

Joshua, Judges & Ruth

In Those Days There
Was No King in Israel

Lesson 10 • June 19 • Ruth
A King is Coming

In those days there was no _____ in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
(Judg 21:25)

The events in the little book of *Ruth* in the Old Testament happen “in the days when the _____ ruled” (Ruth 1:1). The book begins by telling us about a famine in the land.

...a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The name of the man was _____ and the name of his wife _____, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other _____. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. (1:1-5)

When Naomi eventually decided to go back to Bethlehem, she told both of her daughters-in-law to stay in Moab.

But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where _____ go _____ will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my _____, and your God my _____. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” (1:16-17)

And so, Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem together at the beginning of barley harvest. While Ruth was working hard to provide for herself and Naomi, she met a relative of Naomi’s husband, “a worthy man” whose name was _____ (2:1). Boaz watched over Ruth and made sure no one harmed her. When Ruth told Naomi about Boaz, Naomi was excited and described him as “one of our _____” (2:19-20). A “redeemer” in Israel could buy land when someone had died to keep the property and possessions in the family. Without a “redeemer,” Naomi and Ruth were in danger of losing everything. When Ruth asked Boaz to serve as their redeemer (3:9), he showed what a worthy man he was by making sure that the closest relative had the first opportunity (3:12), but when that relative decided not to redeem, Boaz bought all that had belonged to Elimelech and his two sons (4:9) so that Naomi would have everything she needed to live, and he married Ruth (4:13).



What does all of this have to do with our recent study of *Judges*? “In those days there was no king in Israel.” But *Ruth 4:17-22* tells us about a son born to Boaz and Ruth named _____. Obed would become the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of _____. A king was coming!

For Class & Family Discussion:

- One more time in this study, let's make sure we realize what a dark time it was in Israel. "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes" ([Judg 21:25](#)). How might this have made life really difficult and scary for someone like Naomi or Ruth?
- [Ruth 1](#) begins by telling us about a "famine" in the land. What's a famine and how could it have made life even more difficult?
- When [Ruth 1:3-5](#) tells us about Naomi's husband and two sons dying, what do we need to understand about her situation and hope for the future?
- What stands out to you about the way Ruth talks to Naomi in [1:16-17](#)? What are we learning about her from her own words?
- Let's read [Ruth 1:19-21](#) together. How would you describe Naomi's attitude and outlook at this point?
- When [Ruth 2:1](#) describes Boaz as "a worthy man," what do you think that means? How does he show us what a "worthy man" he is throughout this book?
- Take another look at [Ruth 4:17-22](#). There are lots of little lessons we can learn from the book of *Ruth*, but how does [4:17-22](#) help us understand where it fits in God's larger story?
- Who else will eventually be born in Bethlehem, coming from this same family line ([Matt 1:1-5](#))? With that fact in mind, what sort of "big picture" lessons should we take from our overall study of *Joshua*, *Judges*, and *Ruth*?