

Week 1 – Loss/ Grief

Read Ruth 1:1-22

Fill in the blanks below with the information from the passages of Ruth 1:1-22.

Category	Bible	Movie
Family Names	Naomi _____ Mahlon Chilion _____ Orpah	Naomi Eli Marlon Unnamed son Ruth Unnamed (may not exist)
Order of Deaths	_____ died then Mahlon & Chilion died	Unnamed brother died then Eli and Marlon died in a car crash
Where did Naomi head after the death of her husband and sons?	_____	Pegram, Tennessee
Who left with Naomi?		Ruth left with Naomi on a bus
Arrived at destination at the beginning of what harvest?	The _____ harvest	Grape harvest

Circle the similarities you see between the scripture and the movie in the chart above.

Read Ruth 1:2 below, who else do we know in the New Testament that was born in the same town that Elimelech was from?

Ruth 1:2 (ESV) The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, 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.

In the movie, Ruth is a singer in Atlanta and her manager has invested money into making her famous. Ruth doesn't want to live and sing songs that are of the world. She was dressed very skimpy when she was performing and Naomi did not approve. Ruth knew how she was living her life was not bringing glory to God so she decided she didn't want to be a singer any longer. Her manager, however, did not take this news well. He admitted to being behind the carjacking that killed Marlon and his dad and threatened Naomi's life. In scripture we

don't know why Ruth decided to leave her life behind and follow Naomi, but in reading Ruth 1:14-18 what conclusion do you come to as to why she decided to leave with Naomi?

The quote that Ruth says in the movie, came directly from scripture.

Ruth 1:16 (ESV) But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God."

Ruth is very faithful to Naomi. She is not only leaving her life behind to follow Naomi, but also her religion/ pagan worshipping. She lost her husband and instead of staying in the pagan world she lives in, she decided to move to an Israel town with Naomi.

Naomi has suffered a lot of loss. She lost her husband, two sons and a daughter-in-law. Naomi is mad, she is upset with the Lord that she has suffered so much loss. We see this in the movie as well when she knocks the cross off of the wall. Have you ever been mad or disappointed with God? How did you handle that anger? How do you think you should handle your anger?

The pastor of the church comes to visit Naomi, but she will not let him inside. She is grieving and upset with the Lord. What does Naomi say she wants people to call her in scripture and why? (Ruth 1:20-21)

We all suffer loss throughout our lives. Death is difficult, not because the person we lost is in heaven, but because they are no longer with us. If you are feeling grief and are suffering, take comfort in the following verse from Psalm 34.

Psalm 34:18 (ESV) The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

We are to turn to God in our grief, anger, hurt as he can provide comfort. Do you need to turn to God today? How can you do this on a more routine basis?

A psalm of anguish, grief and desperation that David wrote is Psalm 22. Read it below:

Psalm 22: 1-11 (ESV) – ¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? ²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. ³Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. ⁴In you our fathers trusted, they trusted, and you delivered them. ⁵To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame. ⁶But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. ⁷All who see me mocks me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; ⁸“He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him, let him rescue him, for he delights in him!” ⁹Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother’s breast. ¹⁰On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother’s womb you have been my God. ¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

The Psalm continues and I encourage you to read all 31 verses. But even with the snippet that I included above you can see that David was angry with God, but he remembered what the Lord has done for him in the past and asked for help in the current situation. Reflect on the verse above and know after this chapter comes Psalm 23 where we see God called his shepherd, who leads to green pastures and beside still waters and restores the soul.

Let’s take some time to do a quick Prayer Mediation for 2 minutes. On the inhale say “Mercies ever new” and on the exhale say “We trust in you.”

On the next page is the hymn that is referenced in the movie. Listen to the hymn or read through the lyrics and reflect on what God is saying to you. Praise God for his faithfulness and pray for your ability to trust in him.

The movie starts out by mentioning an old hymn that says “God moves in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform. See the hymn below:

God Moves in a Mysterious Way by William Cowper in 1774

1. God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform.
He plans his footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.
Deep in the dark and hidden mines,
With never-failing skill,
He fashions all his bright designs
And works his sov'reign will.

