



Kids Parsha Packet

פֿ'שַׁוּוֹת לילדים

Megillat Ruth

I will not leave you, no matter what!

Do you know what a drought is? It means that rain does not fall and there is not enough food to eat. Elimelech is a rich man, and when there was a terrible drought in Eretz Yisrael he decides to leave with his wife Naomi and their two sons, Machlon and Chilyon, and move to the land of Moav. Elimelech and his family live there for nearly ten years and his sons even marry the daughters of the king of Moav - Ruth and Orpah. But a terrible thing happens: Elimelech and his two sons die. Naomi is left alone with her two daughters-in-law. Naomi decides to return to Eretz Yisrael, and she tells her daughters-in-law that they should return to their father's home. Orpah and Ruth refuse. They want to go to Eretz Yisrael with Naomi. Naomi insists that they return home to their families, because there they will have a chance to remarry a man from Moav. In Eretz Yisrael they will not have a chance to remarry. Orpah is convinced and returns to her father's home, but Ruth decides to stay with Naomi. Naomi makes another attempt to convince Ruth to leave her, but Ruth refuses to obey. She wants to go with Naomi wherever she goes, and she wants to live with the Jewish people. Naomi finally gives up and they travel together to Eretz Yisrael.



"כי אל אשר תלכי אלך
ובאשר תליני אלין
עגן עמי וא-להיך א-להי"
(א', ט"ז)

"For wherever you
go, I will go;
where you lodge,
I will lodge; your
people are my
people, and
your God
is my God."
(1,16)



Who do you like to be with all the time, or who would you like to be with all the time?

No such thing as coincidence

When Ruth and Naomi arrive in Eretz Yisrael, many people are surprised to see how much Naomi has changed. They remember her as a very rich woman with a big family, and now she is poor, bitter, and alone. Ruth decides to look after Naomi, and she goes out to gather wheat from the field so that they will have something to eat. Ruth cannot go and take produce from any field that she wants. There are specific places where she can go - areas that are designated for poor people. Do you remember that Ruth is the daughter of a king? Princesses do not normally spend time working in the field... She does not know how to work in the field, and people begin to notice this and start to bother her about it. But then, “coincidentally”, the owner of the field arrives and his name is Boaz. Boaz just happens to be related to Naomi’s family, and he heard how Ruth was taking care of Naomi during the difficult times. He speaks to Ruth, looks after her and brings her enough food for herself and for Naomi. Boaz tells Ruth that she is always invited to come to his field to gather food.



"ותלך ותבוא
ותלקט בשדה
אחרי הקצרים"
(ב', ג')

"So off she
went. She
came and
gleamed
in the field
behind the
harvesters"
(2,3)



Do you like to play outside, in the backyard, in the mud? Or would you rather play indoors?

Activity

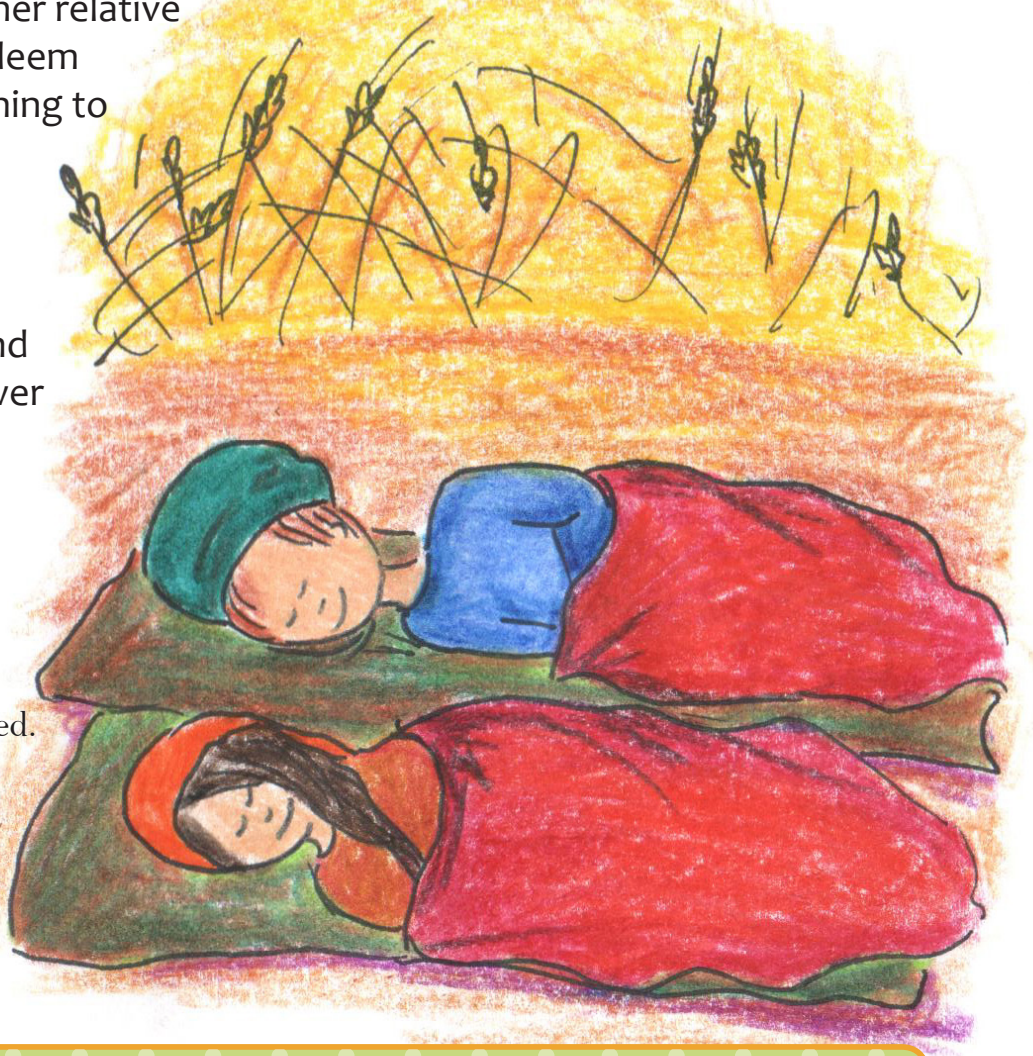
"Just a coincidence" - Act out what would happen if, by coincidence... you found a gold ring inside your sandwich, or you saw a lion coming towards you on the street... Try to think of other events that could happen "coincidentally".

