



September 10, 2026

BOOK: Ruth 1 - 2

Opening Questions:

- a. Under what circumstances would you ever consider moving to a foreign country hostile to Christianity?
- b. Is there another ethnic or cultural group you closely identified with at some point in your life? What things did you like?
- c. Do you know anyone who believes God is punishing them? Under what circumstances does that typically occur?

Overview

Time period: _____

Author: _____

Theme: _____

Common understanding: _____

Theme: _____

Chapter 1

1. Who are our cast of characters in this chapter?
2. What is the time period of this book?
3. What do you know about the environment of the Israelites at this time?
4. How did people make decisions? (Judges 21:25)
5. Discuss the genealogy of Naomi and her family. Why do you think it is important to include it? (*1 Chronicles 2:19 & 2:50, Micah 5:2, 1 Samuel 17:12.*)
6. Identify the choices the people in the passage are making.
7. Do you think Elimelech's decision to move to Moab was a reasonable one? (*Prov. 3:5-6*)
8. What do we know about Moab in the history of Israel? Was this a place any Israelite should move to? (*Gen. 19:30-37, Num. 25:1-3, Deut. 23:3-6*)
9. After the death of the Naomi's family, what crises would she have faced in Moab?
10. Do we know anything about Naomi's relationship with God at this point?
11. Can you glean from verse 6 how the Moabites viewed the Hebrew God?
12. How would you characterize Naomi's motivation to return to Judah?
13. What strategy did Naomi use to convince Orpah and Ruth to return to Moab? Why? Is there any significance to the timing? (verses 11-13). (*Deut. 25:5-10*)
14. Do you agree with Naomi that the "hand of the Lord has gone" against her? What is she basing her worldview on? If so, for what motive would God deal with her in that way?
15. Why do you think Orpah listened to Naomi and left, but Ruth stayed? Specifically, if following Naomi most likely meant a life of poverty without a husband, why would Ruth choose it?
16. Do you notice anything unusual about Naomi's directive to Orpah? (verse 15)
17. How would you characterize Ruth's insistence on remaining with Naomi? Is this just loyalty or something else?
18. What are your thoughts on the town's reaction to Naomi's return? Her name change? (verses 19:21)
19. From what you have read so far, whose story is this?