

GOD’S PROMISES FULFILLED

A Study in the Books of Joshua and Ruth

Clinging to Hope Ruth 1

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

Read Ruth 1:1-15.

1. The phrase “in the days when the judges ruled” (v. 1) tells us more than the date of this story. What does it tell us about this period of Israel’s history? (Jud. 2:16-19)

2. The fact that Elimelech’s family fled to Moab during the famine is significant. What characterized Israel’s relationship with this neighboring nation? (Deut. 23:3-6)

3. Try to picture yourself in Naomi’s sandals and feel the weight of her circumstances.
 - a. What losses has she experienced? (vv. 1-5)

 - b. How have these losses challenged her faith? (vv. 11-13)

4. After Naomi’s evaluation of their situation, Orpah and Ruth both weep but they each make different choices. Compare the costs and benefits they may have considered. (vv. 8-14a; also keep in mind the relationship between Moab and Israel)

	Costs	Benefits
Staying in Moab		
Going to Israel		

Read Ruth 1:16-22.

5. Ruth commits herself to Naomi, her people, and her God (vv. 16-17).
 - a. How do you think she knew about the God of Israel?

- b. What does this passage tell us about Naomi's relationship with the LORD? (vv. 1-9, 13b)

 - c. Even so, where does Ruth choose to find her security and her identity? (vv. 16-17)
6. Naomi takes Ruth back with her to the Promised Land and her hometown of Bethlehem.
- a. What does Naomi think life will be like for them there? (vv. 6, 11-13)

 - b. How does she summarize the situation? (v. 21)
7. The women hardly recognize Naomi in her grief (v. 19). Instead of being known by "Naomi" which means "pleasant," what new name does she want to be called and why? (v. 20)
8. Naomi's loss has blinded her. At the end of this chapter, what good do we see in Naomi's life that hints at God's kindness to her? (v. 22)
9. Consider a season of loss (big or small) in your own life.
- a. What was your initial response and how did you view God?

 - b. What did "clinging to hope" look like in your circumstance?

 - c. How has your response to and view of God changed over time?