

Together @ Home



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Naomi and Ruth returning to Bethlehem.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Ruth 1

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Naomi and Ruth, thank you that you are always with us, through the good times and the difficult or sad times.

Help us to be good friends and family to others, to show love and kindness.

We pray for all those in the world who are missing loved ones, that they would know your comfort.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Why do you think Naomi wanted to change her name?

Sometimes when we go through difficult times it feels like we can never go back to who we were before. Naomi knew she would always miss her husband and sons, thinking about them hurt and made her sad. Even her name was a reminder of the person she had been when she was with them.

Why not share some of the things that you think have changed about you during lockdown. What are the good things you would like to keep? What are some of the things you can't do at the moment that you would like to go back to?

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you had to say goodbye to somebody you cared about? Who helped you through?

Family Activity 1

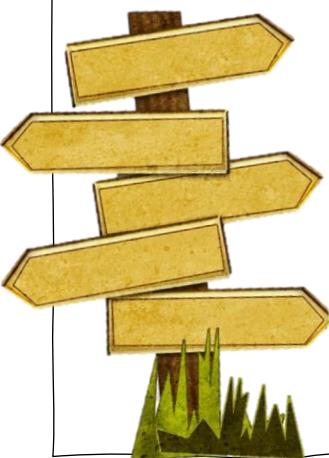
Naomi had travelled to a strange land with her family, but then her sons married and Ruth and Orpah became a new family for Naomi. Why not draw your own family tree – spend some time praying for all the people in your own extended family.



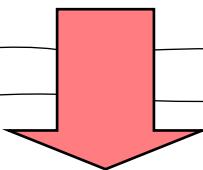
A verse to remember

Isaiah 43 v 18-19

The Lord says, "Forget what happened before, and do not think about the past. Look at the new thing I am going to do. It is already happening. Don't you see it?"



Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week. Explore this verse together with our Active Prayer activity.



Active Prayer

Our verse to remember this week is from Isaiah, it reminds us that God wants to help us to move forward from the mistakes and challenges from our past and focus on the bright future he has planned for us. It can be really difficult to imagine what the future looks like while we are still living in such unusual times, why not pray and ask God to help you explore some of his plans together.

1. What about this season do you want to leave behind?

Living in a pandemic has brought us many new things, mask wearing, online church, more time at home.

Talk together about the things that you most want to leave behind. Write them out or draw them, then screw up the paper and throw it behind you.

As you throw it backwards ask God to help you forget the things that caused you fear and hold on to the positive experiences.

2. What about this season do you want to make part of your new future?

Perhaps while you have been together more as a family you've built new routines or found an activity you love to do together. Perhaps you have found yourself spending more time with God and trusting in Him more.

Talk together about the things that you want to keep moving forward. Write them out or draw them, then fold them into paper aeroplanes and throw them ahead of you.

As you throw them pray and ask God to help you to stay committed to them.

3. It is already happening... don't you see it?

Take some time to pray and ask God to speak to you about the plans he has for your future.

Remember that God can speak to us in many different ways, through pictures, words or feelings in our hearts.

