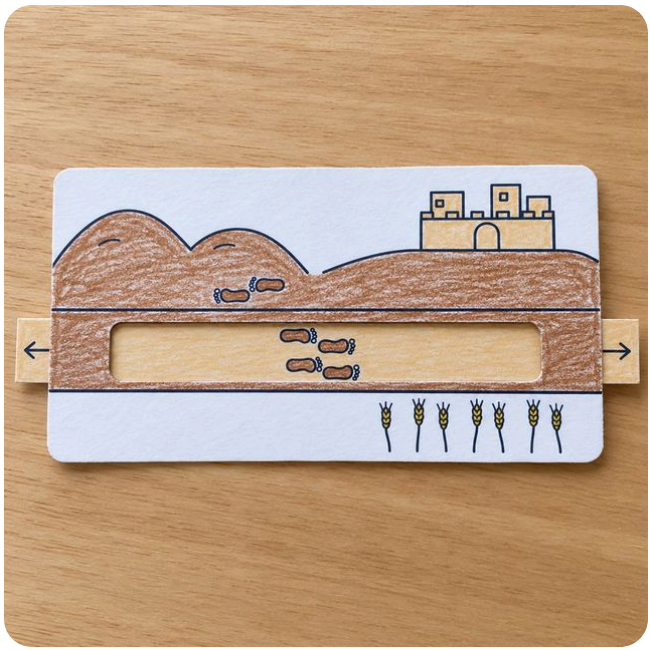
Preschool–Grade 5

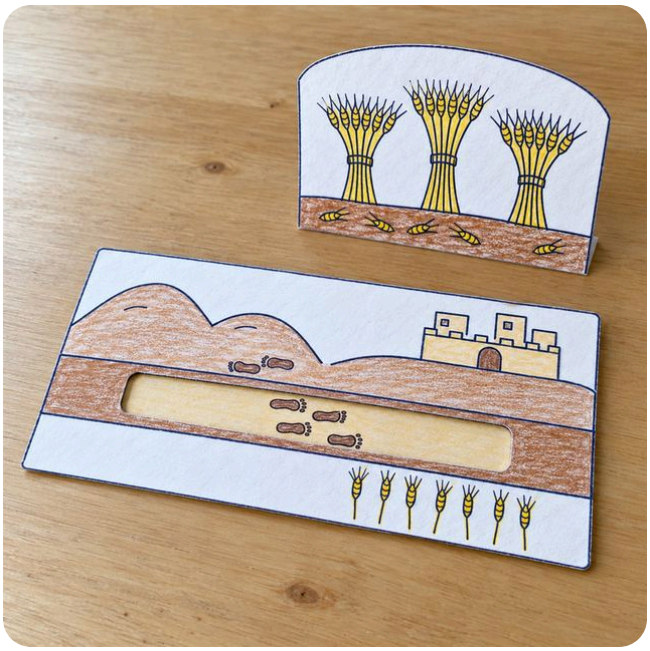
Ruth and Naomi Craft

A road card where the footprints walk from Moab to Bethlehem · Ruth 1–2 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



