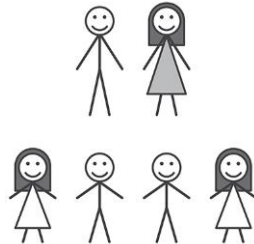
CORE BIBLE: GOD GIVES RUTH AND NAOMI A GOOD FRIENDSHIP

SUPPLIES

- Bibles

Talk About It

Today we're going to discover that God gives us friends. Find a partner you don't know very well. Tell your partner the story of when you first met your best friend. In today's true Bible story, we'll learn about two women who became friends. Here's their story: Naomi was married and had two sons. Then the two sons got married. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other married a woman named Ruth.



But then, Naomi's husband died. She was sad, but she still had her sons and daughters-in-law. Ten years later, Naomi's sons died, too. That left just Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth. Naomi was sad; so sad that she felt her life was bitter. She decided to go back to Bethlehem, where she used to live. Orpah and Ruth started to go with her. But Naomi told them to go back to their mothers' homes and maybe they would find new husbands. Orpah decided Naomi was right, and she went back to her people. Even though Naomi had lost her whole family, God sent Ruth to stay with Naomi. Listen to what Ruth told Naomi.

Ruth 1:16-17.

¹⁶But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. ¹⁷Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!"

God gives us friends.

Run a Three-Legged Race

Let's see if you can stay close to a partner like Ruth stayed close to Naomi. Have a three-legged race, but don't tie your legs together. Just as nothing was forcing Ruth to stay with Naomi, there won't be a rope forcing your legs to stay together. It's up to you to keep your middle legs together as you try the race.

How well did you stick with your partner? What did you do to try to stay together? When are times friends need to stick together? It's important to stick with the friends God gives us. Let's see what happened after Ruth decided to stick with her friend Naomi.

Pick Up Grain

When Ruth and Naomi got to Naomi's hometown in Israel, they needed to find food. In those days, husbands usually provided for the family. Since Ruth and Naomi didn't have husbands anymore, Ruth decided to find a field and pick up leftover grain that the harvesters missed.

The field Ruth went to belonged to a man named Boaz. Boaz was related to Naomi's husband, and he was impressed with Ruth. He could tell she was working hard to help Naomi. So he told his harvesters to drop extra grain so Ruth would have plenty of grain to gather. God gives us friends, and he brought Boaz to be a friend to Ruth. Let's try gathering grain Boaz's way.

Because of Boaz's kindness, Ruth gathered a big basket of grain that day! She took it back to Naomi, and they had plenty of food to eat. God gives us friends who can help and encourage us. Boaz kept letting Ruth gather grain in his fields. She worked as long as the grain was being harvested, and she kept living with Naomi.

But this story is about more than just good friendships. It's about God's big plan. You see, Ruth and Boaz ended up getting married and having kids. Then their kids had kids, and so on until...Jesus was born! If Ruth hadn't stayed friends with Naomi, she wouldn't have met Boaz. But God had a plan. God worked it out that Ruth and Naomi would be friends so Ruth could be a part of something really important.

Talk About It

God gives us friends, too. Friends are a gift from God. What do you like to do with your friends? When you think about Ruth and Naomi's friendship, what's something you could do to treat a friend the way Ruth treated Naomi?

God gives us friends as a special gift. When we treat our friends with kindness, it's like we're thanking God for his gift of our friends. Let's all thank God for our friends.