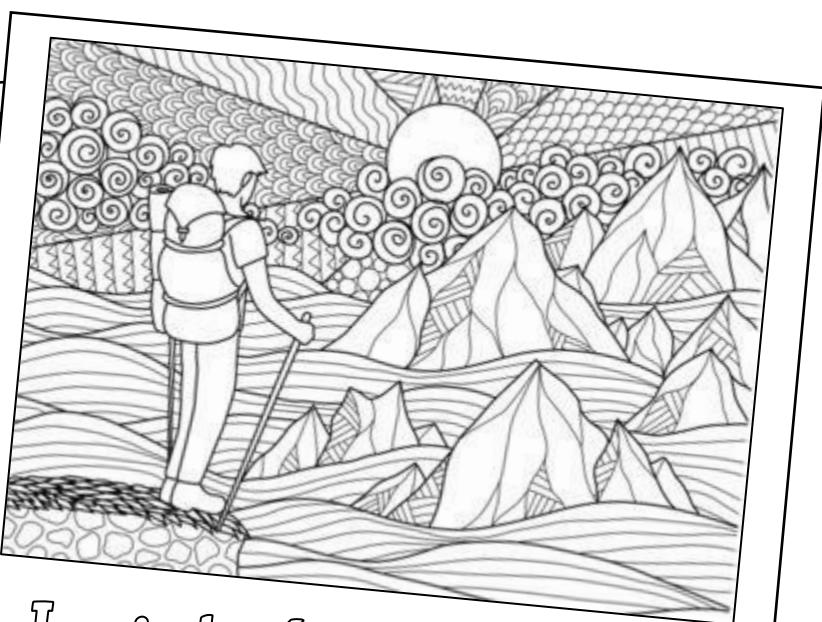


Family Activity 2

Play a game of follow the leader

In the story Ruth wanted to follow Naomi, but Naomi tried to stop her. Take it in turns to be the leader, everybody else must follow you and do exactly what you do!

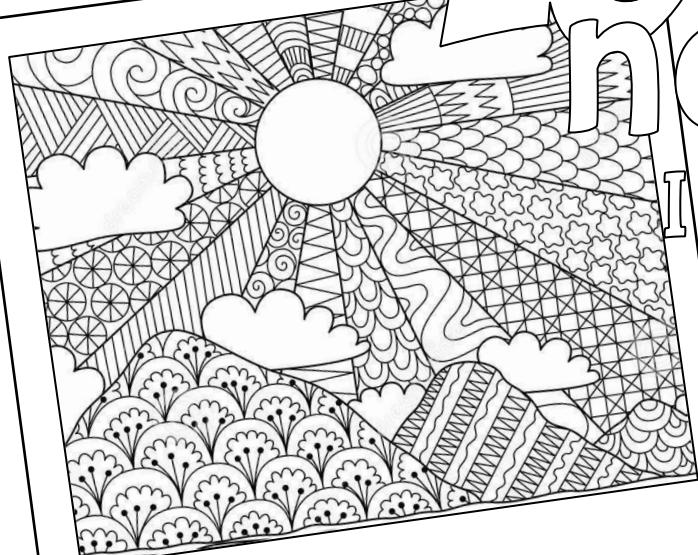
A colouring page you could print and colour together