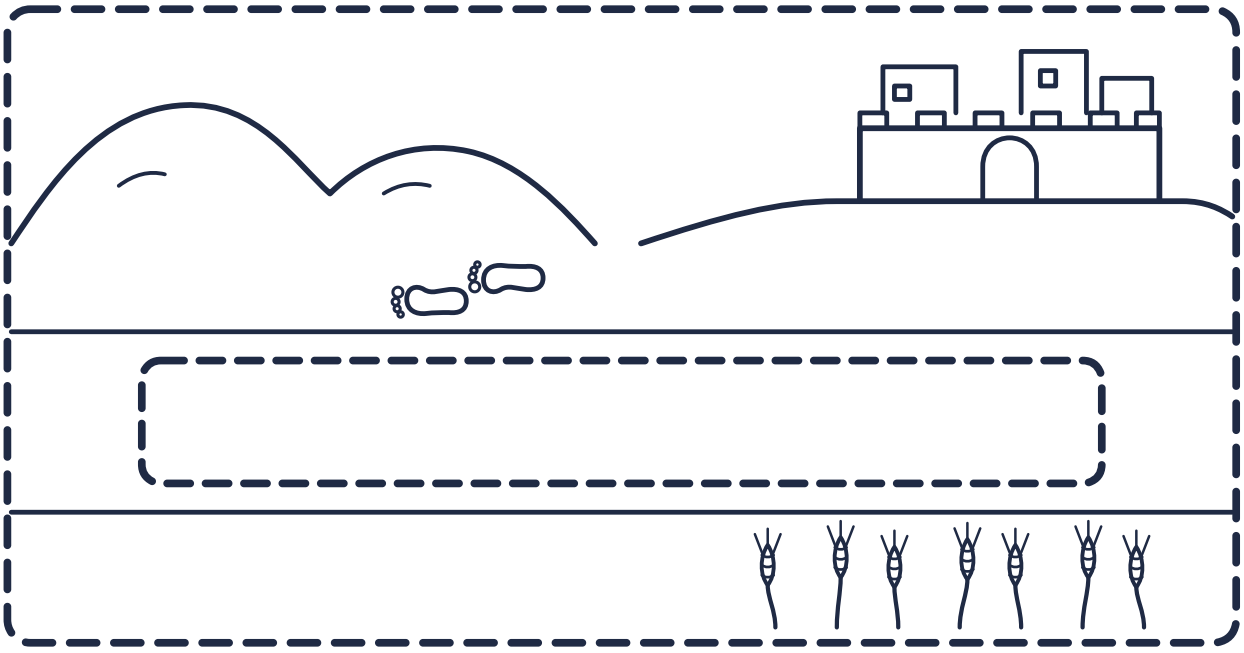
Harder

Medium (left): a road card with brown hills on the left and the tan city of Bethlehem on a hill on the right. Across the middle runs a brown road with a long window, and through the window two pairs of brown footprints on a tan strip walk toward Bethlehem; the strip sticks out at the sides. A small pair of footprints turns back toward the hills, and yellow barley grows below the road near Bethlehem. Harder (right): the same card with a yellow field of barley, three sheaves and handfuls on the ground, standing at the Bethlehem end on its folded tab.

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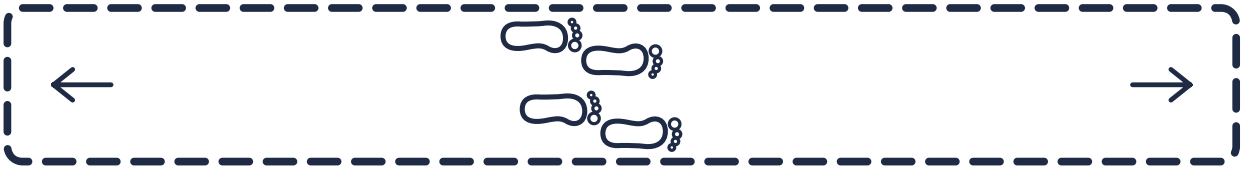
Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Road card: hills, road and footprints brown; Bethlehem tan; barley yellow

Cut out the window on the road (a grown-up starts the cut). The footprints turning back are Orpah's.



Footprint strip: color it tan and the footprints brown

Two people walking together: Naomi and Ruth (Ruth 1:19). It slides behind the window.

glue band: put glue on the back of this band

And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

Ruth 1:16 (KJV)

glue band: put glue on the back of this band

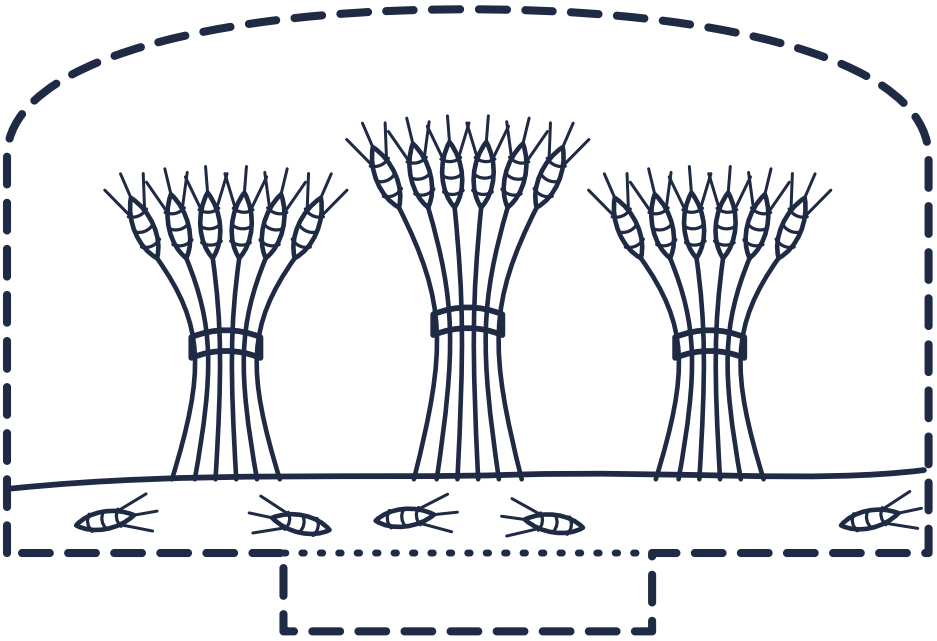
Verse card: glue it on the back of the road card, over the window

Glue only the two bands, so the strip can slide between the card and the verse card.

