



Think about how difficult it was for Ruth to show kindness to Naomi the way she did. Wouldn't it have been much easier for Ruth to stay in her own city and not worry about Naomi? She could have stayed in the place that was familiar and looked out for *herself*. Instead, she chose to go to Bethlehem, where she knew no one, to take care of her mother-in-law. Not only that, she worked to make sure Naomi had all that she needed. That is *over-the-top kindness*!

Being kind to our family members can be harder than being kind to friends, neighbors, and even strangers. The good news is that you can do it with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Look for ways to show over-the-top kindness to your family this month. Start today by sending a text or email to a family member to say something kind. You might just make their day!



DAY 1

Take your Bible and a highlighter to a quiet place. Read the first two chapters of the book of Ruth. As you read, you'll meet three important people: Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz. Ruth was married to one of Naomi's two sons. Sadly, Naomi's husband died, and about 10 years later, both of her sons died as well. Naomi was left without any family other than her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah.

When Naomi decided to return to her hometown of Bethlehem, pay attention to what Ruth does. Then, pay attention to what happens when Boaz enters the story.

Use your highlighter to mark parts of the story when the characters show kindness. Take your time to make sure you don't miss anything, and we'll look more closely at this passage tomorrow!

DAY 2

THINK BACK TO THE CHAPTERS YOU READ YESTERDAY.

Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz were all part of the same family and went out of their way to take care of one another. Even though Jesus wasn't born when this story took place, the kindness of Boaz was a wonderful preview of the loving and kind Savior who was to come.

This story shows us how our kindness to others, *especially* our family, is a way that we reflect God's character to the world around us. Sometimes, treating our family members with kindness can be difficult.

Listen to some praise or worship music while you get dressed this morning or before bed tonight and think about God's kindness. Pray that He would help you show kindness to your family like Boaz and Ruth did.

PRAY
TO GOD

DAY 3

Today might be a challenging day! Ask God to help you be a good listener and see how you can become more like Him.

Find a time today to ask a family member or a friend three questions:

- DO YOU THINK I AM KIND TO OTHERS?
- WHAT ARE ACTS OF KINDNESS THAT YOU WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE?
- WHAT ARE SOME WAYS WE CAN WORK ON BEING KIND THIS WEEK?

As they answer your questions, remember: *just listen!* Afterwards, find a quiet spot in your house or go on a bike ride and spend some time talking to God. Ask Him to forgive you for times you have been unkind and to help you be more kind each day.

TALK
ABOUT GOD