

RUTH'S REDEEMER

In the days when Israel was ruled by judges, there lived a young woman named Ruth. Ruth wasn't an Israelite. She lived in a country called Moab, which was right next to Israel.

Ruth met a man from Israel, named Mahlon, and married him. Mahlon's brother was named Chilion. He met a girl in Moab whose name was Orpah. No, not Oprah—**ORPAH**. Chilion and Orpah got married too.

Mahlon and Chilion were living in Moab with their mom and dad because there was a **FAMINE** in Israel. (That means there wasn't enough food, just like when Joseph was in Egypt.) Their mom's name was Naomi, and their dad's name was Elimelech—which is fun to say over and over.

But one day (and this is terrible news), Elimelech died. Naomi no longer had a husband.

And then (this is even more terrible news), Mahlon and Chilion died—**BOTH** of them. Now Ruth and Orpah didn't have husbands, and Naomi, who'd already lost her husband, no longer had any sons.

Naomi was very sad. She decided she should go back to **ISRAEL**, since that's where she was from. She told Ruth and Orpah to stay in **MOAB**, since that's where they were from.

It would be good for Ruth and Orpah to stay in Moab, because they had friends and family there. They'd be okay.

But Naomi had no husband. She had no sons. Her home in Israel had been sold, so she had nowhere to live. And she was too old to work.



Orpah said goodbye to Naomi, and went back to her family. But Ruth didn't say goodbye. Instead, Ruth did something very **SURPRISING**.

"I will go to Israel with you," she said.

Even though Naomi wasn't part of Ruth's family. Even though Israel wasn't Ruth's country. Even though Israel's God wasn't the god of Moab. Ruth **LOVED** Naomi, and she wanted her to be okay. If Naomi had no home in Israel, Ruth would have no home with her!

"Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God," Ruth said.

How **AMAZING**! Ruth was willing to give up a lot to show love to Naomi!

God loves it when we show love. He loved it when Ruth showed love to Naomi. God wanted to help them because that's what **HE** likes to do: help people.



Back in Israel, there was a man named **BOAZ** who loved God. Boaz also had a nice house and big fields. So he had plenty of food.

Boaz heard about the love Ruth had shown to Naomi. He heard how Ruth had left her own family and her own country so that Naomi wouldn't be alone.

God whispered in Boaz's heart that he should help Ruth and Naomi. So first, he let Ruth pick food from his fields—for **FREE**—so she and Naomi would have enough to eat.

Then—and this part is really amazing—he offered to make Ruth his **WIFE**, so she would have a home and a family again!



But what about Naomi? Boaz wanted to help her, too, so he redeemed the land that used to belong to Naomi and her husband, Elimelech, and gave it to Naomi as a present!

REDEEM means “to buy back.” To pay a price so something—or someone—can be free. Now Naomi and Ruth were free from poverty (that means “being poor”).

The story of Ruth and Naomi reminds us about God’s **RESCUE** plan—His plan to set the whole world free from sin and death. Boaz had to pay a price to redeem Naomi’s land, and just like Boaz, someone would need to pay a price to redeem the whole world.

RUTH’S REDEEMER

FAMILY CONNECTION

RUTH



TRICKY BITS

What does redeem mean?

To *redeem* means “to buy back, repurchase, or clear a debt.” Just like Boaz redeemed Naomi’s family land by buying it back and giving it to her as a gift, Jesus redeemed our lives by clearing our debt of sin and giving us the gift of eternal life.

TALK

Why do you think Ruth decided to stay with Naomi instead of returning to her home?

What are some ways we can love others the way Ruth faithfully loved Naomi?

Dear
God ...



PRAY

Dear God, thank You for all the ways You help us when we need You. Show us how to be faithful like Ruth and like You. Amen.

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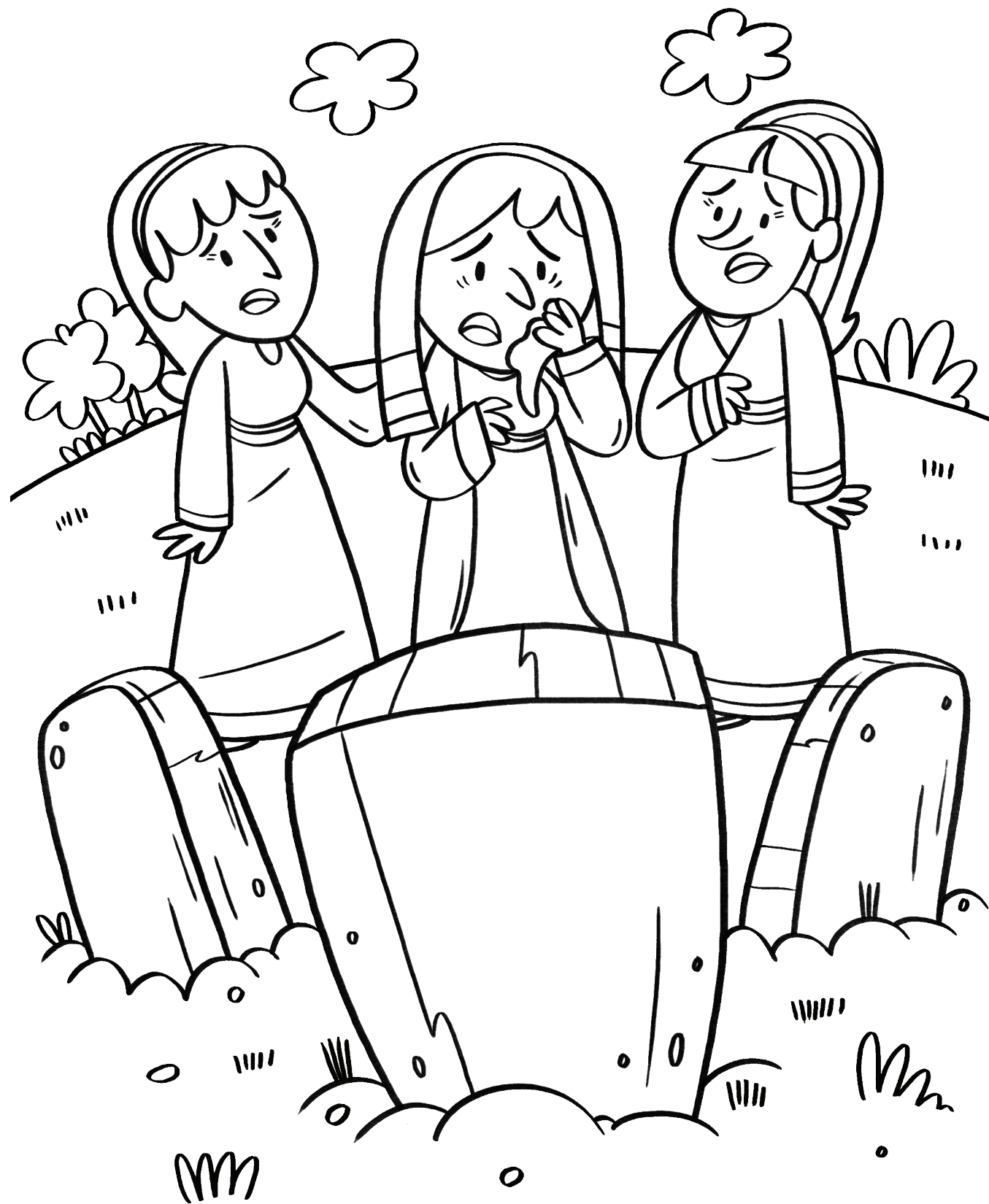
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