

LIFEGROUPS

RUTH — Ruth 1

Read Ruth 1

1. Read Deuteronomy 7:1-6. In light of these scriptures, what do you think Elimelech's decision to go to Moab?
2. Why did Naomi choose to go back to Israel?
3. Why do you think Naomi encouraged her two daughters-in-law to remain in Moab? What were the implications for doing so?
4. Why does Ruth choose to go with Naomi?
5. Why would Naomi tell the women of Bethlehem not to call her Naomi and to call her Mara instead?
6. Emotionally, Spiritually and Physically, how do you imagine Naomi and Ruth felt?
7. How do you think they were able to persevere through this kind of sorrow and hardship?
8. Are any of you going through a difficult situation at the moment? How are you feeling emotionally, spiritually and physically?
9. How can you find hope in emotionally, spiritually, physically difficult times?

LEADER'S NOTES

These notes are here as guidelines or commentary notes to help the leader.

This takes place during the time of the judges. And as the Israelites at this time were in a cycle of obedience/disobedience, its as a time of trial and the people being subjected to neighbouring countries. And at the same time, there was a famine striking the land. The famine meaning that the lack of water, meant there was a shortage of crops. However, we see that the rest of the tribe of Benjamin was still able to survive. However, Elimelech decided at this time to take his family to Moab.

What's the big deal of taking his family to Moab? Isn't this the same as taking his family to another city to find work and employment? It can be difficult for us to contextualise ourselves into the situation in this time, but let me help to explain.

The Moabites were actually one of the countries that had oppressed Israel in the past. Eglon, if you remember from William Cottrell's message, was the King of Moab. These were people that God had strictly forbidden the Israelites to meet with. Actually, Moab at the time refused to help Israel, or giving food, refused them passage. They were the enemies of the nation at this time. Why does God not like the Moabites? Some of the practices they were involved in were detestable, the circumstances of a sinful world. Child sacrifice, human sacrifice was common. Their god they worshipped was called Chamron, and similar to the other gods around that time, Molech.