

## WHAT DOES NAOMI HAVE?

### Ruth 1:1-19 (Review)

1 There was a famine in Israel. So a man from the town of Bethlehem went to live in Moab – Moab was a foreign country. He went with his wife Naomi and his two sons. 3 But the husband died in Moab. 4 Then Naomi's sons married Ruth and Orpah – they were two women from Moab. 5 After ten years Naomi's two sons also died. 6 Then Naomi heard: God has given food to Israel. 7 So Naomi and her daughters-in-law started going to Bethlehem. 8 But Naomi said to Ruth and Orpah, "Go back to your homes." 14 Ruth and Orpah cried. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. 16 But Ruth answered, "Do not make me leave you. Where you live I will live. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God. 17 Where you die I will die." 19 Then Naomi and Ruth started up the road – and finally they came to Bethlehem.

### Ruth 1:19 - 2:23

19 Everyone in Bethlehem was excited. The women in Bethlehem said, "Is this Naomi?!" 20 But Naomi said, "Don't call me Naomi ('pleasant'). Call me Mara ('bitter') – because Most Powerful God has made my life very bitter. 21 I went to Moab full. But God made me empty – I have come back to Bethlehem empty. Don't call me Naomi ('pleasant'). God has hurt me – Most Powerful God has made my life bad."

22 Naomi came back to Bethlehem with Ruth the Moabite. When Naomi came back, the barley harvest was beginning. 2:1 And Naomi had a relative [in Bethlehem]. The relative's name was Boaz. Boaz was a good, important, successful man.

2 Then Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "May I go to the fields? I will pick up the leftover barley. Maybe a farmer will be kind to me – maybe a farmer will let me glean in his field. Is it okay?" Naomi said, "Go, my daughter."

3 So Ruth went to a field. The farm workers were harvesting barley – she followed the farm workers. And she gleaned barley. Ruth did not know it, but it was Boaz's field!

4 Then Boaz came to the field from the town of Bethlehem. He greeted the workers, "God be with you!" And the workers answered, "God bless you!" 5 Boaz asked his foreman, "Who is that young woman?" 6 The foreman answered, "She is the Moabite – she came from Moab with Naomi. 7 The Moabite asked us, 'Please let me glean in this field.' And she has worked hard from morning till now."

8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go to another farmer's field. Stay here with my servant girls. 9 Stay in my fields – and follow my servant girls. I commanded my men not to touch you. And when you are thirsty, you can drink from our water jars."

10Ruth bowed down to the ground. She said to Boaz, “I am a foreigner. Why do you notice me? Why are you so kind to me?” 11Boaz answered, “People told me everything about you – people told me what you did for your mother-in-law. You left your father and mother. You left your country. You came to live with people you do not know.” 12Boaz said, “I pray that God will reward you – that you will be greatly rewarded by Creator God – by the God of Israel. You have come to be safe under God’s wings.”

13Ruth said, “Please, continue to be kind to me. I am lower than your servant girls – but you have comforted me – you are very kind to me.”

14At mealtime Boaz said to Ruth, “Come over here.” Ruth sat down with the workers. Boaz gave her bread and some roasted grain. Ruth ate until she was full. 15When Ruth got up to glean again, Boaz commanded the workers, 16“Put some stalks of grain on the ground for Ruth – let her pick up the extra stalks of grain. Don’t embarrass her. Don’t scold her.”

17Ruth gleaned until evening. Then she threshed the barley. She got about twenty-two liters of barley – it was a lot of barley. 18Ruth carried the barley back to town. Naomi saw the barley 19and asked Ruth, “Where did you glean today? What is the farmer’s name?” Ruth answered, “His name is Boaz.”

20“God bless Boaz!” said Naomi. “God is still kind to us – and to our dead husbands.” Then Naomi said, “Boaz is our close relative – he is one of our redeemers – he is a redeemer for our family.”

21Then Ruth said to Naomi, “Boaz told me: ‘Stay with my workers until all my grain is harvested.’ ” 22Naomi said, “That is good for you my daughter. Stay with Boaz’s servant girls. In another farmer’s field, the workers might hurt you.”

23So Ruth stayed close to Boaz’s servant girls. Ruth gleaned in Boaz’s barley fields and wheat fields. She gleaned in Boaz’s fields until all the harvest was finished.

## **HOW DOES GOD TAKE CARE OF WIDOWS, ORPHANS, FOREIGNERS, & POOR PEOPLE?**

### **Deuteronomy 24:17-22 & Leviticus 23:22**

Deut. 24:17Be fair to foreigners, orphans and widows. 18Remember – you were slaves in Egypt. And remember that God saved you from slavery. That is why I command you: Be fair to foreigners, orphans and widows.

Lev. 23:22When you harvest your fields, don’t cut the grain near the edge of the field. If you drop grain in the field, don’t pick up the grain – leave it in the field. This grain is for poor people and for foreigners – let them take the grain. Do this because I am your God.

