

Faith: Trusting, Walking, Living

A Study in Ruth & Galatians

Ruth 1:1–21 (Part A)

Read Ruth 1:1–21.

1. Use the timeline below to sketch in the events of verses 1–7.



2. 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? (Judges 2:10–19)
3. The fact that Elimelech's family fled to Moab during the famine is significant. What characterized Israel's relationship with this neighboring nation?
Nu. 22:1–4a (after the exodus as the Israelites traveled from Egypt to the Promised Land)

Deut. 23:3–6

Jud. 3:12–30

4. Although Moab could provide food during the famine, what dangers existed there? (Num. 25:1–3)
5. What does Naomi's dialogue with Orpah and Ruth reveal about where women at that time found their security and identity? (vv. 8–13)

6. Try to picture yourself in Naomi's sandals as you re-read verses 1–5. Feel the weight of her circumstances.
 - a. What losses has she experienced?
 - b. What do you think has been crushed by these losses?
7. Having lost so much, Naomi is empty and barren (v. 21).
 - a. What loss(es) would really shake your foundation and leave you feeling empty and barren?
 - b. What does that reveal about where your identity lies?
8. After Naomi's evaluation of the situation, Orpah and Ruth both weep but they each make different choices. Compare the benefits and costs 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		

9. When Ruth commits herself to go with Naomi, what is she committing herself to? (Compare the initial response in verse 10b with vv. 14–17.)
10. How do you think Ruth knew about Naomi's God?
11. Ruth shows admirable determination, loyalty and love in this first chapter. How are you challenged or encouraged by Ruth's willingness to forsake all that's familiar and invest herself fully in Naomi and the God of Israel?