

Aug 11, 2019



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## A Mother-Daughter Covenant Ruth 1:6-11, 14-18

### Lesson Background and Introduction

The Old Testament preserves accounts of non-Israelites acknowledging Israel's God as being supreme. After hearing of the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt, Rahab acknowledged the Lord as God in Heaven and on earth (Joshua 2:8-11). Upon being cured of leprosy, Naaman the Syrian declared there to be no God anywhere in the world except Israel (2 Kings 5:15). In some instances, foreigners recognized the greatness of Israel's God better than the Israelites themselves did (contrast 1 Kings 16:29-34; 17:7-24; compare Luke 4:25-27). The book of the Bible in today's study, Ruth, is named after a non-Israelite. Yet the story arguably centers more on the words, actions, and mental state of Naomi, who was Ruth's Israelite mother-in-law. At the point where today's text picks up their story, the Israelite Naomi had been living in Moab for some 10 years. She, husband Elimelek, and their two sons had had to leave their hometown of Bethlehem due to famine (Ruth 1:1-5). The Bible records several famines that prompt people to leave the promised land of Canaan for greener pastures. Most notably, Jacob and his sons relied upon Egypt during seven years of famine and eventually migrated there with their families (Genesis 41-46; compare Genesis 12:10; 2 Kings 8:1, 2). We are not specifically told whether this famine arose from divine wrath, though Israel was warned of this possibility (Deuteronomy 11:13-17; Amos 4:9). While in Moab, the two sons "married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth" (Ruth 1:4a). However, the passing of a decade finds the husbands of Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth deceased (1:4b, 5). Women without husbands or adult sons usually face desperate circumstances in ancient times. Such is the backdrop of the interaction of the three women—only one of which is an Israelite—in today's text. *(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Compassion is the capacity to put Christlike love into action

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**

Love is giving for the world's needs,  
Love is sharing as the Spirit leads,  
Love is caring when the world cries,  
Love is compassion with Christlike eyes —Brandt

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ*  
(Gal 6:2 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", June 27, 2012)*

**Adverse Circumstances Bring People Together** - When a famine came to Bethlehem, Naomi and her husband moved to the pagan nation of Moab with their sons to escape the food shortage. While living in Moab, both her sons married Moabite women named Ruth and Orpah. Soon after, Naomi's husband and both sons died, and when she heard the famine was over, she decided to move back home.

**Committing to Others Like Yourself is Common** - Naomi encouraged her daughters-in-law to return to the places of their birth with family and friends. She had no sons left for them to marry nor any inheritance. She wished for them to remarry and find comfort in the house of another husband, so she blessed them. The three embraced and cried. At first, the young women followed Naomi, but she insisted they go back. She knew she was too old to marry and have more children. According to the law, the brother cared for the widow, but in this case, Naomi had no more children. And, she added, she felt the Lord's hand stood against her.

**Committing to Befriend Someone Unlike Yourself is Unusual** - Her daughters-in-law still wanted to stay with her. Orpah finally was persuaded to stay in Moab, but Ruth committed herself to Naomi. She vowed to continue on with Naomi, worship her God, and become a part of the Jewish nation. No doubt, Naomi looked at this young woman, so very different from herself, and wondered how she could make such a strong commitment. While living with this Jewish family, Ruth must have observed something in Naomi, a woman of faith, or heard about her God. Something led her to forsake Moab, their false gods, and make this strong alliance to go with Naomi. A shared belief in Christ can cause two very different people to join together. The focal point is on their faith that draws them together, not their dissimilarities. *(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

**Series: Covenant in God**

**UNIT: A Personal Perspective**

**NEXT WEEK**

**A Lesson from:**

**Bro. Don Smarto**

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **A Covenant Invite to Return (Ruth 1:6-8)**

#### *Return for provisions (6)*

- Provisions through the glorious riches of Jesus (Phil 4:19)
- Provisions through the Word of God (Deut 8:3)
- Provisions that help to abound in every good work (2 Cor 9:8)
- Provisions through the fear of God (Ps 34:9)
- Provisions through being made rich in every way (2 Cor 9:10-11)
- Provisions through Divine resources (Gen 22:9-13)

#### *Return for protection (7)*

- Protection through God being our refuge (Ps 9:9)
- Protection through God being our rock and deliverer (Ps 18:2)
- Protection through God being an ever-present help in trouble (Ps 46:1)
- Protection through God's faithfulness (2 Thess 3:3)
- Protection through God's knowledge of how to rescue godly men (2 Peter 2:9)
- Protection because we love God (Ps 91:14)
- Protection through wisdom (Prov 4:6)

### **A Covenant Providing Freedom (Ruth 1:8-11)**

#### *Freedom provided by God (8-9)*

- Freedom through God's word (Ps 119:45)
- Freedom through Jesus' ministry (Luke 4:18)
- Freedom through the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 3:17)
- Freedom because Jesus has set us free (Gal 5:1)
- Freedom through the calling of God (Gal 5:13)

#### *Freedom to join a family (10)*

- Freedom through the Spirit of adoption (Rom 8:15-17)
- Freedom through increasing the family (Ps 107:41)
- Freedom through fulfilling the needs of the lonely (Ps 68:6)
- Freedom through God's predestination into His family (Rom 8:29)
- Freedom through righteousness to become children of God (1 John 3:10)
- Freedom so that Gentiles can become part of God's family (Eph 3:6)

#### *Freedom from death (11)*

- Freedom from death by destroying the sting of death (1 Cor 15:55-57)
- Freedom from death by providing eternal life (Rom 5:20-21)
- Freedom from death by crucifixion of the old sinful nature (Rom 6:6)
- Freedom from death by being the gift of God (Rom 6:23)
- Freedom from death by giving life through the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:11)

### **A Covenant of Commitment (Ruth 1:14-18)**

#### *Commitment to family (14-15)*

- Committed to family through being committed to God (Acts 10:1-2)
- Committed to family through being committed to following (Acts 16:29-34)
- Committed to family as a blessing (Ps 128:3-4)
- Committed to family through becoming mature in Christ (Deut 4:9)
- Committed to family through being committed to each other (Prov 31:27-28)

#### *Commitment to follow (16)*

- Followers have the protection of having God with them (Josh 1:6-9)
- Followers have the protection of God strengthening and helping them (Isa 41:10)
- Followers have the protection of having God for them (Rom 8:31)
- Followers have the protection of God's deliverance (2 Thess 3:1-4)
- Followers have the protection of other followers (Acts 18:9-10)
- Followers have the protection of God's rescue (Jer 1:17-19)

#### *Commitment for eternity (17-18)*

- Committed for eternity in a kingdom that cannot be shaken (Heb 12:28)
- Committed for eternity in God's eternal glory (1 Peter 5:10)
- Committed for eternity in Jesus (Col 2:6-7)
- Committed for eternity by remaining in Jesus (John 15:5-7)
- Committed for eternity by focusing on the godly unseen (2 Cor 4:17-18)