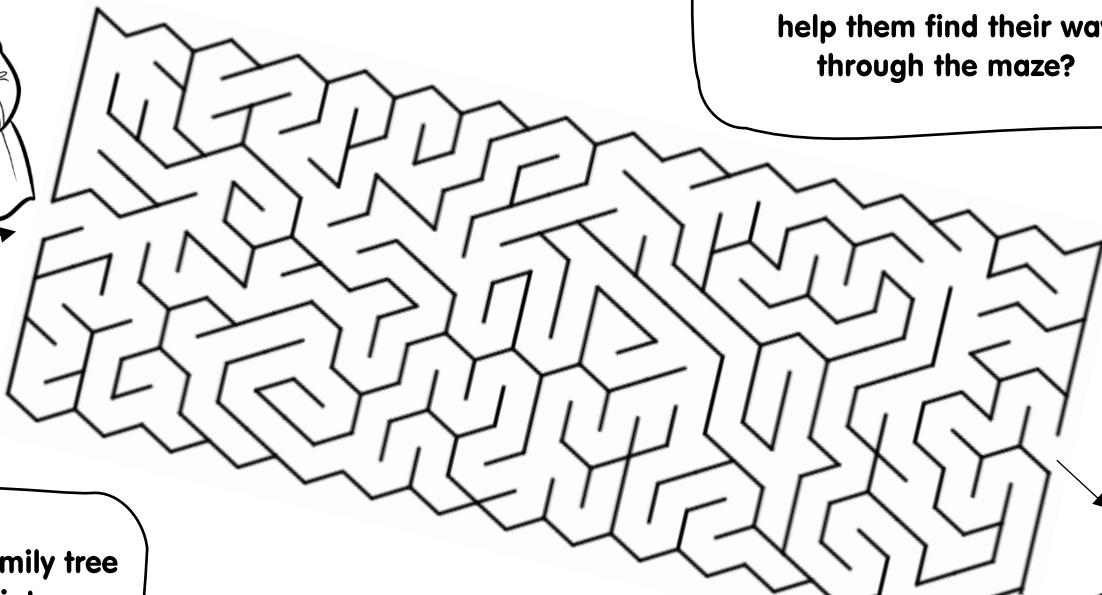
Isaiah 43 v 18–19

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Puzzle Sheet



Ruth and Naomi travelled from Moab back to Naomi's home of Bethlehem. Can you help them find their way through the maze?

Naomi's family tree has got into a muddle, can you unscramble the names? You can look them all up in the book of Ruth Chapter 1.

kemeeill



Naomi

Mahlon

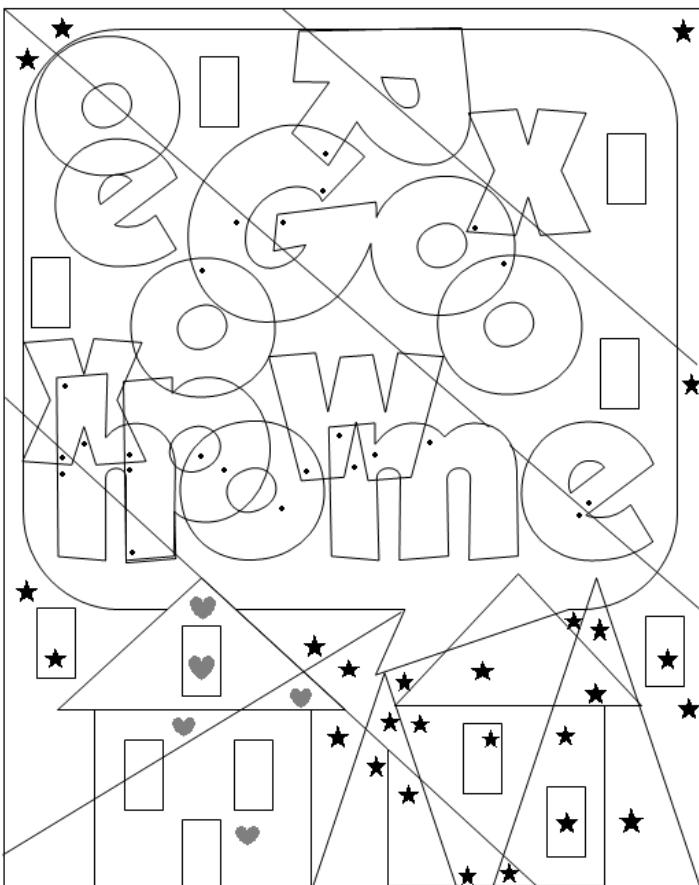


hrtu

liknloi



Orpah



Once you have completed the family tree can you find all six names in this wordsearch?

u	w	u	k	k	h	l	t	h	o
n	a	o	m	i	t	n	e	a	o
r	k	y	o	o	n	w	t	g	j
u	o	e	q	o	p	q	i	z	n
t	r	o	l	r	g	n	z	o	k
h	p	h	j	e	l	l	i	g	r
d	a	c	b	u	m	l	k	l	v
m	h	a	q	x	l	i	e	e	j
c	f	l	c	i	y	d	l	u	w
z	m	h	k	n	c	n	o	e	g

Colour all the shapes with a dot in one colour, all those with a star in a second colour and all those with a heart in a third colour. This will reveal the message that Naomi gave to Ruth and Orpah.