

Timeline of Truth – Ruth 1:8-18 – Naomi Seeks to Provide a Better Future for Her Daughters-in-Law

<p>THEME (Overall Book Idea): God <i>always</i> rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - even when we cannot know what He is doing - even when it takes many years - even when God allows us to suffer 	<p>A rhyme that captures these ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God is <i>always</i> in control Though we may be <i>unaware</i>. - And God may work over <i>many years</i> And allow troubles <i>hard</i> to bear. - But God is <i>always</i> in control We can <i>trust His loving care</i>.
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Two Memory Verses:

<p>4:14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!"</p>	<p>4:17 Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.</p>
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Ruth 1:1-5 – Trouble Comes with Life

We are impacted by large-scale and personal apostasy, adversity, and tragedy, but God is always actively in control.

<p>¹ Now it came to pass, in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land.</p>	<p><i>In the days of horrific apostasy</i></p>
<p>³ Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; ... ⁵ Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died</p>	<p><i>They faced widespread adversity</i></p>
	<p><i>Then they faced personal tragedy</i></p>

Ruth 1:5-7 – Naomi Makes Difficult Decisions (Another secondary lesson, but one that is evident here.)

We are to make wise decisions built from the truths of the Bible to honor God.

<p>⁵ Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died; so the woman survived her two sons and her husband.</p>	<p>1. Situation: Dangerous Destitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aware of her own circumstances – self-assessment • Prov 22:3a A prudent <i>man</i> foresees evil and hides himself...
<p>⁶ Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab,</p>	<p>2. Decision: Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have to get beyond analysis to decisiveness. • Sitting as a victim: You resolve situations unless you decide.
<p>for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had visited His people by giving them bread.</p>	<p>3. Reason: Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naomi was informed of key news, and acted on need (not the flesh) • Circumstances can change over time requiring personal changes and hard decisions (weather, economy, politics, health, job, etc.) • Often, God uses time rather than miracles to work His plan.
<p>⁷ Therefore she went out from the place where she was, and her two daughters-in-law with her;</p>	<p>4. Action: Departure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting on the decision • Including all that is important (discarding the unimportant)
<p>and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah.</p>	<p>5. Process: Journey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions often take ongoing steps before they are complete.

Ruth 1:8-18 – Naomi Seeks to Provide a Better Future for Her Daughters-in-Law

God wants us to make significant, permanent, often costly life choices for Him.

<p>⁸ And Naomi said to her two <u>daughters-in-law</u>, "Go, return each to her mother's house. The <u>LORD</u> deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ "The <u>LORD</u> grant that you may find rest, each in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them,</p>	<p>1. Naomi Directs Her Daughters-in-Law to Return _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Her commands: Go, return. b. Her focus: Their mother's house. c. Her reason #1: Their _____ d. Her reason #2: Their _____ (through new husbands) • _____ • _____ • _____
<p>and they lifted up their voices and wept. ¹⁰ And they said to her, "Surely we will return with you to your people."</p>	<p>2. The Daughters-in-Law Respond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Weeping b. Willingness to return with Naomi
<p>¹¹ But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Are there still sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?"</p>	<p>3. Naomi Repeats the Direction with Explanation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Question: _____ will you go with me? b. Issue #1: _____ – Can Naomi still bear sons?

<p>¹² "Turn back, my daughters, go—for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, if I should have a husband tonight and should also bear sons,</p> <p>¹³ "would you wait for them till they were grown? Would you restrain yourselves from having husbands?"</p>	<p>c. Issue #2: _____ – Is Naomi too old to marry?</p> <p>d. Issue #3: _____ – Would you be able to wait?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If I could possibly hope that Issues 1 & 2 are good: • If I got married tonight • And I could bear sons, • Would you wait until they are grown? • Would you restrain yourselves from marrying someone else?
<p>No, my daughters; for it grieves me very much for your sakes that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me!"</p>	<p>4. Naomi Summarizes and Blames _____</p>
<p>¹⁴ Then they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.</p>	<p>5. The Daughters-in-Law Respond Again</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Weeping again b. Orpah kisses Naomi (and _____, v. 15) c. Ruth clings to Naomi
<p>¹⁵ And she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."</p>	<p>6. Naomi Encourages Ruth to _____ Like Orpah</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Orpah's choice to return b. Impact of Orpah's choice c. Follow Orpah
<p>¹⁶ But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.</p> <p>¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."</p>	<p>7. Ruth Fully _____ to Naomi</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Do not ask me to leave b. I embrace your journey c. I embrace your home d. I embrace your people e. I embrace your God f. I embrace the same place to die and to be buried g. May the LORD kill me if I leave you by any means but death.
<p>Observations and Lessons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Naomi displays her loving _____ for her daughters-in-law, even in the aftermath of terrible circumstances and at the cost of her own personal provision and her only remaining loving relationships. 2) Naomi's _____ is demonstrated in Ruth's response. 3) There are different _____ for different people in the _____ circumstances. 4) Decisions are still made by each individual _____. Others cannot make life decisions for you. 5) Ruth acts on her love for Naomi, even at the cost of her _____ pleasure, comfort, and posterity. 6) God is orchestrating history in the background through personal decisions. 	
<p>¹⁸ When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.</p>	<p>8. Naomi _____ Ruth's Decision</p>