LESSON 2

NAOMI AND RUTH RETURN TO ISRAEL



Aim: **To show the children that Ruth's commitment to her mother-in-law, Naomi, is an outstanding example of love and loyalty.**

Scripture Reading: **Ruth 1:6-22**

Memory Verse: **Psalm 121:2**
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting point

Ask the class what are the reasons that will make refugees and displaced people return to the countries or areas they came from originally. The most important reasons for returning are that it once again has food and is a safe place.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. **Show Picture 1.** Naomi and her family were refugees from Bethlehem in Israel. Now Naomi's husband and sons had died and she had no blood relatives in that foreign country, Moab. There was no one to take care of her and her two foreign daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth. Then Naomi heard that the famine in her fatherland, Israel, was over. So she decided to return home (1:6).
2. Naomi, Orpah and Ruth set out together. Then Naomi told Orpah and Ruth to go back to their relatives in Moab and let her return to Bethlehem alone. They had been good daughters-in-law, but Naomi had no more sons for them to marry and they needed to start their own families again. With great sadness Orpah left her and returned to her own people (1:6-14).
3. But Ruth pleaded to stay with Naomi. She said, "Don't make me leave you. Where you go I will go; wherever you live I will live. Your people will be my people and your God will be my God." So Ruth accompanied Naomi to Bethlehem in Israel (1:14-17). **Show Picture 2. Point out Orpah returning to Moab.**
4. Everyone in Bethlehem was excited to see Naomi when she arrived there with Ruth. However, at first they almost did not recognise Naomi as the woman who had left the town ten years before. Sadness probably had changed her face. She wanted to change her name, too. Naomi means "Pleasant". She now wanted to be called Mara, which means "Bitterness".

Look,Listen&Live_Book4.indd 12 2012/09/10 11:05 AM



5. But Naomi was blessed with her very loyal and helpful daughter-in-law living with her. Remember what Ruth had told her? **Read Ruth's words in verses 16-17 again.** Ruth was willing to leave her own family, her own country and her own religion to stay with Naomi, who was a very poor widow.

Our Response to the Story

Ruth was willing to give up everything to be with Naomi, without expecting anything back. I want to challenge everyone of you this week to do something for someone in your community without expecting anything in return. Try to be "another Ruth".

Instil the Memory Verse

In the next lesson we shall see an example of this verse in the way in which God took care of Ruth and Naomi.

Review the memory verse of Lesson 1.



Look,Listen&Live_Book4.indd 13 2012/09/10 11:05 AM