

I. Introduction: Ruth is the narrative about God's redemption of a Jewish family, which centers around Ruth, but foreshadows God's redemption of all the families of the earth.

II. The Road to Redemption (Ruth 1:1-22).

A. Tragic Circumstances (vv. 1-5).

A. Elimelech and his family moved to a foreign land because they didn't trust God's provision in Bethlehem. This resulted in the death of Elimelech and his two sons.

B. Torn Allegiances (vv. 6-13).

A. Naomi heard that God had blessed His people once again, so she set out to return to Bethlehem, but she discouraged Ruth and Orpah from following after her.

C. Total Commitment (vv. 14-18).

A. The moment of decision came for both Orpah and Ruth when they had to decide whether they would follow their families (and gods) or follow the God of Israel.

D. Triumphant Hope (vv. 19-22).

A. Naomi's return to Bethlehem caused a minor stir in the city, and the coming barley harvest was a sign of God's blessing after they had experienced famine.

III. Conclusion: Ruth is a shining light of faith and trust in God, despite the bitterness and unbelief of those in her family who blamed God for all of their problems and poor choices.

Questions About: The Road to Redemption

1. What do you know about the story of Ruth? Who are the main characters in the story? Who wrote the book? Why did the Holy Spirit inspire its writing? What makes it unique?
2. When did this story occur? (**Ruth 1:1**) What was the spiritual condition of Israel at that time? (**Judges 21:25**) Why did Elimelech go to Moab? (**v. 1**) What does Bethlehem mean?
3. What happened to Elimelech and his two sons? (**Ruth 1:1-5**) Why do you think they died? Was this divine judgment? Who were the Moabites? What did God say about them? (**Deut 23:3-6**)
4. Why did Naomi decide to return to Bethlehem? (**Ruth 1:6-13**) How long had they lived in Moab? (**v. 4**) Why did she try to discourage Ruth and Orpah from going? (**vv. 8, 11-12, 15**)
5. What was Naomi placing her hope in? (**Ruth 1:12-13**) How did she feel about God? (**v. 13**) Have you ever been mad at God? Have you blamed Him for your circumstances? Why?
6. What was the response of the two women? (**Ruth 1:14-18**) What is remarkable about Ruth's words? (**vv. 16-18**) What was she turning her back on? What was she likely signing up for?
7. What was the question of the people in Bethlehem when Naomi returned? (**Ruth 1:19-22**) What did their question imply? (**v. 19**) What was Naomi's reply? (**v. 20**) What did it mean?
8. How was Ruth referred to by the author? (**v. 22**) What does it tell you about her socially? What are the last words of the chapter? (**v. 22**) How do they offer hope to the people in Bethlehem?

Prayer

1. Pray that God would help you to see how He is accomplishing His purposes in your life.
2. Ask God to reveal how He can use you to bring about the redemption of others.