

## Your Story Isn't Over

Ruth 1:1-22

*Coming Up Empty*

1. Describe a time when you applied your full effort and things did not work out as you hoped.
2. **Read Ruth 1:1-2.** What condition was the land of Israel in at the beginning of this story? How would a disruption in the food supply be even more problematic then than for us now?
3. What was the significance of this family leaving “Bethlehem” to go to Moab?
4. **Read Ruth 1:3-5.** What happened to Naomi during her time in Moab? Describe the emotional and physical toll this must have taken on her.
5. **Read Ruth 1:6-7.** The distance from Moab to Bethlehem was probably less than 50 miles. Why would this have been such a difficult journey?
6. **Read Ruth 1:8-13.** What does the word “kindness” mean in verse 8?
7. How do we receive access to the “kindness” of God? How does God’s kindness have an immediate impact on our lives?
8. Why would Naomi put the responsibility for her struggles on God? When have you blamed the Lord for your pain and suffering? Is blaming God justified?
9. **Read Ruth 1:14-18.** Describe Ruth’s reaction when Naomi releases her. How does Ruth’s loyalty remind us of God’s faithfulness to us?
10. **Read Ruth 1:19-22.** Even when Ruth was in a spiritually dark place, she entered Bethlehem in a time of blessing. What are some blessings that we can choose to focus on in a challenging season of life?
11. **Read Philippians 1:6.** How does this verse provide peace for a follower of Christ when life is not easy?
12. How has Jesus filled you in seasons of emptiness in the past? What are some practical steps you can take to live out the abundant life Jesus has called you to?