

“There is a Redeemer”

4. The Book of Ruth – Ruth 1: 15-22

Purpose: the students will think about the special relationship between Ruth and her mother-in-law

Recap: (Write “There is a Redeemer”- the title of this series, on the board) We are reading the book of Ruth in the Old Testament for Bible time. These Bible times are called “There is a Redeemer” because Ruth had a redeemer, and we have a redeemer. Who is our redeemer? (Jesus Christ) What does “redeem” mean? (to buy back)

Last week in Bible time what happened in our story? (Naomi and her daughters-in-law started to go back to Israel. But Naomi told them to go back to Moab. Naomi wanted them to get married again and have another home. One of the daughters-in-law went back to Moab. But Ruth held on to Naomi.)

What was the special law about marriage? (When a husband died, if there were no children, one of his brothers had to marry the wife. When the brother and the wife had a son, it would be called the son of the dead husband.) This law meant that every man’s family would continue.

Introduction:

Today we will finish the first chapter. Before we read, let me say something about names. In the Bible, names were very important. The name “Naomi” means “pleasantness.” But Naomi wants to change her name.

Question:

What does the name “Mara” mean? (bitterness)

Read Ruth 1: 15-22

Answer the question.

Ruth makes a very strong promise to Naomi. It is a beautiful promise. Many people in America use this promise in their wedding ceremony. But the first time this promise was made, it was made by a daughter-in-law to a mother-in-law. If you have a mother-in-law, can you imagine making this promise to her? Let’s read it together. (Ruth 1: 16, 17)

This promise showed that Ruth was very serious about going back to Israel with Naomi. After Ruth made this promise, Naomi did not argue with her any more.

Look at verse 19. When Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem, the women asked, “Is this really Naomi?” Why do you think they asked this question? (Naomi had left Israel more than 10 years ago. She had probably changed)

Look at verse 21. How did Naomi go away from Israel? How did she come back? (She went away “full” – she was probably a rich. She came back “empty” – now she is very poor. The women of the town are probably surprised because she is poor.)

We also see again that God rules the world. Look at verse 21. Naomi says that the Almighty, the Almighty God has made these bad things happen to her. She accepted her poor condition from God. She did not stop believing in God because of the bad things that happened to her.

Now Ruth is in Israel with her mother-in-law Naomi. But they do not have husbands to care for them. How will they get food? We will read more next time.

Do you have any questions or comments?

Easy English Notes from Wycliffe:

### Chapter 1

**Verse 15** The gods of Moab were false gods. The wife of your husband’s brother is called your sister-in-law.

**Verses 16-17** These verses are very famous. They tell us how much God’s people can love each other. (A verse is part of a chapter.) The last part of verse 17 is strange. Perhaps it is something that people said in those days to show that they really meant it.

**Verse 19** ‘Is this really Naomi?’ probably means ‘This really IS Naomi!’

**Verse 20** Naomi again says that life is \*bitter (or difficult, see note on verse 13). She tells people to call her Mara, the \*Hebrew word for ‘\*bitter’. The \*Hebrew word for ‘\*The Almighty’ is ‘Shaddai’. There are about 12 ways to translate ‘Shaddai’. We have given one of them. You may hear the name ‘Shaddai’ in some Christian songs.

**Verse 21** The bad things were the deaths of her husband and sons. Later in the story, good things would happen to Naomi.

**Verse 22** The \*barley \*harvest was at the end of April in Judah. It was when they picked the \*barley. They got \*grain from the \*barley. And they made bread from the \*grain. The \*wheat \*harvest was a few weeks later. The word ‘bethlehem’ can mean ‘house of bread’.