

Ruth 1:1-18:

Ruth's is an interesting story.

In a nation which took its' racial purity very seriously, we have a book of the Bible about a foreigner - one who became the great-grandmother of David, Israel's most revered king.

It is a book which speaks of loyalty, commitment and perseverance.

Naomi was in a difficult position. As a woman, she was unable to act on her own behalf. After her husband, and then her sons died, she had no one to protect her or to provide for her.

Naomi also felt a responsibility towards her daughters-in-law, even though they were from a different culture. She wanted to do her best for them, as well as for herself. Naomi was shouldering a heavy responsibility.

Naomi, in suggesting that Orpah and Ruth return to their family homes, was trying to maximise the opportunities for them to remarry - to put their sad past behind them, and begin again.

However, Ruth did not want that. She must have felt great love and loyalty towards Naomi. Ruth was able to look behind the points of difference between herself, and her mother-in-law. She saw a woman of strength, and also a woman who would need Ruth's love and support, both for her journey home, and to settle back into her homeland.

There are many times when we, too, are asked to look beyond the superficial, and to see the needs and the vulnerabilities of others.

God calls us to recognise the Christ in each and every person. ~ Blessings from Meg

A grandfather was walking through his yard when he heard his granddaughter repeating the alphabet in a tone of voice that sounded like a prayer. He asked her what she was doing. The little girl explained: "I'm praying, but I can't think of exactly the right words, so I'm just saying all the letters, and God will put them together for me, because He knows what I'm thinking." ~ C Vauhan



Ruth 1:1-18 (NIV)

Naomi Loses Her Husband and Sons

¹ In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab.

² The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

³ Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons.

⁴ They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

Naomi and Ruth Return to Bethlehem

⁶ When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷ With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

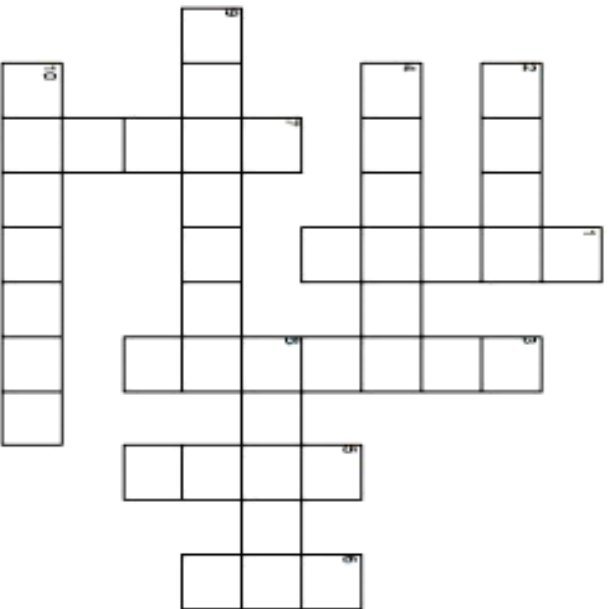
⁸ Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. ⁹ May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband."

Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud ¹⁰ and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." ¹¹ But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? ¹² Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons—¹³ would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has turned against me!"

¹⁴ At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me."¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

Ruth



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ACROSS

- 2 Naomi told the people of the city Bethlehem to call her _____ meaning bitter
- 4 Naomi and her husband left Bethlehem because of a _____
- 8 Ruth traveled to Bethlehem with her mother-in-law _____
- 9 Boaz told his reapers to let fall some handfuls of _____
- 10 Mahlon and _____ were Naomi's sons

DOWN

- 1 King _____ was a descendant of Ruth and Boaz
- 3 Ruth _____ in the fields of corn and barley
- 5 _____ said he would do the part of a kinsman
- 6 Boaz gave Ruth _____ measures of barley to take to Naomi
- 7 _____ stayed behind in the land of Moab; sister-in-law of Ruth

R S Q E M D D G J E Q G I K K
 R T B F W B U V R I K C D P I
 V R B S E C O N D E M C E Y N
 A E J D B K S C B L A A F C G
 M N X P R M O V M N T T G C D
 E G S Y V A U P I H E G E P O
 P T H W L X L P N C A Y X S M
 A H Q X E E L V D M C Z O E T
 J T C J R R H O J D H Q Y D Z
 A M W H Y Z K X V N E H N T Y
 R S K E N L C J L E R K I O Q
 L A W A Y O U R S E L F Z E K
 C R H R S N E I G H B O R E O
 L D M T H S I M P O R T A N T
 I P Q U E S T I O N S G Z C N

MIND	SOUL	YOURSELF	ANSWER	QUESTIONS
NEIGHBOR	IMPORTANT	STRENGTH	TEACHER	KINGDOM
GREATEST	LOVE	LAW	SECOND	HEART