A Fateful Encounter

Ruth returns home to Naomi. She is excited that she has found food for them, and tells Naomi about how Boaz helped her. Naomi is also happy and tells Ruth that Boaz is their relative, and that he might help them in the future. After the harvest period ends and Ruth stops going to the fields, Naomi encourages Ruth to go to Boaz and ask him to marry her. Naomi explains to Ruth that because Boaz is a relative of the family, their marriage will continue Elimelech's family. Naomi tells Ruth to dress nicely and put on makeup to make herself attractive, and Ruth follows her instructions. Ruth comes to the field at night and finds Boaz asleep. In the middle of night Boaz wakes up and is surprised to see that there is someone next to him. He asks Ruth who she is, and she says she is Ruth, and that she would like to marry him to continue the legacy of Elimelech. Boaz likes the idea, but he tells Ruth that he must first check with another relative who may want to redeem Naomi's family (meaning to marry Ruth and take responsibility for the lands owned by Elimelech's family). Ruth understands, and she waits for an answer from Boaz...

"וַיֹּאמֶר גִּי אֵת וְתֹאמְרִי אֵלָיו
רוֹת אֲמַתְךָ וּפְרִשְׁתְּ כִנּוּף עַל
אֲמַתְךָ כִּי גֹאֵל אֶתָּה" (ג', ט')

"Who are you? He asked.
And she answered.
'I am your handmaid,
Ruth. Spread your
robe over your
handmaid; for you
are a redeemer.'" (3,9)



Can you wait patiently for an answer??

Activity

"Getting dressed up" - Pretend to be getting ready for a big event- choose nice clothing, brush your hair nicely, put on jewelry and even a little makeup...

Mazal Tov!

The next day, Boaz talks to the other relative about his intentions regarding Elimelech's family. The relative tells Boaz that he is not interested in redeeming them, and that Boaz is free to redeem them instead. Boaz conducts a special ceremony called chalitza– a symbolic ceremony that releases the closest relative from his responsibilities towards Elimelech's family and property. Now Boaz can step in. Boaz marries Ruth and they have a child! You can imagine how exciting this was for Naomi! She had lost her husband and her two sons, and she did not have any grandchildren. Now she holds a new baby, the future of her family that was nearly cut off, and she sees continued life and hope. The new son is named Oved. Megillat Ruth ends by telling us that many generations later, one of Oved's descendants would be David, King of Israel! Megillat Ruth tells a story of kindness and of helping one another - Ruth to Naomi, Naomi to Ruth, and Boaz to Ruth and Naomi. And this story ultimately produced the King of Israel, the symbol of unity among the Jewish people!

"Naomi took the child, and held it in her bosom, and she became his nurse" (4,16)



"ותקח בעמי
את הילד
ותסתהו בחיקה
ותהי לו לאמנת"
(ד', ט"ז)

Activity

"Generation to generation" – See how many people you can name from your family. Name your grandparents, great-grandparents, great-great grandparents and more, and see how far back you can go.

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