

March 30, 2025

## Faith Heroes: I Ain't Leaving (Ruth 1)

*Warmup: Think about a nickname you were given at some point in life... is there a story behind the name?*

### READ Ruth

- Why did Naomi's family leave Bethlehem?
  - According to this passage, why is Naomi returning to Bethlehem?
- Describe the life of a single woman in Bible times highlighting the inevitable challenges and concerns they faced.
- What led Naomi to reconsider her stance on having her daughters-in-law accompany her to Bethlehem?
- What racial enmity existed between Moab and Israel?

### REFLECT

- Carefully revisit verses 16-17, keeping in mind Ruth's background as a Moabite and how Naomi's family introduced her to the knowledge of God. In these verses, Ruth makes four distinct declarations. Reflect on each statement, considering the events and interactions Ruth might have observed during her decade of marriage to Naomi's son, and document these insights.
  - *"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay."*
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  - *"Your people will be my people and your God my God."*
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  - *"Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried."*
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  - *"May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me."*
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- What is God saying to you about love and devotion? When does devotion become challenging?

### SUMMARIZE

- What events and relationships contributed to Naomi's character development?

*"To transform religious and irreligious people into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ."*

- Review the events and relationships that contributed to Ruth's character development.

RESPONSE (In smaller groups of 3 discuss the following questions.)

- God doesn't waste anything. God uses all our experiences to develop our character to be more like Christ. What hard lessons and experiences have been part of your character development?
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- What area in your life is currently "under construction" in character development?
  - What next step will you take to work with God in allowing Him to reconstruct this area of your character?
- What is one way you can cultivate trust and commitment in one of your relationships this week?