

A stylized graphic of an open book with a red cover and white pages. The word 'SPARK' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the top page, set against a red background. The word 'BIBLE' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the bottom page, set against a blue background. A yellow banner with the text 'NRSV' in red, bold, sans-serif capital letters is positioned at the bottom right of the book. The entire graphic is surrounded by yellow and red geometric shapes, including triangles and circles, suggesting a spark or light. The background is a solid orange color.

SPARK
BIBLE
NRSV

All Kids
SAMPLER

WELCOME TO THE **SPARK NRSV BIBLE SAMPLER!**

This sampler is an essential part of the lesson of Naomi and Ruth. You'll find all the content you need to explore this story with your older kids, as part of Spark All Kids Sunday School. Here are some tips for introducing kids to this Bible.

- Read Ruth 1:1-22 before your lesson so you know where to find these verses.
- Encourage kids to explore the other parts of the Bible sampler like the book intro and Did You Know? facts.
- Ask kids about the questions and activities in the Know it! Think about it! Try it! box.

SPARK NRSV BIBLE SAMPLER

New Revised Standard Version

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USE EVERYTHING IN THE SPARK NRSV BIBLE!

Look here to see the book of the Bible.

ACTS 1:12

MATTHIAS CHOSEN TO REPLACE JUDAS

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. 13 When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers^b (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, 16 "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— 17 for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." 18 (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong,^d he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. 19 This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) 20 "For it is written in the book of Psalms,

'Let his homestead become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it';

and

'Let another take his position of overseer.'

21 So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." 23 So they proposed two, Joseph called

Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. 24 Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen 25 to take the place^e in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." 26 And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Acts 1:26

KNOW IT! Who did the Lord choose to replace Judas as an apostle?

THINK ABOUT IT! What is an important job you have been chosen to do?

TRY IT! Put the names of all of your Sunday school classmates into a hat. Draw one name and invite him or her over for a meal.

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9 Parthians,

DID YOU KNOW? AND NOW, LUKE'S CONCLUSION

The book of Acts finishes the story begun in the Gospel of Luke. Both texts were written to Theophilus to tell the story of Jesus and his followers. Reading one without the other is like reading only half a book.

^a Or the brother of ^b Gk brothers ^c Gk Men, brothers ^d Or swelling up ^e Other ancient authorities read the share

THE GOSPELS AND ACTS • 7

Key Verses are highlighted all over this Bible. Try to figure out why they're important. You can highlight some Key Verses of your own.

Explore more about the people, places, and things in the Bible stories you're reading.

Think about these questions, and ask a friend or family member to do the Try It! activities with you.

Look here to see the section of the Bible.

RUTH

The book of Ruth tells a wonderful story about God's surprising work in the lives of three people: Naomi, Boaz, and Ruth. Ruth's story helps us think about how ordinary people—including widows, farmers, and people from foreign countries—can change the course of history by acting out of loyalty and love.

Ruth's journey

Ruth's Roots

Ruth grew up in the land of Moab and married a man named Mahlon. He was from a different country. Mahlon died, so Ruth stayed with Naomi, her mother-in-law. Chapter 1

Ruth's Travels

Ruth and Naomi traveled to Bethlehem because they didn't have any other family and had to find food to eat. Ruth met Boaz while she was picking up leftover stalks of grain in the field. Ruth was a foreigner, not an Israelite, but Boaz showed her kindness by letting her glean in his fields. Chapter 2

Ruth's New Family

After they shared an interesting conversation on the threshing floor, Ruth and Boaz married. They had a son named Obed who later became the grandfather of King David. Chapters 3–4

ELIMELECH'S FAMILY GOES TO MOAB

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

NAOMI AND HER MOABITE DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW

⁶ Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, "No, we will return with

you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

Ruth 1:7

KNOW IT! Where was Naomi traveling to find food?

THINK ABOUT IT! How would it feel to drop everything and move to a different country?