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level



The field of Boaz (Ruth 2:3, 2:15–16)

Color the barley yellow and the ground brown. Cut on the dashed line.
Fold the tab back on the dotted line, so the field stands up.

How to add the field of Boaz

1. Make the road card from page 2, with the verse card glued on the back and the footprint strip slid in.
2. Color the barley yellow and the ground brown.
3. Cut out the field on its dashed line, with the tab under it. Fold the tab back on the dotted line so the field stands up.
4. Stand the field at the Bethlehem end of the road card. Ruth "gleaned in the field after the reapers," in the part of the field that belonged to Boaz (Ruth 2:3).
5. Point to the barley lying on the ground. Boaz told his young men, "let fall also some of the handfuls of purpose for her" (2:16). Ruth gleaned until evening, and it was about an ephah of barley (2:17).

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vbshq.com

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/ruth-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), brown, tan and yellow crayons or markers, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out each child's road card, window, footprint strip and verse card, and glue the verse card on the back of the road card by its two bands. Make one finished craft to show the kids.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out the pieces and the window, and glue the verse card on the back. Kids color the card and the strip, slide the strip in, and walk the footprints from Moab to Bethlehem while you say, "Whither thou goest, I will go!"
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out the pieces, glue the verse card on the back and slide the strip in. A grown-up starts the window cut. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make it like the medium level, then add the field of Boaz from page 3, which stands at the Bethlehem end (Ruth 2:3, 2:16). They say Ruth 1:16 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

Why there are no people: the craft draws no people, only footprints. The two pairs walking together on the strip are Naomi and Ruth: "So they two went until they came to Beth-lehem" (Ruth 1:19). The small pair turning back is Orpah, who went back to her people (1:14–15). The barley shows they came "in the beginning of barley harvest" (1:22).

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Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** on the road card, color the hills, the road and the footprints that turn back brown, Bethlehem tan, and the barley yellow. Color the footprint strip tan and its footprints brown.
2. **Cut:** cut out the road card, the footprint strip and the verse card on the dashed lines.
3. **Cut the window:** a grown-up pinches the middle of the window on the road and snips a small slit to start the cut. Then cut out the window on its dashed line.
4. **Glue the verse card:** turn the road card and the verse card face down. Put glue on the back of the verse card's top band and bottom band only, and press it across the back of the road card so it covers the window. The verse faces out.
5. **Slide:** slide the footprint strip into the gap between the road card and the verse card, footprints toward the window. Turn the card over: the footprints show through the window.
6. **Tell the story:** start the footprints at the left, in Moab. Orpah went back (1:14–15), but Ruth said, "whither thou goest, I will go" (1:16). Slide the footprints along the road: "So they two went until they came to Beth-lehem" (1:19), at the beginning of barley harvest (1:22). Turn it over and read Ruth 1:16 together.

Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the footprints that turn back. Whose are they? *(Orpah's. She kissed Naomi and went back to her people, Ruth 1:14–15)*
- What did Ruth say to Naomi? *("Whither thou goest, I will go," 1:16)* What does whither mean? *(Where)*
- Walk the footprints to Bethlehem. What did the whole city ask? *("Is this Naomi?" 1:19)*
- Point to the barley. What harvest was starting when they came? *(Barley harvest, 1:22)* What did Ruth do in the field? *(She gleaned, picking up the grain the reapers left, 2:2–3)*
- Point to the barley on the ground (harder level). Why was it there? *(Boaz told his young men to let fall handfuls of purpose for her, 2:16)* How much did she glean that day? *(About an ephah of barley, 2:17)*

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Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** famine = not enough food; clave = held tight; intreat = beg; whither = where; thou goest = you go; lodgest = stay the night; kinsman = a relative; glean = pick up the grain the reapers leave behind; reapers = workers who cut the grain; sheaves = bundles of cut grain; handfuls of purpose = handfuls dropped on purpose; ephah = a large measure of grain.
- **What the Bible says:** two people walked to Bethlehem, "they two" (Ruth 1:19), so the strip has two travelers. Orpah went back (1:14–15), so one small pair of footprints turns back. They came at the beginning of barley harvest (1:22), and Ruth gleaned barley (2:17), so the grain is barley. The Bible doesn't describe the road or the city, so the card keeps them simple.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything, including the window, and glue the verse card on ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **Gluing the verse card:** glue only the top and bottom bands. If glue gets in the middle, the strip won't slide; slide it once before the glue dries.
- **Harder level:** cardstock helps the field stand. If it tips over, fold its tab a little farther back.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Ruth and Naomi lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/ruth.

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