



# Shavuot: Ruth and Naomi

## 1. As the pupils enter

Have the **webpage open**. Play your chosen music and display the poster of **character names**.

## 2. Introduction

*At this time of year (you could give a specific date) Jewish people all over the world celebrate the festival of 'Shavuot' (pronounced 'sha-VOT'). Shavuot is a two-day holiday and celebrates a successful harvest. The festival also commemorates a key event from Jewish - and Christian - religious texts: Moses receiving the 10 Commandments from God. During Shavuot it is traditional to spend time studying the Torah - the Jewish version of the Bible - and one of the stories that is read at Shavuot is the one we're going to watch now. It's the story of Ruth and Naomi and tells of the steadfast loyalty of one person to another.*

## 3. Play the video

Duration 3' 44". The final words are: 'But that's a whole other story!'

## 4. Time to talk

Begin by asking the Video questions to aid pupils' recall of the story:

- What country is Ruth from? (Moab)
- How did Ruth meet her first husband, Mahlon? (He moved from Bethlehem to Moab with his family to escape a famine)
- What is the name of Ruth's mother-in-law? (Naomi)
- Why did Naomi wish to return to Bethlehem? (Her husband - Elimelech - and sons - Mahlon and Chilion - had died, and she had relatives there)
- How does Ruth react when Naomi tells her to stay in Moab? (She refuses, saying she will stay with Naomi)
- What does Ruth do for work when they arrive in Bethlehem? (She helps with the harvest)
- What is the name of Ruth's second husband? (Boaz - a local landowner)
- Who is Ruth's son? (Obed - he will become the grandfather of King David)

Then lead a discussion of the story by asking the following:

- Why do you think Ruth stayed with Naomi, but Orpah didn't?
- We can describe Ruth as being very 'loyal' to Naomi. What does it mean to be 'loyal'?
- Can you think of a time when you've been loyal to someone else, or someone has shown loyalty to you?

## 5. Opportunity to sing

See the webpage for suggestions.

## Link to video page



## 6. Opportunity to reflect

*Festivals are an opportunity for us all to celebrate - to share happy times with family and friends and enjoy a holiday... Think to yourself about what your favourite festival times are... During Shavuot it is a tradition to remember the story of Ruth and Naomi... A story about Ruth's loyalty to Naomi and how she looked after Naomi... But also a story about Ruth being made welcome in a new land where she was a stranger... Spend a moment thinking what it's like to not feel welcome...and why it's important to show welcome to others...*

## 7. Opportunity for prayer

Use your usual form of address ('Dear God', 'Let us pray', etc) and:

*Thank you for festivals and holidays for us to share and enjoy with family and friends.*

*Help us to be loyal and true - just as Ruth was to Naomi.*

*And help us always to make others feel welcome - whether at home, at school, or anywhere else.*

*Amen.*