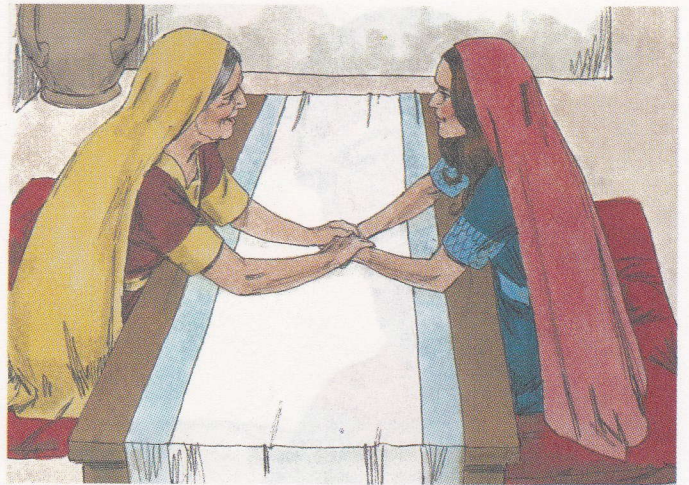


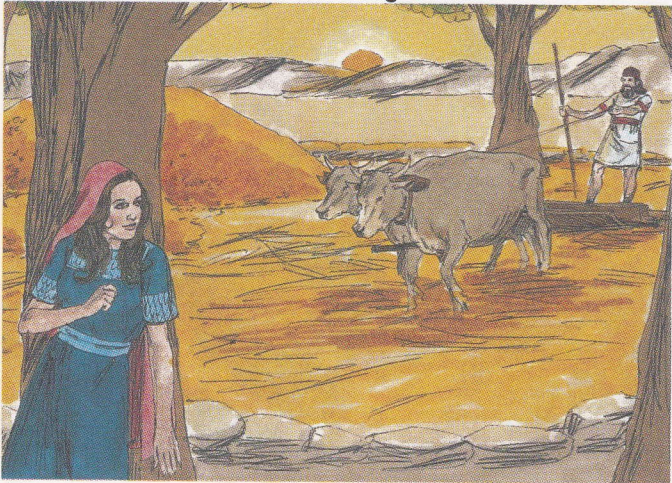
# Ruth Marries Boaz



**1** Ruth and Naomi continued to live on the grain which Ruth gathered by following behind the workers in Boaz's field. Boaz made sure that his workers left plenty for Ruth to gather.



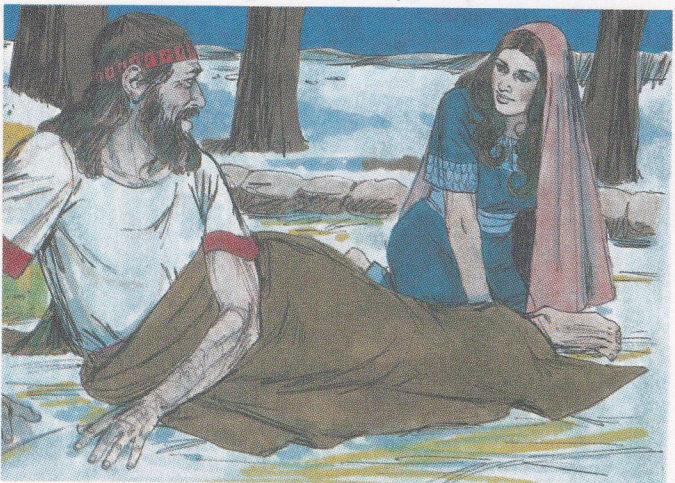
**2** As time passed, Naomi decided she should find a husband for Ruth. Naomi thought up a plan concerning Boaz, who was a close relative, and Ruth agreed to do as Naomi said.



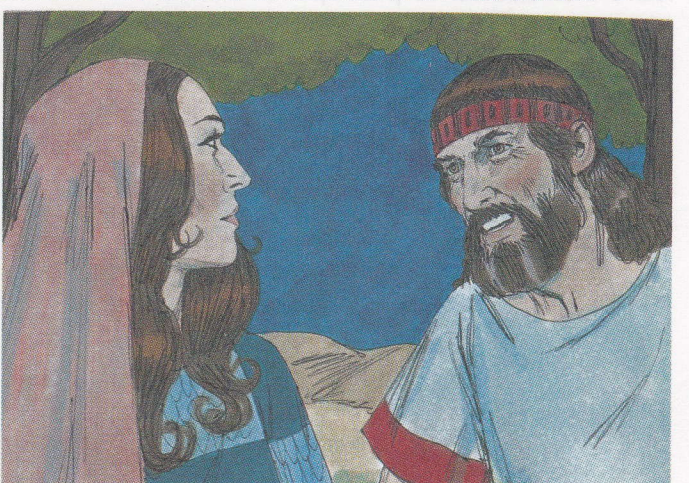
**3** So that evening Ruth went to the place where Boaz was threshing the barley, but she did not let him see her. After he ate and drank, he lay down beside the pile of barley to sleep.



