

strange and new for Ruth, but Ruth said, "Do not ask me to leave you." You may read her words in the Bible, "Whither thou goest I will go. Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." Naomi and her family must have been true to God in that country of Moab, and must have lived very good lives, or Ruth would not have been willing to give up her heathen gods that she and her people had always worshiped. But to-day in the foreign lands we are told that it is the kind, good lives of the missionaries that turn the people to Jesus more than it is the words that they say in preaching, so the good lives of these people of Judea had made people believe in their God.

So Orpah went back alone to her country and her people, and together Ruth and Naomi went on day after day till they reached Bethlehem.

It was a sad home coming for Naomi, who had gone away happy with her husband and her two sons, and had now come back without them and with no home and no money. "Is this Naomi?" asked her friends as they came crowding around to welcome her. Could this tired, sad woman be the merry Naomi they had known?

But she and Ruth were brave and kind. They made a little home and right away Ruth began helping to get food for them. It was the time of barley harvest, and in those days the men cut the grain with knives, for there were no machines. Poor people were allowed to follow the reapers and pick up the grain which dropped, so Ruth went to a field and began gathering up the waste grain. God had guided her to that field, for it belonged to a rich and good man who was a relative of Naomi's husband.

He and his reapers and all of his helpers were very kind to Ruth, and he secretly told the young men to sometimes let some grain fall on purpose for her.

Before she went home, she beat out the grain on the ground with a stick, for each little kernel, you know, is in a tiny husk. She had worked so hard that she had almost a whole bushel of grain. She came every day as long as the harvest lasted, so that they would have grain for the winter.

By and by she married the rich and good Boaz, but she did not forget Naomi, and as long as they both lived they were as loving and kind to each other as they had been in the land of Moab.

#### FROM THE PLATFORM

## GOD'S CHOICE OF RUTH RUTH'S CHOICE OF GOD

Print on the blackboard, CHOICE, and call for the name of one in the Lesson who made a great choice. When the answer has been given, print RUTH'S. Next, bring out, by questions, in what that choice consisted. It was a choice of Naomi's country and of Naomi's God. Print OF GOD. Now, ask how it was that Ruth came to make this choice. The full answer to this question will include the story of Naomi's coming, with her husband and sons, from Bethlehem to Moab, the marriage of the sons in Moab, the death of the husband and sons and the resolve of Naomi to return to her own country. All these events led up to Ruth's choice. Ask the scholars who had brought all these things to pass. A little thought will convince them that it was God, so that you may print GOD's choice of RUTH. Make the missionary application that God has made choice of many in heathen lands for a place amongst his people and expects us to tell them of his purpose for them.