## Character Study: Ruth Part 1 – Ruth's Devotion to Naomi Ruth 1

#### What's happening?

- Because of a famine in Canaan, <u>Elimelech</u> and his wife <u>Naomi</u> took their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, and moved to <u>Moab</u>. Shortly thereafter, Elimelech died, leaving Naomi a widow. (1:1-3)
- Both of Naomi's sons married Moabite women. Mahlon married <u>Ruth</u> and Chilion married <u>Orpah</u>. About ten years later, both Mahlon and his brother Chilion died. Ruth and Orpah, along with their mother-in-law Naomi, were all widows. (1:4-5)
- The famine in Canaan came to an end, so Naomi decided to <u>return</u> back home. She told her daughter-in-laws that there would be no point for them to go with her. Orpah decided to remain in Moab, but Ruth insisted on <u>staying</u> with Naomi. (1:6-18)
- Naomi and Ruth travelled to Bethlehem. The people were <u>excited</u> to see Naomi again, but Naomi was very <u>sad</u> because she had lost so much since the last time she was there. (1:19-22)

#### What's God doing?

- > God was teaching Naomi that it is easy to overlook <u>blessings</u> when filled with self-pity.
- > Through the love and devotion Ruth had for her mother-in-law, God led Ruth to <u>trust</u> in Him as her God.

#### What's to learn?

- → Naomi experienced difficult days, as we all do. But in her misery, Naomi failed to see God's goodness. What blessings are you experiencing in your life that you have failed to recognize?
- → Ruth put her own <u>interests</u> aside out of <u>loyalty</u> to her mother-in-law. She willingly abandoned all she knew to go to an unknown and unfamiliar place. Ruth demonstrated <u>devotion</u> to Naomi, just as she expressed devotion to God (v. 16). Are you showing the same level of commitment and devotion to the people whom you love?

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