

Love Draws Ruth, a Pagan Moabitess, to the God of Israel
About 5 minutes, from the Book of Ruth

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

Naomi

Ruth

Boaz

Prompter Shout a brief line, and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes Children and adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

Naomi I am Naomi.

Famine drives my family from Bethlehem,
and we settle in pagan Moab. My husband dies there,
and my sons take Moabite wives, Orpah and Ruth.

Ruth Soon another disaster strikes; Naomi's two sons die also,
leaving my sister-in-law Orpah and me, Ruth, as widows.

Prompter & Echoes Three desolate widows now!

Naomi Orpah and Ruth, the famine has passed in Bethlehem.
I'm going back home.

Ruth Orpah and I will go with you, Naomi.

Naomi No, Ruth. Go back, my daughters, to your mother's house.
May the Lord deal kindly with you,
as you have dealt with my sons and me.

Ruth We will go with you, Naomi, to your people. Please!

Prompter & Echoes Don't send us away!

Naomi Ruth and Orpah, even if I bore sons,
would you wait until they grew up, to marry them?
Go back. The Lord's hand has dealt harshly with me.

Prompter & Echoes She is bitter!

Ruth We all weep.
Orpah kisses Naomi and starts back to her parents,
but I cling to my mother-in-law.

Naomi Ruth, Orpah has gone back to her people. Go with her.

Ruth Do not urge me to leave you, Naomi.
Where you go I will go, and where you live I will live.
Your people shall be my people and your God shall be my God.
Where you die, I will die. May the Lord take my life,
if anything but death should part us.

Prompter & Echoes Precious girl!

Naomi Ruth, we've arrived in Bethlehem, but we have nothing to eat.

Ruth It's the beginning of barley harvest, Naomi.
I'll go to the fields and glean grain that the harvesters leave behind.

Prompter & Echoes Lord, be gracious to her!

Boaz I am Boaz.
I ask my workers, who is the young lady
that's gleaning my field.
They say she's Ruth, from Moab;
she has come to Israel with her mother-in law, Naomi.
Ruth has been kind to her.

Prompter & Echoes Very kind!

Boaz Ruth, my daughter, I am the owner of this field.
Do not glean other fields; stay with my reapers.
I have told them not to bother you.
Eat the food I provide for them.

Ruth Oh, thank you, kind sir! May God bless you!

Boaz Dear girl, may the God of Israel reward your kindness,
for you have come to seek refuge under his wings.

Ruth Why have I found favor in your sight?
I am just another poor immigrant.

Prompter & Echoes Destitute alien!

Boaz Rise, my daughter. No one grovels before me.

Ruth You are very gracious, sir.

Boaz Reapers, let this young lady glean where she chooses.
Do not rebuke her. Let handfuls fall for her.

Prompter & Echoes Drop handfuls on purpose!

Naomi That night I am amazed.
Ruth, how did you ever glean so much barley?

Ruth Boaz, the owner of the field I happened to be in,
had mercy on me.

Naomi Boaz! May God be praised!
He is a relative; our Law gives him the right to redeem
my late husband's property, to buy it back,
and preserve your dead husband's inheritance.

Prompter & Echoes And so he does!

Boaz Ruth avoids the young reaper's attentions,
and I admire her virtue.
After celebrating a bountiful harvest,
I take Ruth as my wife. She is precious,
and shares my fervent faith in Israel's God.
She bears a son, Obed, who will later bear Jesse,
father of King David.

Prompter & Echoes Ancestors of Jesus!