



Chapter One - NAOMI and RUTH:

The topic of this study is “influence”. Before we get started today, I think it’s important that we stop for a minute and ask ourselves:

What is influence? What does it mean to you?

Let’s begin today by reading Ruth 1:1-2.

In these verse we learn five important things:

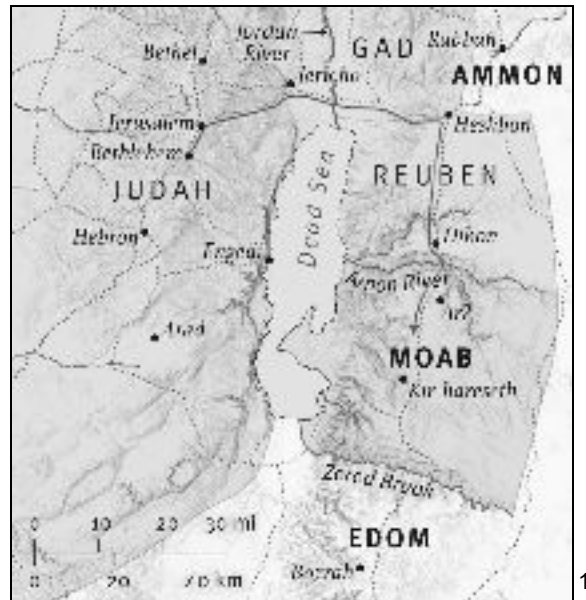
1. _____
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2. _____
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3. We are introduced to Elimelech and his family: wife (Naomi), son#1 (Mahlon), and son #2 (Chilion).

4. _____

—

5. _____

—



Notes on Moab and the Moabites:

NOTE: The Moabites worshipped a god named Chemosh. The name Chemosh means “destroyer” or “fish god”. He was their chief deity, but Numbers 25:2 suggests that they may have also worshipped other false gods.

Read Ruth 1:3. What happened? _____

¹<https://meetinggodinthemargin.com>

Let's continue by reading Ruth 1:4.

Naomi's sons married _____.

We are told in verse 4 that one wife was named _____ and the other was named _____. We also learn that they, along with Naomi and her sons, lived in _____ for about _____.

Read Ruth 1:5. Notes and thoughts on this verse:

Read Ruth 1:6. What happened? _____

Read Ruth 1:7-14. Notes and thoughts on these verse:

So what happened? Read Ruth 1:15-18.

Ruth, whose name means _____, was determined to _____, regardless of the situation and the personal cost.

In verses 16-17, we hear Ruth's _____, and her pledge to be with Ruth and God's people. She was committing herself to _____.

Taking Ruth home with her would bring new challenges.

Challenge #1: _____

Challenge #2: _____

Read Ruth 1:19-22.

After _____ in Moab, Naomi returned home to people who
_____ and _____.

She replied (in verse 20), *“Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.”*

The name Naomi means _____. Mara means _____.

Naomi and Ruth had returned to Bethlehem at the

_____.

Read Ruth 2:1-7.

Naomi’s husband, Elimelech, had a wealthy relative named _____.

Notes on these verses:

Reference Leviticus 19:9-10... and then 23:22. Notes on these verses:

Ruth saw the necessity of _____ and obtained

Naomi’s permission to _____.

When Boaz asked the lead servant about her, the servant replied, “*She is the young _____ who returned with _____ from the _____.*”

Read Ruth 2:8-13. Notes on these verses:

Let’s see what happens. Read Ruth 2:14-16. What happened?

Read Ruth 2:17-23.

NOTE: An ephah of barley would be enough to sustain Ruth and Naomi for _____, possibly more. An ephah was approximately _____ as much as a gleaner could hope to gather on a good day.

When Naomi learned that it was Boaz who had helped Ruth, and she knew immediately that they had been _____.

In verse 20, Naomi describes Boaz as _____.

NOTE: The Hebrew word for “one of our closest relatives” is _____. The term means that he is much more than just a simple “kinsman”. In fact, Old Testament scholars often use the term “kinsman-redeemer” in its place.

Notes on this:

Read Ruth 3:1-13.

Ruth stayed in Boaz’s fields until the _____,
as instructed by Naomi.

Notes on these verses:

The name Boaz means _____.

Naomi instructed Ruth on what to do. Her plan did NOT follow Jewish customs.

Ruth was to:

1. _____

—

2. _____

—

3. _____

—

4. _____

—

5. _____

—

6. Wait for him to tell you what to do.

Notes on this:

*NOTE: In verse 13, Boaz uses the phrase _____,
which was the most solemn, binding oath an Israelite could make.*

Read Ruth 3:14-18. What happened? _____

Read Ruth 4:1-6.

Notes on these verses:

NOTE: The city gate was the place for important assemblies. It was also the place where legal business transactions could be publicly made.

The goel would be responsible for _____.

Notes on this:

Initially, the other relative agreed to _____, thus taking the property. But when he found out that the deal also included _____, everything changed.

The unnamed relative gave up his right to become the goel, and

A formal contract was then publicly sealed in the customary fashion: the relative _____ and gave it to _____, effectively granting Boaz the right to _____.

Read Ruth 4:9-10. Redemption at last.

Read Ruth 4:13-17. Notes on these verses:

“Blessed is the Lord who has not left you without a redeemer today, and may His name become famous in Israel. May He also be to you a restorer of life and a sustainer of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, have given birth to him.” (4:14-15)

Final notes on Naomi and Ruth:

Ruth’s story is a redemption reminder for all believers. First a sinner, then redeemed and brought into a position of favor, endowed with great riches and privilege, exalted to be a part of our Savior’s family, and deeply loved. And just look at the long-term influence she had on so many... both then, and now!



Small Group Work / Homework - NAOMI and RUTH:

Did you learn anything new or gain new perspective from Naomi and/or Ruth?

Which of these two women do you most identify with? Why? Please explain.

Which woman do you see as more influential? Naomi or Ruth? Please explain.

What modern-day application can we take from this story? Explain your answer.
