

RUTH 1

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

CONTEXT

- Look at verse 1. Do you know what is meant by the phrase, “In the day when the judges ruled”? If you’re not sure what that means, watch The Bible Project’s video summary of the book of Judges to help understand what’s going on in the world at the same time as the book of Ruth. (YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOYy8iCfIJ4>)
- Who are the two main characters this story focuses in on?

OBSERVATION

- What’s gone wrong for Naomi and Ruth so far?
- Look at verse 20. Your Bible probably has a footnote next to the names Naomi and Mara. What does your Bible’s footnote tell you these names mean in Hebrew?
- What is the surprising event in this story so far? (Hint: look at verses 16-17)
- The story began with a scary statement: “In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land.” How does chapter 1 end? (Hint: Bethlehem means “house of bread” in Hebrew).

MEANING

- Look at verses 20-21. What does Naomi believe about God right now?
- What signs of hope remain in this story despite everything that has gone wrong?

APPLICATION

- Naomi and Ruth had a lot to be worry about. What are some of the things causing you to worry right now? What fears do you see online or in the news about the spread of the coronavirus?
- Naomi (“pleasant” in Hebrew) changes her name to Mara (“bitter” in Hebrew) and feels like God is against her. Has there been a time in your life where you have felt this way before?
- Ruth sacrifices her well-being and her future to be with Naomi. Can you think of a time when a friend dropped everything to be with you during a difficult situation? How did that make you feel?
- There are still signs of hope in this story, even in the middle of their troubles. God is still there working behind the scenes to provide hope and healing for Ruth and Naomi. How can you trust that God is working behind the scenes of our troubles today?
- Finish by reading Psalm 23:4 and pray that God would help us know that he is with us as we begin to walk through our own “dark valley” in the coming days.