

Bible Month June 2020 – Family Bible Study.

The Book of Ruth

Week 1 – Grief and Loss

To read in advance

Grief and Loss can come in many guises. The loss of a way of life, not seeing friends and family, finishing primary or high school, leaving a job.... If you are aware of any in your family dealing with particular loss, do read through first and make changes as needed. While we do not wish to cause distress, loss is a part of life and it is important to talk about it openly, but sensitively.

To set up in advance

1. Set up the prayer space. You will need a chair, some string or wool, some pens or pencils and some labels (see below for template).
2. Download the story board to have a look at, for under 10s. See the link in the Bible section.
3. Print out the journal to complete over the next few weeks, one for each member of the family.
4. Find a Bible suitable for each member of the family, or you can use the one version.
5. Have colouring pencils and pens ready.

Opening Question

Who's ever lost anything? Keys? Favourite toy? Homework that you spent hours on? How did you feel? Have you lost anything that is really special and important to you..?

Today's Bible reading is about someone losing something and someone very dear to them.

Bible Reading: Ruth chapter 1 v 1-15

This first week takes us through the famine in Judah, the family leaving their homeland behind, all the way to the marriage of Naomi's sons to local girls and the loss of her husband and sons.

https://bibleforchildren.org/PDFs/english/Ruth_A_Love_Story_English.pdf

This link shows slides of the story. For week 1, read the slides and look at the pictures, up until slide 8.

Wondering Questions:

1. I wonder how the family felt when they had to leave their Homeland in Judah?
2. I wonder what they missed most?
3. I wonder what helped them feel better?
4. I wonder whether the decision to go or stay was hard for Ruth and Orpah?
5. I wonder if you feel like you have lost something or someone important?
6. I wonder if lots of people are feeling like this at the moment? Who or what do you think they are missing?

Prayer Space

Take your family over to the prayer space and read the instruction to them. Check younger members have understood it.

Give everyone time to complete the space as they wish. Ask if anyone wants to say any other prayers together.

Activities

This week's part of the story of Ruth covers very emotional topics. Different members of your family may respond differently, which is absolutely fine. There are a few options to choose from, or they may wish to go off on their own for a while.

1. See the colouring page below, with the famous "Where you go, I will go" quote on it, suitable for all ages.
2. Have a look through the first couple of pages of the journal to help capture thoughts, or to reflect on the story.
3. Have a look at the maps below to appreciate the distance between Moab and Judah.
4. If you have any playdough or bluetac, this a more tactile way to reflect on the story.

5.

Allow as much time as everyone needs.