**4** When she was sure Boaz was sound asleep, Ruth slipped over quietly and lay down at his feet. During the night he suddenly woke up and discovered her beside him. "Who is it?" he asked.



**5** "It's your servant Ruth. Since you are my close relative, you are responsible for taking care of me. So please marry me."

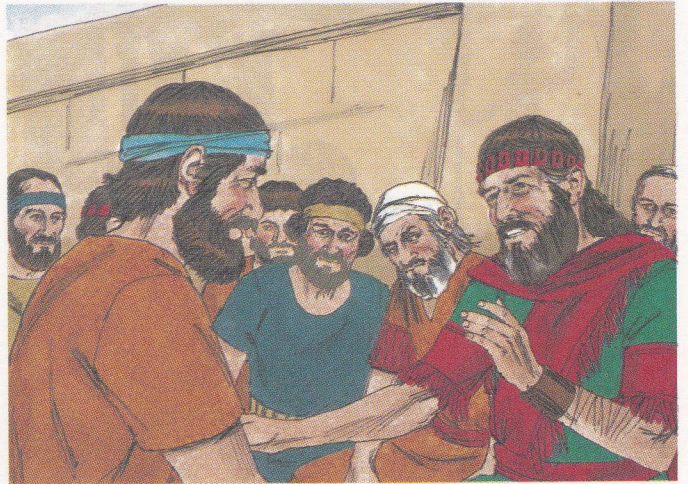


**6** Boaz said, "This loyalty to your husband's family is even greater than the loyalty you've shown to Naomi. I will do what you ask, but first I must talk to a man who is your closest relative."





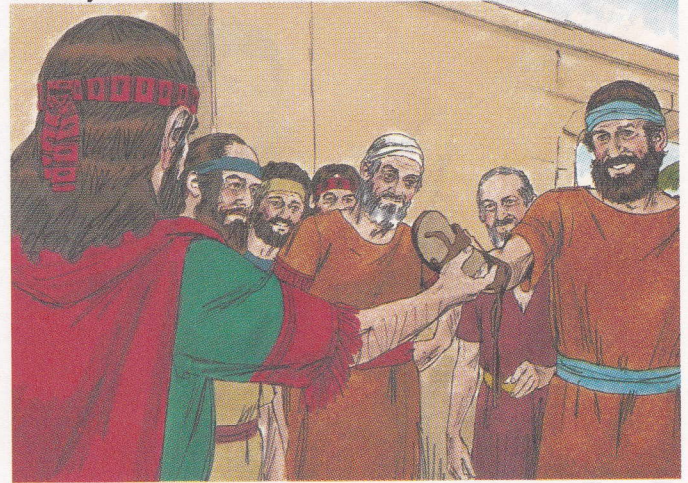
**7** So Ruth stayed beside him that night. The next morning Boaz went to the meeting place at the town gate. When he found the close relative, he had him sit down with ten of the town leaders.



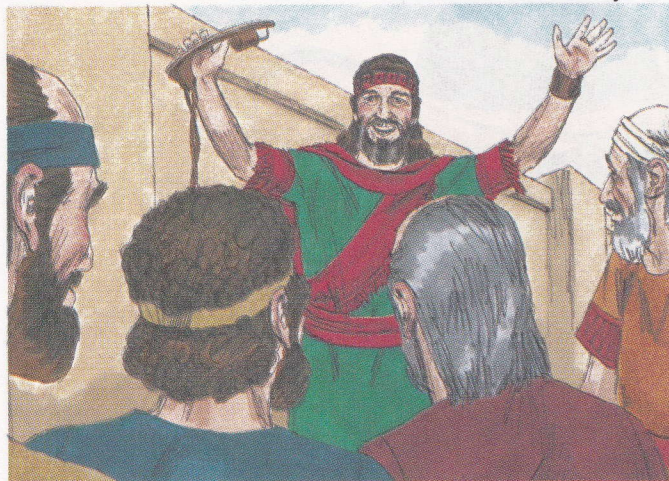
**8** Then Boaz explained: "Naomi wants to sell the field that belonged to Elimelech. Since you are the closest relative, you have the first chance to buy it. But if you don't want it, I do."



**9** The man replied, "I will buy it." So Boaz said, "Very well, but you should know that whoever buys the field also buys Ruth, the Moabite widow, so that the land will remain in the dead man's family."



**10** "Then you buy it," the man said to Boaz. "I give up my claim on it, because my own children could not inherit it." He took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz, as was the custom when trading land.



**11** Then Boaz said to the town leaders, "You are all witnesses of this." "Yes, we are," they replied. "And may the Lord make your wife like Rachel and Leah, who bore Jacob many children."



**12** So Boaz married Ruth, the loyal Moabite woman. In time they had a baby boy, whom they named Obed. This Obed grew up to become the grandfather of David, the king of all Israel.