



Growth Group Questions
August 31, 2025
“Travel With Others”

CONTEXT

The story of Ruth and Naomi happens during the time of the judges around 1200BC-1000BC. It was the era between the death of Joshua and before Saul became king. There is famine in the land, which is viewed as God’s judgment on the people of Israel for failing to follow His word. Bethlehem which literally means “house of bread,” has no bread. Elimelech takes his family and moves to Moab.

While they are there, Elimelech dies, and Naomi is left as a widow in a land where she knows nobody. Her sons marry Moabite women, but there is no long-term joy, because both of her sons die as well. It appears that the end of the family line has come for Naomi.

Naomi hears that the famine has ended in Bethlehem, and she makes the decision to return home. She tells her daughters-in-law to remain in their homeland and blesses them with God’s kindness and mercy. Though she still feels a sense of pain and loss and bitterness she holds onto faith and trusts that God is still with her.

Orpah chooses to remain in Moab, but Ruth clings to Naomi. She will not let her return to Bethlehem alone. Ruth’s actions defy expectations as she leaves her home, her family and her religious traditions. Her faithfulness is to be commended, particularly as Naomi has encouraged her to stay in Moab.

Ruth’s well-known speech in verses 16-17 shows the extent of her commitment. She will give up everything she knows to be with Naomi. She even invokes God’s name as a witness to prove her commitment to Naomi. This prepares us for how the story will eventually end where Ruth, who is an outsider, will unexpectedly become a part of the story of Israel, as well as the genealogy of Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

Ruth 1:6-18

⁶ When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷ 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. ⁸ Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. ⁹ May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.” Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud ¹⁰ and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.”

¹¹ But 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? ¹² 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— ¹³ 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 turned against me!”

¹⁴ At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵ “Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.” ¹⁶ But 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. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

Psalms 119:31-32

³¹ I hold fast to your statutes, LORD; do not let me be put to shame. ³² I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding.

1 Corinthians 13:9-12

⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

John 13:7

⁷ Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

Ruth 4:16-17

¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. ¹⁷ The women living there said, “Naomi has a son!” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

QUESTIONS

1. In Ruth 1:6-18, we see three women: Naomi, Orpah and Ruth. What do you observe about each of these three women?
2. In Ruth 1:14, we are told that Ruth clung to Naomi. How does Ruth's clinging to Naomi and, by extension to Naomi's God, serve as an example of faith for us?
3. In Psalm 119:31, what does it mean to "hold fast" to God's statutes?
4. In Psalm 119:32, what does it mean to "run in the path" of God's commands?
5. Carefully read through Psalm 119:31-32, then paraphrase these verses in your own words.
6. What are the kinds of things that we often cling to rather than clinging to God's Word, particularly during difficult times?
7. Pastor Paul said that God calls on us to travel with others. What does that mean to you? What are some ways God calls on us to travel with others?
8. What Bible verses remind us of how God calls on us to travel or to walk with others?
9. What lessons can we learn from the story of Ruth?

PASTOR PAUL'S SERMON QUESTIONS

1. What are you clinging to these days and how is it going? Is it bringing you the freedom "to run"?
2. How intentional are you about traveling with others. Is there someone God has placed in your path?