

Introductions Are In Order.

April 25th & 26th, 2026



Read Ruth 1:1-22.

1. Think of a season in your life you wish you could have skipped. What made that season so hard?
2. When you're in the middle of a hard season, what does it usually feel like God is doing? Absent? Silent? Working? Something else?
3. The story opens "*in the days when the judges ruled*" during a famine in Bethlehem (which means "house of bread"). Read **Judges 21:25**. How does this backdrop shape the way you read the rest of the chapter?
4. By **verse 5**, Naomi has lost her husband and both of her sons over a ten-year span. How do we walk alongside people who are in long, drawn-out seasons of loss?

5. Naomi hears "*the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them*" (**v. 6**) and begins the journey home. What does it reveal about God that he is already at work before Naomi says anything hopeful about him?

6. Naomi blesses Orpah and Ruth with the phrase "*may the Lord show you kindness*" (**v. 8**). The Hebrew word for kindness here is *hesed*, meaning steadfast covenant love. What does it tell us about Naomi's faith that she still uses this word even in the middle of her grief.

7. Read Ruth's words in **verses 16-17** carefully. Why is this more than a statement of family loyalty? What is Ruth actually choosing, and what is she walking away from? Consider **Joshua 24:15** alongside this.

8. In **verses 20-21**, Naomi says "*the Almighty has made my life very bitter*" and "*the Lord has afflicted me.*" Read **Psalms 13** and/or **Lamentations 3:1-24**. What does it look like to speak honestly to God about pain while still believing he is sovereign?

9. Naomi says she has come back "*empty*" (**v. 21**), but the narrator tells us she returned "*accompanied by Ruth*" and arrived "*as the barley harvest was beginning*" (**v. 22**). What is the narrator doing by placing these facts right next to Naomi's words? Where in your life might God be providing something you aren't yet seeing as provision?

10. **Ruth 1** ends with a problem still unresolved: how will these two widows survive? As you begin this series, what questions about God's character or God's faithfulness do you most want this story to answer?