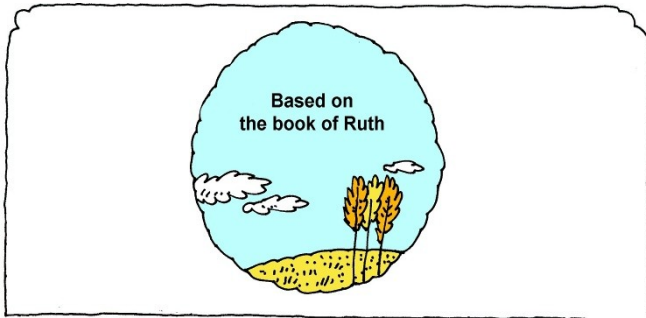


RUTH and Naomi

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By Jill Kemp

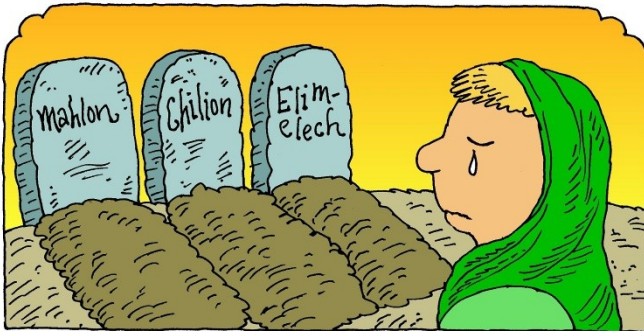
Illustrated by Richard Gunther



The story about Ruth's love for her mother-in-law is found in the Old Testament. King David was descended from Ruth.



There was a famine in Israel and the food was all gone, Elim-el-ech took his wife Naomi and their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, to live in the country of Moab.



The family lived there for ten years and both their sons married girls from Moab. It was a sad day for Naomi when her husband and both her sons got very sick and died.



Naomi loved her son's wives, Orpah and Ruth. "Stay here with your own people and your gods," she said, "You will find new husbands, but I must go back home to my own country."



So Orpah went back to her own people, but Ruth would not leave Naomi. "I am going wherever you go," she said "I will worship your God and be part of your family."



Ruth left her own country and her family, because she loved Naomi and she loved God. It was barley harvest time when Ruth and Naomi got back to Bethlehem.



Ruth worked in the fields belonging to Boaz, her dead husband's uncle. Boaz told his workers to drop plenty of stalks of barley for Ruth to pick up.



Ruth showed all the barley to Naomi. "God has looked after us today," Naomi said. "Boaz would be a kind husband for you and keep the family name going too."