

“Ruth 1”



OPEN IT

- Have you ever gone through a season when life turned out very differently than you expected? What helped you keep going?
- Who has demonstrated remarkable loyalty or faithfulness to you during a difficult season? What made their commitment so meaningful?

Read It:

- Ruth 1:1-22

Supporting Passages:

- Judges 21:25
- Deuteronomy 28:1-24

EXPLORE IT

- In **Ruth 1:1-5**, Elimelek's family leaves Bethlehem because of famine, but life in Moab becomes even more tragic. What do you think this teaches about placing our ultimate trust in circumstances rather than God?
- Naomi believes God has turned against her (**Ruth 1:13, 20-21**). How would you describe Naomi's view of God at this point in the story? What emotions do you hear in her words?
- Ruth and Orpah both loved Naomi deeply (**Ruth 1:8-14**). What do you admire about each woman's response, even though they ultimately make different decisions?
- Read **Ruth 1:16-18**. What stands out most about Ruth's commitment to Naomi? What does her declaration reveal about both her character and her faith?
- Ruth's statement includes, "Your God will be my God" (**Ruth 1:16**). How does this move beyond loyalty to Naomi and become a personal decision of faith?

- Naomi repeatedly describes herself as empty (**Ruth 1:20-21**). Yet the narrator immediately reminds us that Ruth is standing beside her (**Ruth 1:22**). What does this contrast teach us about how grief can affect our perspective?
- The sermon introduced the Hebrew word *hesed* (steadfast love, loyal kindness) from **Ruth 1:8**. Where do you see *hesed* demonstrated throughout this chapter?
- Ruth leaves behind her homeland, family, and future security to follow Naomi. What kinds of sacrifices are sometimes required when someone chooses to follow God?
- The chapter ends with the simple statement that they arrived "as the barley harvest was beginning" (**Ruth 1:22**). Why do you think the author intentionally includes that detail at the end of such a painful chapter?
- Looking at the whole chapter, where do you see God's providence quietly at work, even though Naomi cannot yet recognize it?

DO IT:

- If you're walking through a difficult season, spend time this week honestly talking with God about your pain while also asking Him to help you recognize signs of His faithfulness that you may be overlooking.
- Practice *hesed* this week by showing intentional loyalty and kindness to someone who is lonely, grieving, or carrying a heavy burden.
- Consider whether you've drifted from Christian community through worship, serving, or a small group. Identify one concrete step you can take this week to reconnect.
- Read **Ruth 1** again this week, paying attention to how God is working behind the scenes, even when the characters cannot see it.
- Pray for the faith to say, like Ruth, "Your God will be my God," choosing faithfulness to Christ above comfort, convenience, or security.