

RUTH

A story from the time of Judges...

Ruth is a **short story** – it would take up seven pages in a paperback novel. Here's how it starts...

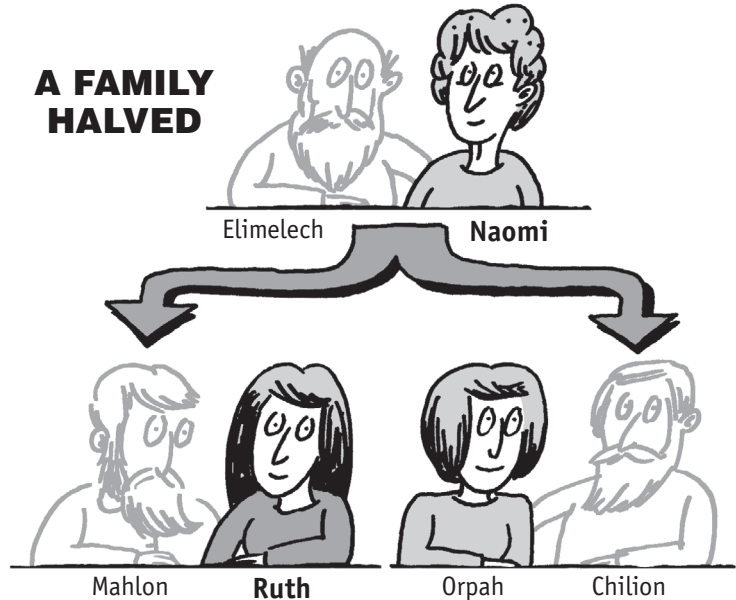
Elimelech and **Naomi** take their family from their home in Bethlehem to live in **Moab** (a foreign country). Then Elimelech dies. Naomi's two sons marry two **local girls**, one of them being Ruth.

But ten years later, the two sons die as well, and Naomi decides to go back home to Bethlehem. Ruth insists on **going back with her**, even though she will be a foreigner in Israel. Her loyalty to Naomi is impressive. She says...

Wherever you go, I will go, and your God will be my God.

Ruth 1:16

A FAMILY HALVED



The rest of the book of Ruth (from chapter 2) tells the story of how Ruth meets and marries **Boaz** (a relative of Naomi). The story is full of oriental details and is a good read.

Foreigners

Ruth is an example of non-Jews who were blessed by God. Naaman (in 2 Kings 5) is another example. God's love was not confined to one nation or race, even then.