

Catholic Identity Patch Program

WOMEN IN SCRIPTURE

Ruth & Naomi

The book of Ruth tells a story about two women who overcome hardships through endurance, courage, self-sacrifice, and faithfulness. Naomi is an Israelite who has two sons. Her two sons marry Moabite women, Ruth and Orpah. Her husband and two sons die leaving no heir. She is left only with her two daughters in law. She tells them both to go back to their own land because she wants them to have a future for themselves. After much weeping, Orpah heads back to home, but Ruth decides to remain with Naomi and go back with her to Bethlehem. (Note this is many centuries before the birth of Jesus).

Ruth takes care of Naomi and obeys her every command. Naomi instructs her on how to find a husband and Ruth eventually marries Boaz. This ensures a continuation of the descendants of Abraham. Ruth becomes David's great grandmother and is, therefore, part of Jesus' family tree.

Ruth, with her mother-in-law Naomi, encountered challenges in life, such as getting enough food and being excepted. She sacrificed the opportunity to be with her own people because she came to believe and Naomi's God, the true God and the God of Israel. Naomi had the courage to give you the opportunity to leave her and because she sees Ruth's determination and self-sacrifice, she seeks out what is best for her daughter-in-law. The relationship between the two women show a deep love and friendship. It also shows their faithfulness to one another and to God despite all the trials and suffering that came their way.

Be Creative

- Make a play that tells the story of Ruth and Naomi as though it happened in today's age.
- Design a symbol that represents Ruth and Naomi.



INSTRUCTIONS

To earn this patch, learn about Ruth and Naomi. Complete one activity from each section.

Although you may want to add this page to your Girl Scout or Camp Fire USA

journal/scrapbook, you do not need to write out the answers.

If you are working together as a group or troop, have discussions and/or group activities. If you are working individually, include your family. If you are an older girls or boy, learn about Ruth and Naomi and teach younger children.

Once earned, Girl Scouts may place this patch on the back of the sash or vest.

Once you have learned about Ruth and Naomi, your leader, advisor, or parent may order the patch for you by visiting www.nfcym.org and clicking the "SHOP" link at the top of the page to access the store.

Learn & Take Action

For All

To whom are you faithful? When is it hard to do what they say?

Who is your best friend? Why is he or she your best friend?

Think of a time when things were difficult. Who was there for you to help you get through it? Go and thank that person for being there for you and tell them how much it meant to you that they were there for you.

Another word for self-sacrifice is unselfishness. In your own words what does it mean to be unselfish? How are Ruth and Naomi unselfish? What are things you can do to be unselfish?

In the Old Testament, widows were one of the most vulnerable people. They no longer had a husband to provide for them and women were already considered to be after lower class. The Israelites had laws to help protect and provide for the widows. Find out what you can do for the widows in your parish and then go do it!

Find a place that provides food for those in need and volunteer to help. You could organize a food collection, go help prepare food, or make people aware of the needs of the hungry.

For Older Youth

Read the entire book of Ruth. Naomi is bitter about the death of her husband and two sons. She says that the Lord has sentence evil upon her. Was there ever a time when you were angry at God? How did God help you get through it?

Ruth and Naomi put their trust in each other and in God. When have you put your trust in a friend? And your parents? In God? What did it feel like? What does it feel like when someone puts trust in you? Reflect on this anonymous quote: "God trust you more than you trust him."

Many songs are inspired by scripture. Read Ruth 1:16 Then listen to the song "I'm With You (Ruth and Naomi)" by Nicole Nordeman and Amy Grant. Listen to "I Will Follow" by Chris Tomlin. What do these two songs have in common with the Scripture passage? What does this mean for you?

Why Is It?

Why is the story of Ruth and Naomi so important, given the time in which they live? The symbol on the patch is wheat. Why do you think this symbol was chosen to represent Ruth and Naomi?

**Catholic Identity Patch Program is a project of the
NCCGSCF & NFCYM**

