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God's Magnet

Key Text: Ruth 1:1-18; *Christ's Object Lessons,* chap. 23, pp. 290, 301; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 3, pp. 137-142; Our Beliefs, nos. 11, 23, 3















powertext

"But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God'" (Ruth 1:16).

powerpoint

God is constantly drawing us to Himself.

Who is your favorite relative? Why is that person special to you? What common interests do you have? What is your favorite memory of that person?

The high-pitched wailing of the mourners went on and on. Naomi pushed back her black veil and wiped her face. Since she had moved across the Jordan River to Moab with her husband and her two sons, this was the third funeral for her family. She and her husband, Elimelech, had left their hometown of Bethlehem in Judah to escape a terrible famine.

They had come to Moab to start a new life. But instead of life, she had found death. First Elimelech had died. She was left alone with her two sons, Mahlon and Kilion. Her two sons married Ruth and Orpah, the Moabite girls they had chosen. Her daughters-in-law had become part of the family, even though they were from another culture. But now her sons had died too. Naomi pulled her veil back over her face. Her voice again joined the shrill wail of the other mourners.

For a while Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah struggled to survive on their own. Then, little by little, they started to hear news that the famine was over in Judah. Naomi called Ruth and Orpah together for a family

Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 102.

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Sunday

READ Read Ruth 1:16 and this week's story, "God's Magnet," aloud to someone.

REACT What impresses you most about Ruth's story?

LEARN Read and learn the power text, Ruth 1:16.

PRAY Ask God to draw you to Himself through His grace.

Monday

READ Read Ruth 1:1-14.

CREATE Create a greeting card, poster, or refrigerator magnet with this week's power text and place it where you can see it every day.

LEARN Continue to learn the power text.

PRAY Thank God for calling everyone to Himself.

Tuesday

READ Read Ruth 1:15-22.

THINK Even though Naomi had lost her husband and sons, and probably did not have much money, what blessings had God brought into her life?

DO Take time this week to improve a relationship God has blessed you with. Do something special for someone in your home, or write a letter to someone who is away.

PRAY Ask God to use you to draw others to Him.

council, and they decided to start packing immediately. The two helpful daughters-in-law packed most of their belongings and made most of the arrangements for closing up their home in Moab.

Finally the day arrived. The three women started down the road toward the Jordan River, each with her own set of thoughts.

As Naomi walked, she had time to think about what lay ahead for each of them. For all she knew, she faced a life of emptiness. Maybe she would still need the help of these young women, but was coming with her the best thing for them? She had no right to force her people on them. How would they be accepted? They would be foreigners in a strange land, and she knew how that felt. And besides, they were widows now, the same as she was.

According to some Eastern custom, she could keep them as her virtual slaves. But, she reasoned with herself, they needed to marry again, or at least to be



in the home of some male relative who could provide for them. They probably wouldn't marry again in Judah. Israelites looked down on Moabites. And they had no relatives there. No, it would be best for them to go back to their own country, even though she would miss them.

Naomi stopped walking and sat down beside the road to rest. "Ruth and Orpah, we need to talk," she began. "I've been thinking." Naomi started to explain her thoughts to the two young women, who had eagerly put down their burdens and sat beside her, welcoming the rest.

"You see," she concluded, "although I love you and have depended on you during these tough times, I know that it will be best for you to go back to your country and to your family. There you will have someone to take care of you, and you may even marry again and become the mothers you really want to be."



Wednesday

READ Read Ruth 2.

THINK What does this chapter reveal about Ruth's willingness to work and help her mother-in-law?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, make a list of ways you could be of help to your family members. Then make another list with ways you could help others learn about God's grace.

PRAY Ask God to impress you with all the reasons He wants you to belong to Him.

Thursday

READ Read Matthew 1:5, 6.

THINK Remember the story of Rahab and how God chose her to be a part of His people, even one of Jesus' ancestors. Ruth, the daughter of a despised people, was also one of Jesus' great-grandmothers.

DRAW Draw a family tree from Rahab through King David, including Ruth.

PRAY Praise God for drawing you into His family.

Friday

READ Read Ruth 3; 4.

THINK When Naomi and Ruth crossed the Jordan and headed for Naomi's hometown of Bethlehem, they did not know what God had in store for them, but they had both decided to trust Him.

WRITE As though you were Ruth, write a letter to her family in Moab about how God took care of her.

SHARE Share your letter with your family at worship.

PRAY Tell God how grateful you are for His loving care.

Orpah spoke up quickly: "But how will you manage without us? You don't even know if you have any relatives left to live with."

"God's grace provided me with your love and friendship," Naomi replied. "Even though I have experienced a lot of bitterness and sorrow, I will trust Him to provide for my future. You have no further obligation to me. You are free to go."

Orpah had tears in her eyes, but she looked carefully at Naomi to be really sure she meant it. Then she quickly gave her a goodbye kiss, picked up her bundle, turned, and headed back the way they had come.

Ruth and Naomi sat silently together beside the road. Naomi finally broke the silence. "Go with her."

"But Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God'" (Ruth 1:16).

Ruth paused a moment, choosing her next words very carefully. "Most of all, Mother Naomi, I want your God to be my God. I will not leave you. I will die and be buried with your people."

Naomi looked thoughtfully at the younger woman. She sensed that God was calling Ruth. In spite of all the pain of losing her husband and sons, God was using all of this to draw another precious person to Himself. She wouldn't urge Ruth to go back home anymore. Slowly Naomi picked up her bag and headed for the path. Ruth followed her, and the two made their way together toward Bethlehem, and whatever God had in store for them.



PUZZLE
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WHERE YOU GO, I WILL GO

Instructions: Start with "Trust" and find a Bible verse that tells us how to walk with the Lord. Move from block to adjacent block; you may use a word more than once and not all words are used.

