

## Ruth 1:12 – 22

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 <sup>12</sup> Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old  
2 to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I  
3 should have a husband this night and should bear sons,  
4 <sup>13</sup> would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you  
5 therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is  
6 exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the  
7 LORD has gone out against me.” <sup>14</sup> Then they lifted up their  
8 voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law,  
9 but Ruth clung to her.

10 <sup>15</sup> And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to  
11 her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”

12 <sup>16</sup> But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return  
13 from following you. For where you go I will go, and where  
14 you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and  
15 your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die I will die, and there will I  
16 be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if  
17 anything but death parts me from you.” <sup>18</sup> And when Naomi  
18 saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

19 <sup>19</sup> So the two of them went on until they came to  
20 Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole  
21 town was stirred because of them. And the women said, “Is  
22 this Naomi?” <sup>20</sup> She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call  
23 me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. <sup>21</sup> I  
24 went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty.

25 Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me  
26 and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

27 <sup>22</sup> So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-  
28 in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And  
29 they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

**Review the passage from last week, then continue in the story.**

**Observation (What does it say?):**

*Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?*

- *What reasons does Naomi give to convince Ruth to leave her?*
- *What promises does Ruth make to Naomi?*
- *What was Naomi’s reception like?*
- *What was Naomi’s response like?*
- *What other observations do you notice?*

**Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

*After observing the passage:*

- *Why might Ruth have decided to stay with Naomi when Orpah left?*
- *What similarities and differences do you see between Naomi’s reasons to leave and Ruth’s intentions to follow?*
- *Imagine the scene when Naomi and Ruth enter Bethlehem. What might that have been like?*
- *How does Naomi understand the events of her life? How does she see her part in those circumstances? How does she see God’s part?*
- *How do the events and their effect on Naomi affect how she relates to others?*
- *What other questions come to mind as you read?*

**Application (What does it mean for me?):**

- *What specific events in your life had shaped your conception of God and how He is working (or if He is)?*
- *How do your present circumstances affect your interactions with others (friends, family, strangers)?*

**Additional information for thought and discussion:**

Naomi – “pleasant” (cf. Psalm 133:1 - Behold, how good and **pleasant** it is when brothers dwell in unity!)

Mara – “bitter” (cf. Exodus 15:23 - When they came to Marah, they could not drink the water of Marah because it was **bitter**; therefore it was named Marah.)

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## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### **Observation** (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

### **Interpretation** (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### **Application** (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.**  
**J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**