

## The Story, chapter 9 (Ruth)

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. (Ruth 1:1)

*The man died in Moab, leaving his wife Naomi and his two sons. The sons married Moabite girls named Orpah and Ruth. Ten years later, the sons died, too, leaving the three women penniless, childless widows.*

*Naomi decided to return to her family in Bethlehem. Her daughter-in-law's offered to go with her. Naomi urged them to stay in Moab: to return to their families or find new husbands. Orpah did.*

<sup>16</sup> 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....” <sup>22</sup> So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning. (Ruth 1:16,22)

*As was the custom, the poor to gleaned leftover grain in the fields – God’s law commanded the Israelites to leave some behind. Ruth gleaned in the field of Boaz, a relative of Naomi’s late husband. When Boaz saw her, he told her to stay in his fields and he would ensure her safety.*

<sup>10</sup> At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, “Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?”

<sup>11</sup> Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. <sup>12</sup> May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.”

(Ruth 2:10-12)

*Ruth and Boaz eventually got married and Ruth bore a son.*

<sup>17</sup> And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David. (Ruth 4:13-14,17b)