

Name: _____ Date: _____



Choose four of the Message Cards which you think show the lessons from the story of Ruth and stick them in the table below. Use the space next to each one to show the evidence in the story that supports your ideas.

Message	Evidence for this message in the story

Which of these do you think would be the most important message for Christians and why? Discuss your ideas with a friend.



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The story of Ruth is full of messages and lessons that Christians can learn from. Choose six of the Message Cards, decide whether or not you think this is one of the messages of the story and use evidence from the story to explain your choices.

<p>Stick a Message Card here:</p> <p>Do you think this is one of the messages in the story of Ruth?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Explain your choice:</p>	<p>Stick a Message Card here:</p> <p>Do you think this is one of the messages in the story of Ruth?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Explain your choice:</p>
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Friendship is one of the main themes in the story of Ruth and Naomi. What do you think it means to be a good friend? List as many qualities as you can.

**How to be a
good friend**

Can you think of a time when someone was a really good friend to you? Explain what happened and how you felt:

Can you think of a time when you were a really good friend to someone? What did they need and what did you do to be a good friend?

Which of these messages do you think are conveyed in the story of Ruth and which aren't?

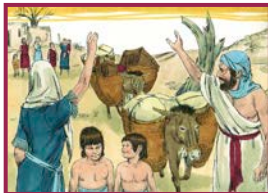
A good friend always sticks by you.	If you move to a new country, bad things will happen.	God loves everyone, no matter what country they are from.
If you believe in God, nothing bad will happen to you.	God is only interested in kings, queens and other important people.	All people go through difficult times, whether they believe in God or not.
God will always provide what you need to live.	If you are kind, people are more likely to be kind to you.	Family should stick together.
Sometimes life doesn't work out how you want it to but God always has a good plan.	If you trust God, he will look out for you.	If you think of others before yourself, you will be rewarded.

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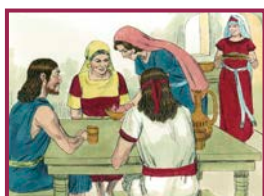
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Ruth and Naomi

A man called Elimelech lived in Bethlehem in Judah with his wife and two sons. His wife's name was Naomi. When his sons were young, a severe famine came to the land so Elimelech decided to move his family to the country of Moab where there would be more food to feed his family. Elimelech and his family believed in God and lived in Bethlehem with others who believed too. The people of Moab had their own gods they worshipped.



A few years later, Elimelech died leaving Naomi with her two sons. Both sons ended up marrying Moabite women and they all lived happily together for the next ten years.



However, disaster struck when both sons died. Now Naomi was left only with her two daughters-in-law (who were called Orpah and Ruth). Naomi was devastated. She was too old to marry again and have more children so she decided to leave Moab and go back to Bethlehem. The three women started packing up their belongings. Before long, they were ready to leave and they set off on the long journey back to Bethlehem.



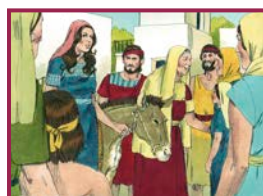
After a little while on the road, Naomi stopped and told Orpah and Ruth that they should go back to Moab. "There is no reason for you to stay with me," she said. "I am old and can give you no more sons to marry. Go back home and live with your mothers. I have nothing else I can give you." They all cried at the sadness of their situation. Orpah gave her mother-in-law a long hug, then turned around and headed back to Moab. Ruth also hugged Naomi but didn't let go.



"Look," said Naomi to Ruth. "Your sister-in-law is leaving to live with her own people and worship her own gods. Go with her." But Ruth would not go. Instead she said, "I will not leave you. Where you go, I will go, and where you live, I will live. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God. Where you die, I will also die and be buried. I swear by almighty God that only death will be able to separate me from you."



When Naomi realised that Ruth would not be dissuaded, they journeyed the rest of the way to Bethlehem together. When they arrived, the whole village was excited. "Can that be Naomi?" they asked. "How wonderful that she has come home!"



Because Naomi and Ruth had no husbands to take care of them, they had to earn their own living. It was harvest season so Ruth decided she would go to the fields and glean the grain that was left on the ground after the men had harvested the crops. She worked hard in the field all day long, without even taking a break. She wanted to make sure that there was enough grain to keep Naomi fed and well.



The owner of the field noticed Ruth working in the field. "Who is that woman?" he asked one of his workers. "She is Ruth, the Moabite woman who came back with Naomi," he answered. It just so happened that the owner of the field (who was called Boaz) was a relative of Naomi's husband Elimelech. He decided to go and talk to Ruth. "From now on, stay in my field," he said. "Stay close to the other women who will be friendly to you. Don't worry about being harassed by any of the workers because I will tell them to leave you alone. And whenever you get thirsty, go and drink from the water buckets the servants have filled."



Ruth was overwhelmed by the man's kindness and bowed down at his feet. "Why do you treat me so well when I am a foreigner here? You don't even know me." "I have heard how you treated Naomi and the kindness you showed her. I heard about how you left your home and your own family to follow her so she wouldn't be lonely after the death of her husband and sons. God will reward you for such kindness and so will I." Ruth couldn't believe Boaz would be so generous but to prove he meant it, he prepared a meal for her and made sure she ate well.



When Ruth told Naomi what had happened she was overjoyed. "I thought God had forgotten us but he hasn't! Now you'll be safe working in the fields and we will have food to eat." Ruth continued working in the field until the harvest was over. Boaz continued to treat her kindly, even ordering the workers to drop more barley so there would be more for her to pick up.



Eventually Ruth and Boaz were married. Naomi was thrilled that Ruth could marry a relative of her husband's. She felt that God had truly blessed them all, especially once Ruth and Boaz had a son! The women of the town said to Naomi, "God be praised! He didn't leave you without family to carry on your life. May this baby grow up to be famous in Israel! And as for your daughter-in-law, she is more special than seven sons!"

