



# In the Land of Moab

# Ruth 1

Study Written by Holli Worthington

## Day 1- Read Ruth 1

1. How did people act during the time of the Judges when the story of Ruth takes place? Read Judges 21:25
2. What is a possible reason there was famine in the land? Read Duet. 28:15, 23,24
3. What is the land of Moab referred to? Read Psalm 108:9

Discussion Question: What do you think about Elimelech taking his family and leaving Bethlehem (which means House of Bread) for Moab? Who else left the land God had placed him in because of a famine? Gen. 12:10-20



What are some ways you experience times of famine in your life? During these times do you run to God or away from Him?

Digging Deeper: Read Genesis 47:13-31  
How did God use a time of famine to accomplish His purpose?

What are some other instances in the Bible where God used something that seemed really bad to achieve His goal? What can we learn from this?

## Day 2 – Read Ruth 1 (again)

1. List everything Naomi had going against her.

Digging Deeper: Read Romans 8:17-18, 1 Peter 1:6-7, 11Cor. 4:17.  
What is associated with suffering and affliction in all these verses?

2. What events transpired to cause Naomi to return to the Promised Land? (v.5&6)
3. Read verse 6. What do you find interesting in this verse? How do you suppose Naomi, in Moab, heard about what the Lord had done?

To Ponder : How has suffering or trials in your life worked to bring you back to God or draw you closer to Him?

### Day 3- Read Ruth 1 (try a different translation)

1. List all the logical reasons Naomi urges her daughters-in-law to return to their family homes.
2. What can you deduce about Naomi's character from verses 7-14?
3. What was Naomi's explanation for all her troubles? (v.13)

Discussion Question: Do you think God was against Naomi? Why or why not?



Name some ways that you know God is for you. (These verses might give you some ideas- Romans 8, Isaiah 64:4, Eph. 1:3-8)

### Day 4- Read Ruth 1 (try another translation)

1. Read verse 14. "Cling to" means firm loyalty and deep affection. It implies leaving membership in one group to join another. What was Ruth leaving and what was she joining herself to? See 1 Thes. 1:9-10.

Digging Deeper: Read 1 Kings 11:4-7.  
What was the name of the god of Moab?



Are there any idols of the heart in your life that you have not left behind? (An idol of the heart is anything that rules me other than God) Take time now and ask the Lord to reveal what might be ruling you other than God or what you are treasuring more than Him.

2. What did Ruth and Orpah have in common? What was the big difference?

3. Read verses 16 & 17. What word would you use to describe Ruth?

4. Write the sentence in verse 16 that testifies to Ruth's conversion.

*Day 5- Read Ruth 1 (you should practically have this memorized)*

1. God had allowed emptiness in Naomi's life, but what had God provided for her so far?

Digging Deeper: Read Ezra 8:22, 31 and Luke 10:30.

How do these verses speak to another way God provided for Naomi and Ruth?

Discussion Question: Sometimes during trials or suffering we become so self-focused that we fail to see the ways God *has* provided for us. Share some ways we can guard against this.

2. When do the widows arrive back in Bethlehem?

3. How do you see God's sovereignty at work in chapter 1 of Ruth?



In spite of her very difficult circumstances, how might Naomi's outlook have been different if she had raised her eyes up in praise to the Sovereign Lord? Spend some time in Psalm 33 and Psalm 71:17-24 praising God for His sovereign love and care for you.

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God was stirring in your heart, convicting you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

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