

Atonement Lutheran Sunday Bible Study  
May 10, 2020  
Ruth: Lesson 2

Review from last week:

When did the story of Ruth take place? **Ans:** During the time of the Judges

Why did Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and their sons, Mahlon and Kilion travel from Bethlehem to Moab? **Ans:** To find a source of food because there was a famine in their land.

What life-changing events took place while they were living in Moab? **Ans:** Elimelech died, the sons married Moabite women, then, both sons died also.

**Read Ruth 1:6**

*<sup>6</sup> When Ruth heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. (NIV 84)*

In some books of the Old Testament the name of the LORD is often capitalized to show the English reader that the personal, loving, gracious, covenant name of GOD is being used. In Hebrew, his name is written LORD is יהוה. We never read the name יהוה. Rather, we say אֱלֹהִים which is often translated God.

1. While still living in Moab, what news did Naomi hear?
2. How could Naomi have received this news with both joy and sadness?  
Joy  
Sadness

**Read Ruth 1:7-10**

*<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. <sup>9</sup> May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then Naomi kissed them and they wept aloud <sup>10</sup> and they said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." (NIV 84)*

3. While traveling, Naomi directed the girls to remain in Moab with their own mother's. What two desires did Naomi wish upon the girls in the LORD's name?
4. List a few reasons why Naomi may have had for not wanting the two girls to go to Judah?

**Read Ruth 1:11-13**

*<sup>11</sup> 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? <sup>12</sup> 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— <sup>13</sup> 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 gone out against me!"*

5. What truths did Naomi try to make clear to Orpah and Ruth?

### Read Ruth 1:14-15

<sup>14</sup> At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth clung to her. <sup>15</sup> "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her."

6. Orpah may have now realized that in the land of Judah, she would be a foreigner and it would be unlikely that she would ever wed again. To what things was Orpah now returning?

### Read Ruth 1:16-19

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me." <sup>18</sup> When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her. <sup>19</sup> So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. (NIV 84)

7. Summarize or paraphrase Ruth's commitment to Naomi.
8. In what modern setting have these passages been used and why?
9. How does Ruth's use of the name of the LORD יהוה to seal her vow and cause Naomi to be silent?

### Read Ruth 1:19-21

<sup>19</sup> So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" <sup>20</sup> "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. <sup>21</sup> I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me." (NIV 84)

10. Describe the homecoming greeting and what the other women could have meant by their words, "Can this be Naomi?"
11. Naomi's name means, my delight or pleasant. Now she wants to be called Mara, meaning bitter. What events caused Naomi/Mara to make her bitter?
12. In these verses another name of God is used, אֱלֹהִים The Almighty  
Read the following passages and describe some attributes of אֱלֹהִים, the Almighty  
**Psalms 91:1** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.  
**Joel 1:15** For the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.  
**Job 6:4** The arrows of the Almighty are in me, my spirit drinks in their poison; God's terrors are marshaled against me.

13. At this point in the lives of Naomi and Ruth, list some of the things they have?