PRAYER SPACE – The empty chair

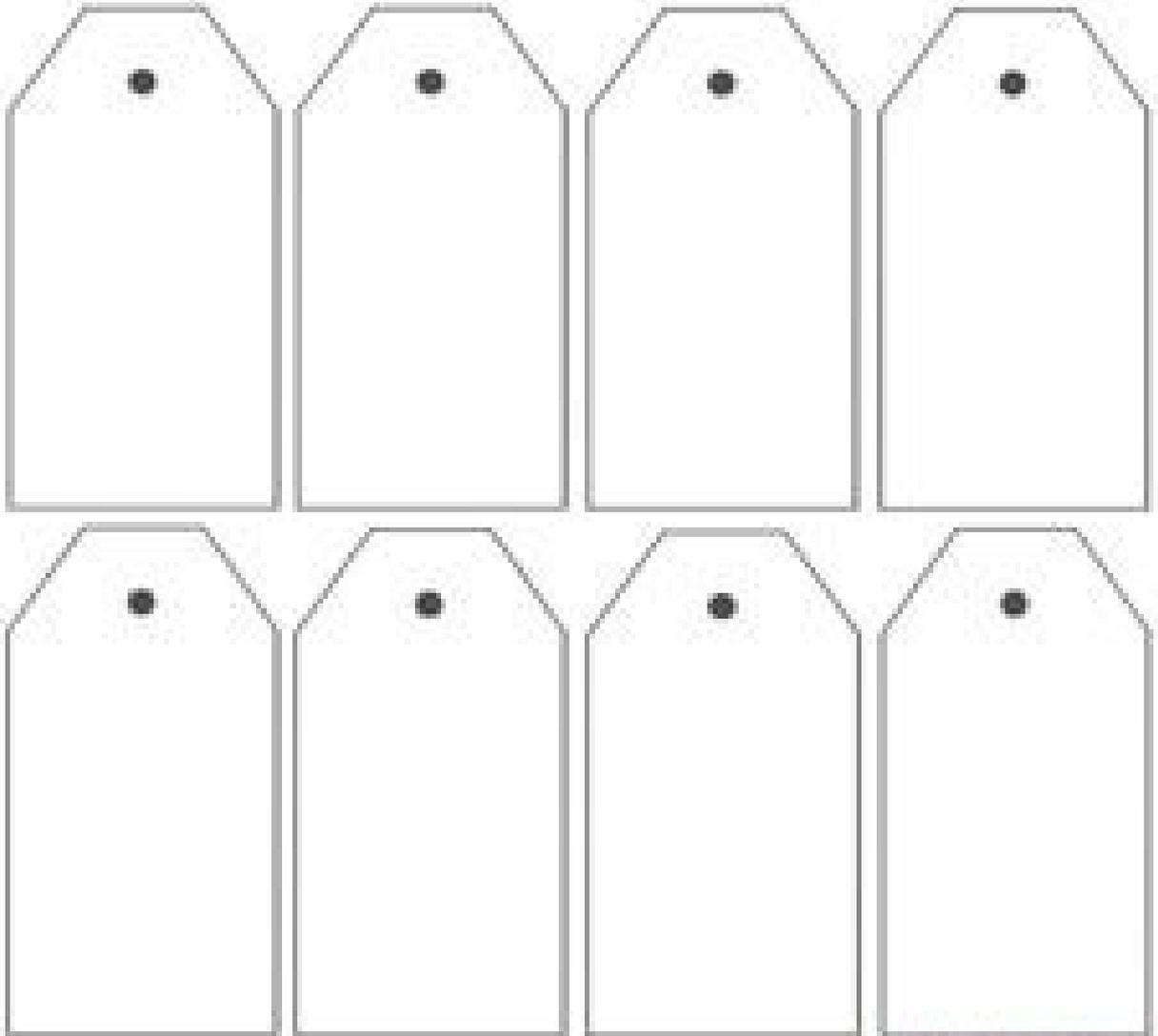
When something comes to an end that was a big part of our lives, we might feel sad, hurt, confused or angry. It may be because of school, a friendship, a relationship, a job, or a someone close to us may be ill or die.

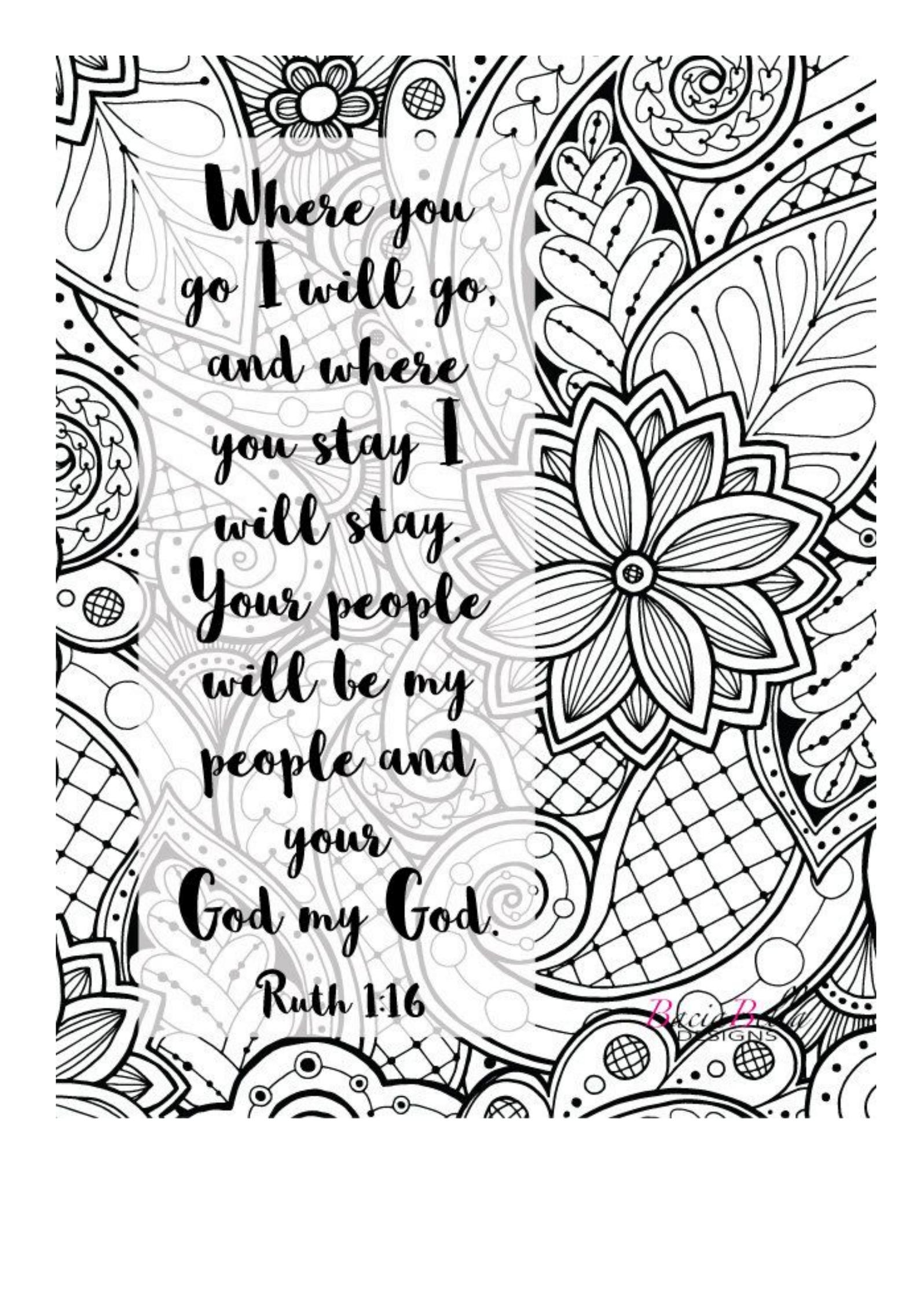
Use the labels to write or draw the names of something or someone important to us who we are separate from now, for whatever reason. If you wish, say something you remember about the person or the thing you no longer have with you. May be someone you know has lost something or someone. You could write a tag for them too.