Refrain

So God we trust in you.
O God, we trust in you.
When tears are great and comforts few
We hope in mercies ever new,
We trust in you.

2. Oh, fearful saints, new courage take:
The clouds that you now dread
Are big with mercy and will break
In blessings on your head.
Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust in him for his grace.
Behind a frowning providence,
He hides a smiling face.

Refrain

3. God's purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour.
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.
Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan his work in vain.
God is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain. 1

Week 2 – Work

Read Ruth 2:1-23

Fill in the blanks below with the information from the passages of Ruth 2:1-23.

Scene	Bible	Movie
Who is the owner of the field? (Ruth 2:1-2)	_____, a grain farm owner, a relative of _____.	Boaz, a vineyard owner and the son of a friend of Naomi's
What was noticed about Ruth when she worked in the field? (Ruth 2:7)		Foreman told Boaz how hard she was working as she worked through her breaks.
How does Boaz protect Ruth? (Ruth 2:8-9)		The foreman offers Ruth a permanent position as a harvest picker at the vineyard
How does Boaz provide abundance for Ruth? (Ruth 2:15-16)		Helps along with the church to fix up Naomi and Ruth's home and gives them a car

Circle the similarities you see between the scripture and the movie in the chart above.

Ruth is a hard worker in the vineyard gathering grapes. Her hard work gets the attention of the foreman and Boaz, which ultimately lands her a permanent position at the vineyard. God wants us to work hard and be successful. We should always do our best. It makes me think of the verse from Colossians; *Colossians 3:23 (ESV) Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.* I think this is a great reminder that in all we do we should do our best as if we are doing it for God. And it is all for God, all the glory goes to God. How does this verse make you feel? Do you feel convicted, inspired, encouraged? Describe below.

Boaz recognizes the hard work that Ruth is putting in on the fields and takes care of her. You already filled in the way that Boaz protects and provides for Ruth in the chart above (Ruth 2:8-16). Revisit your answer. Do you feel like your current employer takes care of you, recognizes your hard work?

Do you feel like God takes care of you when you do his work? What is the “work” that you are doing for the Lord? Is he calling you to do any new or different type of work?

After Ruth works hard in the fields she goes with her friend, Lena to the local bar. Little does Ruth know that Lena signed her up for karaoke. She belts out the song “Wake me up” by Cooper Alan and Aloe Blacc and the crowd goes wild. Boaz sees her sing and is very impressed. Unfortunately, the fame of her singing online leads Syrus to her towards the end of the movie, but more to come on that later in the study.

In the movie Ruth tells Naomi where she was able to find work and Naomi said Boaz’s dad was a friend of hers. We don’t find out any further details on that relationship, but it differs from what we see in scripture. Read the verse below and fill in the blank.

Ruth 2:20 Naomi says to Ruth *“The man is a close relative of ours, one of our _____.”*

What does redeemer mean in this context? Look up the definition of redeemer to help you answer.

Ruth left her old pagan worshipping days in the past and chose to follow Naomi to Israel and be obedient to the one true God. I loved when Boaz points out all she has done for Naomi in Ruth 2:11 and then asks that the Lord rewards her. He points out that it is not him that is protecting her, but she has refuge in the Lord under his wings. See below:

Boaz says to Ruth in *Ruth 2:12 (ESV)* *The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.*

Boaz was Ruth's redeemer in the story of Ruth, but we also have a redeemer and that is Jesus Christ. Just as Boaz kept Ruth safe, Jesus protects us. He just asks that we believe in him and accept him into our hearts. Have you done this? Jesus wants a relationship with you and to be your refuge. He wants you to turn from sin and live a life that brings glory to God. If you have not done this yet, don't wait! For we do not know the hour or day that will be our last on this earth. Ask Jesus to be your savior, confess your sin and believe in him so you will have everlasting life in heaven. Write a prayer below asking Jesus into your heart or if you have already done this, praise him for being your redeemer.