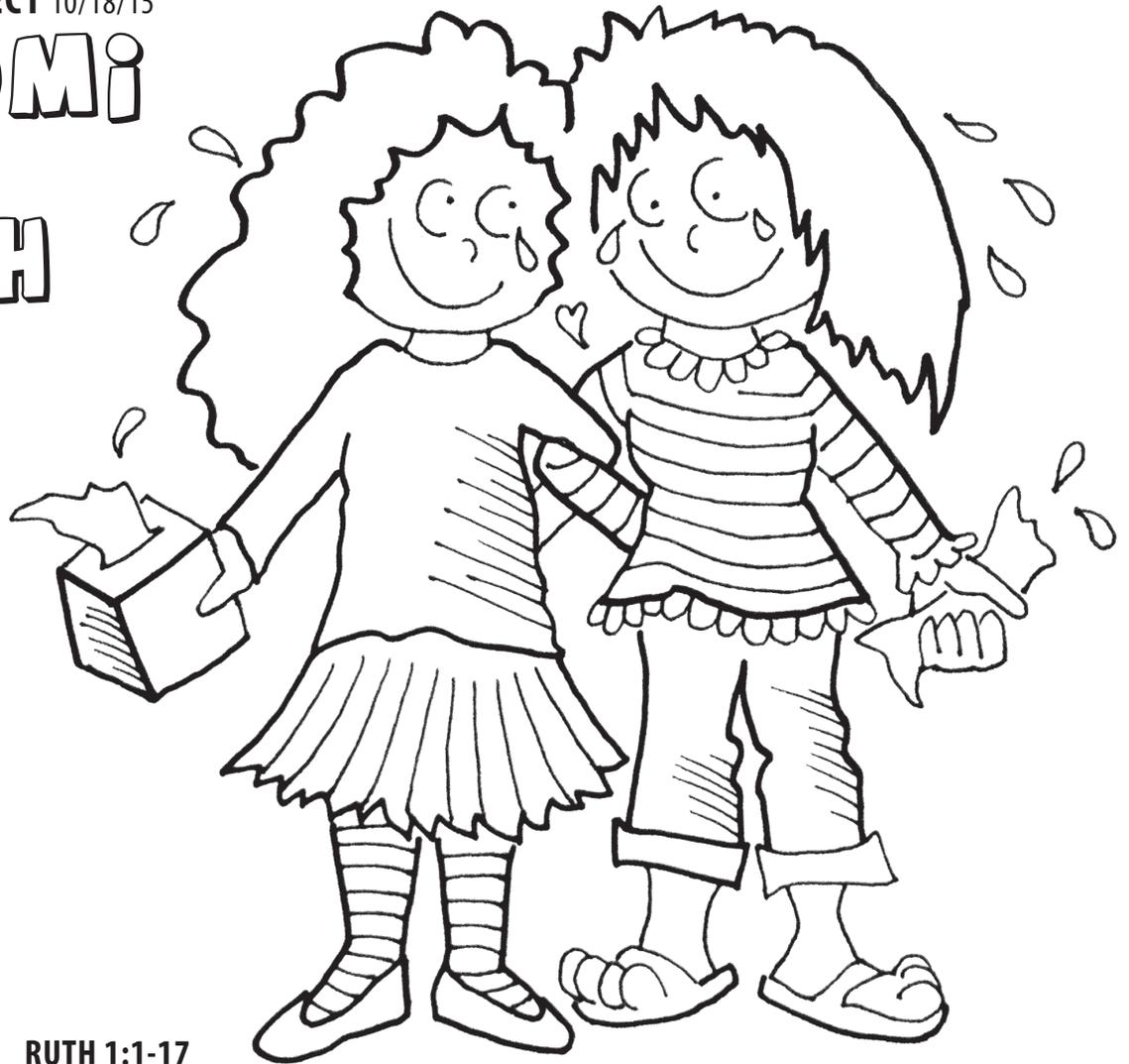


NAOMI AND RUTH



RUTH 1:1-17

Naomi, her husband and their two sons have fled the famine in Bethlehem and traveled to the foreign land of Moab. Naomi's sons married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. In ancient times, leaving your homeland and marrying someone from a different culture could make you an outsider in the eyes of your people.

Soon tragedy hits. Naomi's husband dies, then both of her sons. Naomi doubts that she'll be welcome again in Bethlehem. She has no idea how she'll survive. Her foreign daughters-in-law make blending in every more difficult, so she tells them to return to their families.

Orpah does as Naomi asks, but Ruth does not. Ruth refuses to leave Naomi, and together they set off to scrape out a living for themselves in Bethlehem. Later on, Ruth marries one of Naomi's relatives and ends up being the great grandmother of King David, an ancestor of Jesus. This foreign woman, living as an outsider among Naomi's people, becomes an important piece in the history of Jesus.

TALK ABOUT THIS ...

Have you ever felt like an outsider? What was that like? What happened? Did the situation ever change? How or why did it change? Do you know anyone who is an outsider? Do you know anyone who needs to be welcomed? Do you know anyone who needs a friend? What happens when you start to actively notice people on the fringes in school, in the lunchroom, and at recess? Can you help? How?

THIS WEEK'S THEMES:



PROGRESS:

Why do we include some people but not others? Does God do that? Can we include everyone?



LOVE:

What happens to Ruth in the end? Does God care that she's an "outsider"? Is she an important part of God's story? Are we an important part of God's story, too, even if we feel like outsiders?



RELATIONSHIP:

Is there anyone you know who needs to be welcomed or included?

FAITH⁵ ... A BEDTIME ROUTINE FOR FAMILIES

SHARE your highs and lows from the day. READ the Bible story. TALK about how the Bible story relates to your highs and lows. PRAY for one another's highs and lows, and BLESS one another.

MORE INFORMATION: faith5.org