Deut. 24:19 When you harvest your fields, you will sometimes forget a sheaf of grain in the field. Leave the sheaf in the field – don't go back and pick it up. Let the foreigner, orphan or widow pick up the sheaf and take it home. Then God will bless all your work.

Deut. 24:21 When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, pick the grapes only one time. Don't go back and look for more grapes. Leave the extra grapes for the foreigners, orphans and widows. 22 Remember – you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you: Be kind to foreigners, orphans and widows.

## CONTENT QUESTIONS

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**WHAT DOES NAOMI HAVE?**

- Why was everyone in Bethlehem excited? (1:19)

- But how did Naomi feel? (1:20-21)

What does “Naomi” mean?

What does “Mara” mean?

How bad was Naomi's situation?

- Who was responsible for Naomi's sad, difficult situation? (1:20-21)

Why does God let hard, bad things happen to us?

***You should think about it this way: Be very happy when you have hard times – because hard times test your faith in Jesus – testing your faith makes you strong so that you don't give up – not giving up (for a long time) makes you mature. When you are mature, nothing is missing inside you.***

James 1:2-4

hard times > test our faith > don't give up (for a long time) >  
become mature > nothing missing in us

If we give up, can hard times help us?

Creator God is responsible for our situation. But sometimes things are very bad.  
Is it encouraging or discouraging that God is in charge of everything?

***In every situation (good or bad) God is working for us – God is making every situation good for us. This is true if we love God... because God's goal is to make us be like Jesus.***

Romans 8:28-29

***If God is for us – if God loves us and helps us – can anyone be against us? ...Nothing can separate us from Jesus Christ's love – not trouble, not hard things, not persecution, ...not life, not death, ...not bad spirits, not the present, not the future... – nothing can separate us from God's love, if we believe in Jesus!***

Romans 8:31-39

Does this mean that we will never have trouble (if we believe in Jesus)?

- Naomi was discouraged. But did she hang on? Or did she give up?  
Did Naomi give up on God? Did she stop having faith in God?  
Or did she stay connected to God? (compare 1:21 & 2:20)
- Did Naomi think that God was powerful? (1:20)

- Naomi said: I came back to Bethlehem empty. (1:21)

But what 6 important things did Naomi still have? (1:19, 22 - 2:1)  
(health, friends, God, Ruth, barley harvest, Boaz)

It is okay to tell God: I am very sad – I am in great trouble.  
(We learned this last week.)

But what did Naomi forget to do?

***Thank God in every situation.***

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Was God still taking care of Naomi? What do you think?

- What kind of character did Ruth have? What kind of person was she?

- Was she committed? (1:16-17)
  - Was she loving?

- Did she take initiative? (1:16 & 2:2)

Whose field did Ruth glean in? Did she know whose field it was? (2:3)

Why do you think Ruth ended up in Boaz's field?

- Did she take risks? (2:2 & 2:11, 22)
- Did she work hard? (2:7, 23)
- Was she polite and thankful? (2:7 & 2:10, 13)

Do you think Ruth also felt nervous or stressed? (2:13)

- Did she have faith in God? (2:12)

What do you think of Ruth?

- What kind of character did Boaz have? What kind of person was he?

- How did he treat his workers? (2:4)
- How did he treat a poor, foreign woman?

How did Boaz protect Ruth? (2:9)

How did Boaz give Ruth what she needed? (2:8-9 & 14-16 & 21)

How did Boaz compliment or praise Ruth? (2:11)

How did Boaz bless Ruth? (2:12)

Did Boaz care about Ruth's spiritual condition? How much?

Did Boaz focus on Ruth's status (foreigner) or did Boaz focus on Ruth's character? (2:10-11)

Did Boaz only give things to Ruth? Or did he let her work hard? (2:14-17)

What do you think are the best ways to help people?

What do you think of Boaz?

Does Boaz remind you of God? How is Boaz like God?

- What encouraged Naomi? (2:20)
- Did Naomi care about Ruth? (2:22)
- What did Ruth do during the whole harvest season? (2:23)

## **HOW DOES GOD CARE FOR WIDOWS, ORPHANS, FOREIGNERS, AND POOR PEOPLE?**

- How does God feel about foreigners, widows, orphans, and poor people?
- Why did God want Israel to be kind to foreigners, widows, orphans, and poor people?  
What are the 4 reasons?
  - #1 in Deuteronomy 24:18, 22
  - #2 in Deuteronomy 24:17
  - #3 in Leviticus 23:22
  - #4 in Deuteronomy 24:19
- How did God take care of foreigners, widows, orphans, and poor people?  
(Leviticus 23:22 & Deuteronomy 24:19, 21)

Why do you think God made them glean?

Why didn't God just give them food and money?

Why doesn't God say to the farmers:  
Just give the grain to poor people?

Is it kind to only give poor people things and not help them work?

What do you think of Creator God?