

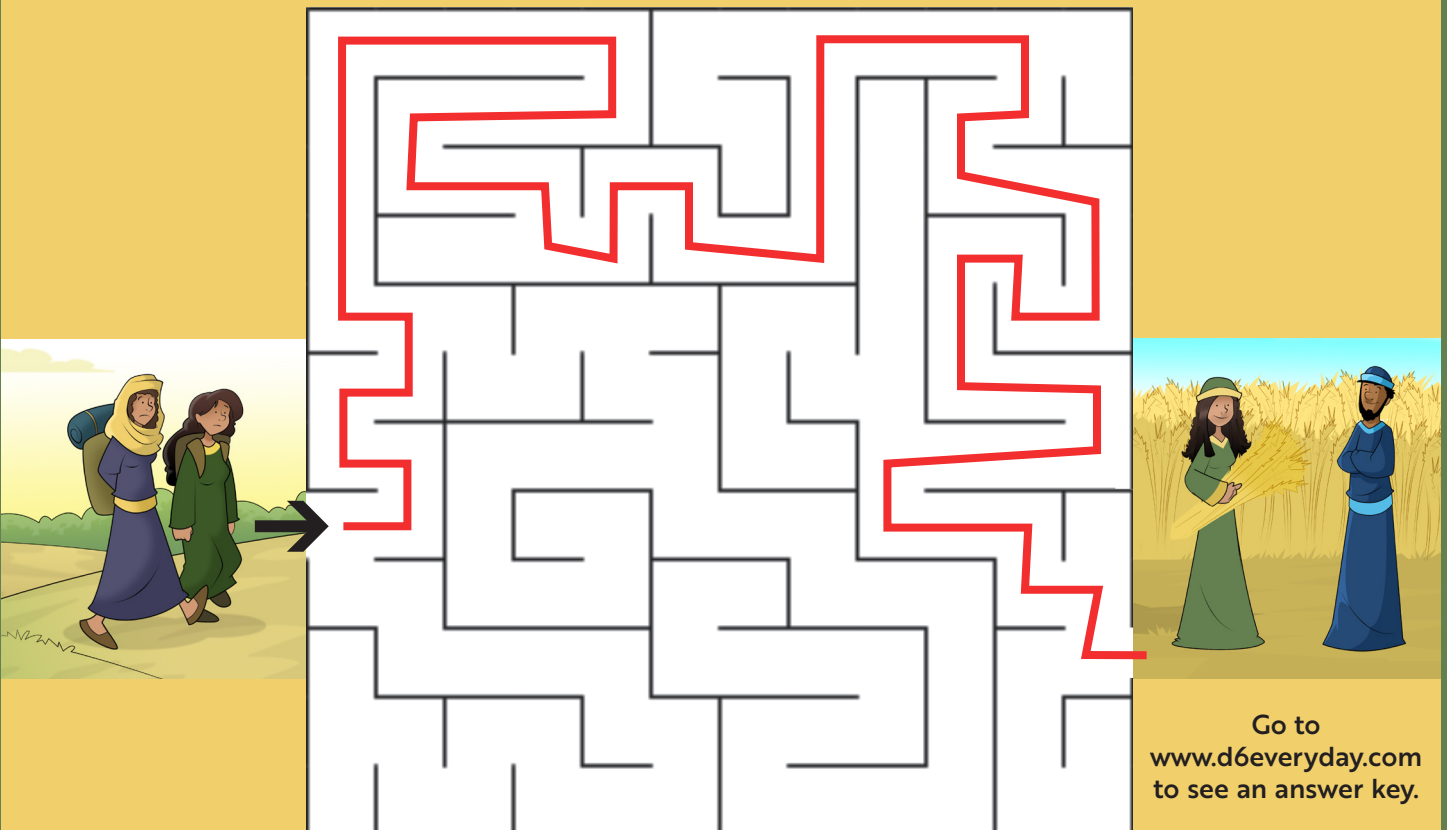
& Ruth's Story &

In Bible times, when a woman married, she was entirely dependent on her husband. If her husband died and they had no sons (or their sons were also dead), the woman would find herself without a home or money. Women did not have the right or power to keep the family name, property, or inheritance, which is why God gave such specific instructions for the care of widows in the Law of Moses.

The Bible tells the true story of **a woman named Naomi** whose husband and sons died. She chose to return to her hometown. She told her daughters-in-law (her sons' wives) to return to their families, but one of them, **Ruth**, chose to stay with Naomi.

Together, they returned to **Bethlehem** and arrived at the beginning of harvest time (when crops would be gathered). In this time in history, foreigners were allowed to go to someone's field and gather crops (food) from the edges of the field. Ruth was doing this in a field that belonged to **Boaz**. What Ruth didn't know was Boaz was a relative of her father-in-law (Naomi's husband). Boaz was a kind and caring man, and when he learned who she was, he made sure she was taken care of.

Ruth's story shows us **how much God loves and cares for us.** He provides for our needs, and He gave His Son, Jesus, to be our Redeemer.



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