

THE BOOK OF RUTH: RUTH'S DECISION

Ruth 1

One of the most beautiful pieces of literature of all time is the book of Ruth. As you read this moving story (which could be called an epic - see page 1) be sure to see each scene in your mind's eye, and to feel what the various characters must have felt. Think, too, about what is said, and why:

A. The Years in Moab: Read Ruth 1:1-5

1. When did the story of Ruth take place? Ruth 1:1a

2. What condition existed in the land of Israel at the beginning of the story? Ruth 1:1b

3. What did one Israelitish family do because of this? Ruth 1:1c

4. Who were the members of this family? Ruth 1:2a

5. Locate their hometown on the map, page 25, and trace the way you think they would have journeyed to their new home.

6. What happened not too long after they arrived in this new country? Ruth 1:3

7. Then what did the two sons of the family do? Ruth 1:4a

8. What command had God given to the Israelites long before this time? Deuteronomy 7:3, 23:3

9. What happened after about ten years? Ruth 1:4b-5

10. Why did Naomi feel that all this had happened to her? Ruth 1:13b, 20b, 21b

B. The Great Decisions: Read Ruth 1:6-18

1. After this, what news reached Naomi about her own homeland? Ruth 1:6b

2. What did she decide to do? Ruth 1:6a, 7

3. As they began the journey, what did Naomi suggest that he daughters-in-law do? Ruth 1:8

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4. What did she trust would happen to them if they did this? Ruth 1:9

5. Who would ordinarily marry them if they should return to Israel? See Deuteronomy 25:5

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What caused Ruth to give up all in order to go with Naomi?

2. Do I ever have to make decisions such as the one Ruth made? See Genesis 2:24; Luke 9:23; Matthew 13:44-46.
