
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 8, Bible Truth 2

The Case of the Woman Who Didn't See *Ruth*

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. Naomi was sad and scared. Her husband and sons had died. Only Orpah and Ruth, her sons' wives, were left. Soon, they would leave, too. They would go live with their parents. Then, Naomi would be all alone, far away from her home in Bethlehem. Who would take care of her?
2. Naomi was right to be sad, but she did NOT have to be scared. Naomi was one of God's people. She knew God's promises to always take care of His people. She could trust Him to take care of her. But Naomi chose to forget all of that. She decided God didn't care for her anymore.
3. Naomi was wrong to stop trusting God, but God is so kind to His people. He treats them better than they deserve. He would treat Naomi better than she deserved, too. He would most certainly keep taking care of her. Let's find out how.
4. It came time for Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth to say goodbye. They kissed each other and cried. Orpah and Ruth would go home to live with their parents. Naomi would make the long walk back home to Bethlehem by herself.
5. "Wait," said Orpah and Ruth. "We'll go to Bethlehem and take care of you." But Naomi said no. "There will be no one to take care of me or you in Bethlehem. Not even God," she said. Oh, Naomi! God promises to always take care of His people. Keep trusting in Him! He will take care of you.
6. And so, God did. He would love Naomi better than she deserved. For when Orpah left for home, Ruth said to Naomi, "Let me go with you. I want to take care of you. I want to worship the LORD, your God." Naomi agreed, but sadly she still couldn't see this was God taking care of her.
7. When Naomi and Ruth walked into Bethlehem, many were surprised with what they saw. "Is this really Naomi?" people asked. "She seems so different! Where is her husband? Where are her sons? Where is her smile?" they wondered.
8. "My husband and sons have died. I am all alone," said Naomi. "Stop calling me 'Naomi'. That name means 'happy things'. Call me 'Marah'. It means 'bitter (sad) things'. God has filled my life with so many sad things. I don't even think He cares about me anymore," she told them.
9. Oh, Naomi! Don't say that! God always take care of His people. Keep trusting in Him! He gave you Ruth to help you get home and take care of you. Naomi still wouldn't see, but God kept loving her better than she deserved, and in bigger ways than she could have ever dreamed!
10. God provided Naomi and Ruth with food from the fields of a rich man named Boaz. Boaz loved God; and before long, he loved Ruth, too. He married Ruth and brought her and Naomi home to live with him. How richly the LORD took care of Ruth and Naomi through Boaz!
11. Before long, Ruth gave birth to a son --Baby Obed. Now, God had given Naomi a grandchild to love. And one day, through Obed would come the great King David, and much later, even Jesus, the Savior, Himself!
12. The women gathered around Naomi, and said, "Praise the LORD, He's given you Ruth and Boaz, and a little grandson, too. Surely, He'll go on taking care of you!" Naomi agreed. The LORD had taken care of her, even when she stopped trusting Him. His love was better than she deserved!