

For those considering joining us for the study of Ruth, here are some questions to think about for Chapter 1. Three discussion groups meet in the Parish Hall on Sunday morning at 10:10 am, plus one group meets on Tuesday at 12:15 pm at the Rectory, 315 Screven Street, and another on Thursday at 6 pm at the Rectory. Please come to any group that fits your schedule. Blessed reading!

Questions For Ruth Chapter 1:

1. Why did Elimelech take his family to Moab? Was this an act of wisdom and obedience to God, or perhaps a demonstration of a weak faith? Why?
2. Do you think is it significant that the sons of Elimelech married Moabite women? Why or why not?
3. Is there any evidence in Chapter 1 that Naomi has faith in God? If so, what?
4. Why did Naomi discourage Ruth and Orpah from accompanying her to Judah?
5. Ruth's response to Naomi is, in essence, that she is going to go with Naomi no matter what. What do you think explains or is motivating her decision?
6. Ruth's expression of allegiance is legendary (and often recited in marriage ceremonies). What specific promises did she make?
7. What evidence is there that Ruth had become a believer in the one true God?
8. How would you describe Naomi's mood upon her return to Bethlehem? Was she right in saying that the Lord had made her life bitter and the Lord had afflicted her and brought misfortune upon her?
9. How does Ruth's commitment to Naomi compare to the spirit of the times in Israel? How is Ruth's personal spiritual journey different than the religious trajectory of the nation of Israel?
10. Ruth is a book with many contrasts or opposites. Name some opposites found in Chapter 1.
11. Luke 9:23-24 speaks of the unflinching allegiance that Christ demands of all who would be His followers. How does the typical Christian experience measure up to this standard?
12. Describe the sacrifice Ruth made in choosing to accompany her mother-in-law and leave Moab. How can you imitate Ruth's love and selflessness in your own relationships with your in-laws or other family members?
13. What specific attitudes or actions from the life of Ruth do you need to emulate today?