



Ruth and Naomi

[A market in Bethlehem. Ruth carries her baby boy, Obed. A woman approaches.]

Woman: Oh, he's adorable!

Ruth: Isn't he!

Woman: I haven't seen you around here before. You're not from Bethlehem, are you?

Ruth: No. I'm from Moab.

Woman: Moab! You're a long way from home!

Ruth: Yes, my first husband was Jewish and from here - in Bethlehem. He moved to Moab with his family to escape the famine here. His name was Mahlon and his parents were called Elimelech and Naomi, and he had a brother, Chilion.

[We see the family arriving in Moab.]

Naomi: Here we are at last! It's not Judea but at least it will be safe and there will be enough to eat.

[Ruth is nearby and spots Mahlon and smiles. He smiles back.]

Ruth: Even though my husband, Mahlon and I were from different countries and religions we fell in love and married. We weren't the only ones. Chilion also got married - to Orpah.

Woman: What are you doing back here in Judea? Why didn't you stay in Moab?

[Naomi steps into the scene.]

Naomi: That's what I said! To Ruth, I mean.

Ruth: This is my mother-in-law, Naomi - the mother of Mahlon.

Naomi: We lost everything you see. Both my boys, Mahlon and Chilion died, and their father had passed away ten years before.

Woman: How awful!

[We see Naomi, Ruth and Orpah on the road out of Moab.]

Naomi: I decided I had to leave Moab and return to Judea. I have family here and the famine that drove us away was over. But I said to Ruth and Orpah... *[In the scene.]* Go back! I am old, but you can find new husbands and start again! *[To Ruth]* Look your sister-in-law is going back! You should too! You'd be with your family, your people, and you can pray to your own God.



Ruth: No! Naomi, wherever you go, I will go and your God will be my God!

[The story returns to the market.]

Naomi: So even though dear Ruth here isn't from Judea, she left Moab and travelled with me to make sure I was alright!

Woman: That's so good of you!

Naomi: Not only that! When we arrived here, we had nothing. But Ruth went out and worked in the fields all day long to make sure we had a little to eat! She was in a foreign land and didn't know anyone, but she set to work anyway and helped with the barley harvest.

Ruth: I just picked up the left-over grain from the harvest. I was thankful that they let me.

Naomi: She worked so hard, she caught the eye of one of my late husband's relatives - Boaz!

Woman: Boaz! A very noble gentleman indeed, and quite a wealthy one I've heard.

Ruth: He was very kind to me. He didn't care that I came from another country, or that I had no money.

Naomi: You're too modest, dear! Boaz had heard all about Ruth refusing to leave mother-in-law, and he was very impressed!

[Boaz approaches Ruth in flashback.]

Boaz: I have been told of all that you did for Naomi after the death of your husband - how you left your father and mother and the land of your birth and came here to Judea, to a people you did not know.

[The story returns to the market.]

Naomi: Well one thing led to another and they got married!

Woman: And were blessed with a little boy.

Ruth: Yes, little Obed!

Woman: Well, if he's as generous and determined as you are Ruth, he'll grow up to be a very fine young man!

Narration: The end of Ruth's story is just the beginning of another, for little Obed there will have a son, named Jesse, and he will have son named Davd. King David no less. But that's a whole other story!