TRY IT! Has a new family moved into your neighborhood? Find two ways to welcome them.

¹⁵ So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

¹⁷ Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.

May the LORD do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!"

DID YOU KNOW? WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

Because of a famine, Naomi's family had to find food. They traveled from Bethlehem in Judah to Moab. During Bible times, people ate fish, bread, whole grains, olives, milk from goats or sheep, and figs. On special occasions they ate beef. Some foods were forbidden, including shellfish.

Find Bethlehem, Judah, and Moab on the map on page M7.

¹⁸When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, “Is this Naomi?” ²⁰She said to them,

“Call me no longer Naomi,^a
call me Mara,^b
for the Almighty^c has dealt bitterly
with me.

²¹ I went away full,
but the LORD has brought me back
empty;
why call me Naomi
when the LORD has dealt harshly
with^d me,
and the Almighty^c has brought
calamity upon me?”

²² So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

RUTH MEETS BOAZ

2 Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband’s side, a prominent rich man, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. ²And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favor.” She said to her, “Go, my daughter.” ³So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. ⁴Just then Boaz came from Beth-

lehem. He said to the reapers, “The LORD be with you.” They answered, “The LORD bless you.” ⁵Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, “To whom does this young woman belong?” ⁶The servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, “She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. ⁷She said, ‘Please, let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers.’ So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now, without resting even for a moment.”^e

⁸ Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. ⁹Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.”

¹⁰Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?”

¹¹But Boaz answered her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. ¹²May the LORD reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!” ¹³Then she said, “May I continue to find favor in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, even though I am not one of your servants.”

Ruth 2:2

GLEAN: To collect leftover grain from the fields. Widows or orphans who didn’t have food could pick up the grain that was unpicked or that workers dropped.

Look at Leviticus 19:9 and Deuteronomy 24:9 to see the gleaning law.

DID YOU KNOW? FROM BETTER TO “BITTER”

Have you ever wanted to change your name? Names in the Bible often have a special meaning, especially when a person takes on a new one. Naomi means “pleasant.” After her husband and sons died, she asked people to call her Mara. Her new name means “bitter.”

Saul punished Christians. When Jesus called him to bring the good news to the world, Saul became Paul. Read how Jesus brought him to the light in Acts 9:1-20.

^a That is *Pleasant* ^b That is *Bitter* ^c Traditional rendering of Heb *Shaddai* ^d Or *has testified against*

^e Compare Gk Vg: Meaning of Heb uncertain

SPARK BIBLE STICKERS

Each Spark NRSV Bible includes stickers that kids can use as they mark up their Bibles. They're not included in the Sampler, but here's how they're used.



I Memorized It
I can recite this verse from memory!



I Read It
I read this.



Makes Me Feel ...
This story/passage really makes me feel a strong emotion.



Something I Like
This behavior / person / idea is cool.



Makes Me Want To ...
Something about this text is calling me to DO something.



Something I Don't Like
This behavior / person / idea is not good.



Makes Me Wonder ...
I'm just going to think about this for a while.



Reminds Me Of ...
I remembered something when I read this.



Spark Spot
Hey! Look at this! Look again!



I Don't Get It
I read this, but I'm not sure what it means.



I Looked It Up
I can find any verse.

GENESIS 1:1

SIX DAYS OF CREATION AND THE SABBATH



1 In the beginning when God created^a the heavens and the earth,² the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God^b swept over the face of the waters.³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.⁴ And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters."⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so.⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so.¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so.¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years,¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so.¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars.¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,

¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Genesis 1:31

KNOW IT! What did God make on each day of creation?

THINK ABOUT IT! Everything God makes is good. How does this change what you think about mosquitoes?

TRY IT! Go outside. Watch a bug for two minutes. Finish your time with your buggy friend by saying, "And it was good!"

²⁰ And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky."²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good.²² God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so.²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make human-kind^c in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth,^d and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷ So God created human-kind^e in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.