Tie the tags to the chair

What might you want to say to God?

Blank Labels





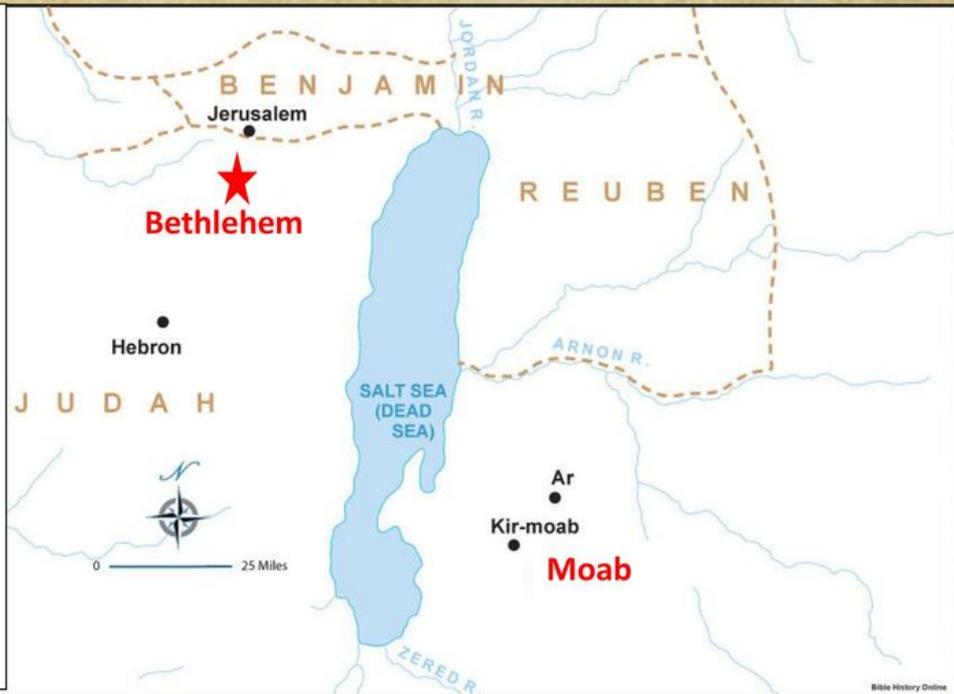
Where you
go I will go,
and where
you stay I
will stay.
Your people
will be my
people and
your
God my God.

Ruth 1:16

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DESIGNS

The Journey from Moab to Bethlehem is Difficult

The trip from Moab to Bethlehem takes 7-10 days. It requires travelers to cross the river Jordan and to climb over 2000 feet in elevation to reach Bethlehem.



“Your people will be my people and your God my God.” Ruth 1:16

