



## Walking in the *Foot Prints* of Jesus A Discipleship Journey

*The OLD TESTAMENT-* Their Story is Our Story  
Ruth  
Book of Ruth, Week 15

Biblical scholars tell us that, if a woman is mentioned by name in the Bible, she must be very important since women were barely more than property at that time. Ruth is not only mentioned by name, she has a whole book dedicated to her story. Ruth is not mentioned because she was the wife or mother of someone important, nor was she a harlot who tempted or turned a man away from God. Ruth's story is important because of her own good actions-her own faithfulness in God and trust in God's promise. What's more, Ruth was a Moabite, an enemy of the Israelites. God rewarded her and Jesus became one of her descendants.

In the time of the Judges there was an Israelite man named Elimelech. He and his wife, Naomi, lived in Bethlehem of Judea with their two sons. There was a famine in Bethlehem and the family went to the plateau of Moab to live among the pagans. In time Elimelech died. The two sons married pagan women, Orpah and Ruth. Ten years later both husbands died and the three women were left with no one to care for them. Naomi decided to go back to Bethlehem to be with her people as she feared for her future. She told the daughters-in-law to leave her and go back to their families, as they were young enough to have a family of their own. Orpah kissed Naomi good-bye and went back. Ruth refused and told Naomi that she wished to go to Bethlehem with her to care for her and continue to worship the God of the Israelites.

When they arrived, they were destitute and Ruth collected grain left behind by the harvesters to support herself and Naomi. The field belonged to Boaz, a prominent kinsman of Elimelech. Boaz saw how kind Ruth was to Naomi and that she was a faith-filled woman. He took Ruth as his wife and she bore him a son, Obed, who became the grandfather of David. God rewarded Ruth for her faithfulness and trust in Him.

Ruth was an ordinary woman, doing ordinary things. She married, moved into her husband's family, and helped to take care of her widowed mother-in-law. However, this took some faith and trust in God. She was given the opportunity to go back to a life she knew and yet she felt as though the right thing to do was to continue to care for Naomi, even if it meant starting over in a new place, possibly being ridiculed for being different, maybe going hungry. She trusted God had a better future for her and she was brave. She still had to work hard and she was no doubt afraid for herself and Naomi, but she trusted. We also need to be brave enough to sometimes do the right thing. We need to trust that, if it is God's will that we should do the right thing, God will help and be with us. We need to have faith and trust, even when we are afraid and have doubts.

**Think of a time you had to be brave enough to do the right thing, despite fears and doubts. Are you glad you did it?**

