

GRACE GROUP GUIDE FALL WEEK #2

September 14, 2025 | Ruth 1:10-22

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1-MIN OVERVIEW

Ruth 1:10-22 is focused on the decision of Ruth to immigrate to Israel with her mother-in-law, Naomi. In spite of Naomi's plea for her and Orpah to return to her people and gods, Ruth makes a vow that she will never leave Naomi but will cling to her, adopting her people and God as her own.



WARM UP

- 1. September is usually a time of transition, from leaves beginning to change, kids going back to school, and pumpkin spice everywhere. What are some personal or family traditions you have during this season? What do you like most or least about the cooling temperatures and changes taking place?*
- 2. In our Scripture this week, Naomi asks her widowed daughters-in-law to go back to their families for their own good. Have you ever had a hard conversation with someone else for their own good? How did you approach this important conversation and how did it go?*



KNOW IT

Read Ruth 1:10-22 together. As you're reading, try to picture the road and landscape Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth are traveling on as they talk. Take note of pauses in the conversation, action words (i.e. wept, clung, etc.). Look at Naomi's logic in sending them away and why it might be convincing for these two Moabite women.

- 1. Review Ruth 1:1-9 and Ruth's origins. How does Ruth 1:10-22 fit with what's already happened in the book? What existing themes are fleshed out and what new themes are introduced? How is Ruth's and Naomi's character revealed and developed? What parts of Ruth and Naomi do you perhaps identify with?*
- 2. Ruth 1:10-14 recounts Naomi's plea for Orpah and Ruth to return to their people as she can't provide them more sons to marry. In short, she views her future as bleak and bitter with no hope of a second chance. Have you ever felt cursed like Naomi? Have you ever been in the place where you face starting over but believe it's too late in life?*



SHARE IT

1. Ruth 1:16-17 conveys Ruth's response to Naomi's plea for her to return to her people. Ruth makes a vow that God should punish her severely if anything but death separated them. What are we to take from Ruth's commitment to Naomi? Is this codependency or something else? How could those around us benefit from experiencing this type of loyalty and commitment? If this is perhaps a picture of God's loving-kindness, how does it make knowing Him more attractive?

2. In the sermon, Sue shared that although Ruth would adopt Naomi's people, it didn't necessarily mean they would adopt her. What roadblocks (both right and wrong) did Ruth face in assimilating into the people of God? What roadblocks can people face when trying to assimilate into the church today? Which roadblocks are necessary, and which ones are unnecessary? What motivates people to push through to true believe and belonging?



LIVE IT

1. Reread Ruth 1:18-22. After seeing Ruth wouldn't change her mind, they travel to Bethlehem and the town is stirred up because Naomi is home after 10 years. What is Naomi's response to their excitement? Have you ever seen someone changed so much they'd deny their own identity? How has life and loss shaped you up to this point? If you could paint a picture of a "full" life, what would that look like?

2. While hopelessness marks Naomi, the author notes they returned at the beginning of the barley harvest. What are some other signs God gave Naomi in this season to reveal His purposes for her? Is it possible for her or us to experience a reversal of all we've been through? Why should the hope of the Gospel, specifically Jesus' resurrection from the dead, change our outlook in hard seasons?