

- Famine in Israel forces people to relocate. Among those is a family composed of a man named Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and his two sons Mahon and Chilion. These people are from the area around Bethlehem (also called Bethlehemjudea and referred to as Ephrathites). They go to the country of Moab. [Ruth 1:1-2](#)
- Remember that Moab was one of the two countries that would not let the children of Israel pass through on their way from Egypt to the Promised Land, that was why they had to go around and ultimately over the Jordan River. [Judges 11:18](#)
- Elimelech dies. The two sons Mahon and Chilion marry women from Moab named Orpah and Ruth. Then Mahon and Chilion die. That leaves three widowed women, Naomi, Orpah and Ruth. [Ruth 1:3-5](#)
- All three women set out together to go back to Israel because Naomi heard that the famine was over. [Ruth 1:6-7](#)
- Naomi tells her daughters twice that they should go back to Moab. First she compliments them on the way they conducted themselves during their husband's deaths, then she tells them they are still young enough to remarry and have children. [Ruth 1:8-13](#)
- Orpah does turn back but Ruth decides to stay, telling Naomi she will be with her and worship her God until she dies. Naomi agrees. [Ruth 1:14-18](#). (verse 16 is the one people remember).
- They go back to Israel where Naomi takes a new name, Mara, which means bitterness. She says people should call her that from now on because God had treated her bitterly. They arrive in the beginning of the barley harvest. [Ruth 1:19-22](#)
- Naomi had a relative from her husband's side named Boaz who was very wealthy. [Ruth 2:1](#)
- Ruth asks Naomi's permission to go and gather ears of corn from fields so they will have something to eat. It was customary in those days to allow people who needed it to go and pick up extras from the fields. Just by chance, she happens to be gathering grain from a field belonging to Boaz. [Ruth 2:2-3](#)
- Boaz comes from Bethlehem to check out his fields. He greets his laborers, and then asks them who the woman he saw gathering corn is. They tell him is the woman that Naomi brought back from Moab. [Ruth 2:4-7](#)
- Boaz talks to Ruth directly and tells her that she should stay there and she will be protected (women alone were always at risk) and they would take care of her if she got thirsty. [Ruth 2:8-9](#)
- Ruth asks Boaz why he is being so kind and he tells her that he has heard of her devotion to Naomi and that now the God she trusted in is repaying her. He also feeds her. [Ruth 2:10-14](#)
- Boaz tells his workers to let her continue to glean, and even tells them to leave a little extra. [Ruth 2:15-16](#)
- Ruth ends up getting an ephah (which is about a bushel which is about 64 pints or 35 liters). She takes it home to Naomi and tells her what happened and Naomi explains that he is related. Ruth keeps going back until the end of the harvest. [Ruth 2:17-23](#)
- Naomi tells Ruth to go and lie down at Boaz's feet when he goes to sleep in the barn and uncover his feet and sleep there and wait for Boaz's instructions and she does. In those days it was customary (almost an obligation) for a relative to marry a woman who was widowed in the family, so she is basically trying to set them up. [Ruth 3:1-7](#)
- Boaz wakes up and is startled. Naomi tells him that she knows he is related through her father. He tells Ruth that even though he is related to her through her father there is another even

more closely related and that if he doesn't do the right thing then Boaz will, and that everyone knows she is virtuous. In the morning he sends her home with six measures of barley. (that is six ephahs or about two and a half gallons!) [Ruth 3:8-15](#)

- Ruth tells Naomi what happened again and Naomi says "let's see how this plays out today." [Ruth 3:18](#)
- Boaz sees the closer kin and gets the elders of the city together to sit down. He mentions that Naomi will be selling her possessions and also mentions that Ruth comes with it. The other relative says he can't afford it and so Boaz buys it. In those days it was customary to take off your shoe to seal the deal and so he does and gets Ruth as his wife. Boaz confirms that they are all witnesses. [Ruth 4:1-12](#)
- Notice the language of redemption used in verse 6 of Ruth 4. Just like we are adopted into God's family as Ruth became a part of Naomi's family we are redeemed as well. [Galatians 4:4-5](#)
- Boaz and Ruth bear a child named Obed who is David's grandfather. [Ruth 4:13-12](#)
- In the genealogy of Christ Boaz (there called Booz) was mentioned as the son of Salmon and Rahab. [Matthew 1:5](#). Remember that Rahab the Harlot was the woman who hid the spies and was the only family saved by Israel at Jericho and ended up living among them. [Joshua 6:25](#)

Questions

1. What are the names of the people who fled Bethlehemjudea because of famine and what were their relationships to each other?
2. What is the significance of the fact that the people at the beginning of Ruth went to Moab?
3. How many widows are there early on in Ruth?
4. How many of the widows start back to Israel?
5. Why do the women start back to Israel?
6. What two reasons does Ruth give her daughters to turn back?
7. Do the daughters go all the way back to Israel with Ruth?
8. What does Naomi change her name to? Why?
9. Who was Boaz?
10. Why did Ruth go to gather grain?
11. How does Ruth end up going to a field belonging to Boaz?
12. How does Boaz find out who Ruth was?
13. What two things does Boaz tell Ruth she will receive as long as she stays to gather in his field?
14. Why does Boaz tell Ruth he is being so kind to her?
15. What does Boaz tell his workers to do?
16. How much corn does Ruth end up gathering?
17. What does Naomi tell Ruth to do to Boaz?
18. What does Boaz initially tell Ruth about them getting together?
19. How does Boaz eventually get Ruth to marry?
20. How does the story of Boaz and Ruth teach us about family and redemption?
21. Who is a direct descendant of Boaz and Ruth?
22. What is the relationship of Boaz to Rahab the Harlot?