

RUTH 1:6-18

1. In Ruth 1:1-5, we saw the background and setting of the book of Ruth—the time, the place, the characters, and the dilemma they were facing. After the death of her husband and two sons, what prompted Naomi to want to return home to Bethlehem in verse 6?
2. Who is given the credit for the providential rain and provision of food in Judah?
3. As Naomi and her daughters-in-law begin the journey to the land of Judah, what does Naomi say to them in verses 8 and 9?

Naomi blesses Ruth and Orpah in verse 8 and says: “May the Lord deal kindly with you as you have dealt with the dead and with me”. The word for kindly is the Hebrew word *hesed*—an important word in Ruth and in all of the Old Testament. It speaks of God’s faithful and loyal love.

4. What is Ruth and Orpah’s response in verse 10?
5. What shared experience would have bonded these three ladies in a powerful way?
6. What reasons does Naomi give to Ruth and Orpah in verses 11-13 to urge them to return home?
7. Orpah returns to Moab but what does Ruth do in verse 14?
8. In verses 16 and 17, Ruth gives one of the most beautiful expressions of commitment and loyalty in all of biblical literature. In what five ways does Ruth link her future to Naomi in verses 16 and 17?
9. Share how you have seen God’s faithful love (*hesed*) displayed in your own life?