

# *My Kinsman Redeemer*

## *Love Story of Redemption*

### LESSON ONE

As you begin your lesson, commit your study time to prayer, asking the Lord to open your eyes to the things He wants to show you and your ears to hear His voice speaking to your heart.

Prayerfully read through Ruth 1:1-18. Highlight any special insights you see and note those things that the Lord is highlighting to you.

Re-read Ruth 1:1-5

1. We know that throughout Scripture names often depict a person's character. Look up the name Elimelech in a Bible dictionary or search it online. What does his name mean according to your findings?
  
2. What does that say to you about this man's character?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Elimelech decides to leave Bethlehem and take his family to the neighboring land of Moab. Read Genesis 19:36-37. Who were the Moabites descendants of?

4. Look up Numbers 22:1-8. What do you see in the history of Israel's relationship with Moab from this account?

5. What instruction does Deuteronomy 23:3-6 give concerning Moab?

6. After reading all this, why do you think Elimelech chose to go to Moab and take his family there?

a. Do you think this was a wise decision? If you were making this decision, how would you weigh the pros and cons?

**Pros:**

**Cons:**

7. Look up Judges 17:6 and 21:25. Do you think this fact may have had any influence on Elimelech's decision? How so?

8. How do you think the influences of the world's attitudes today are affecting the church?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. We are not told how long Elimelech and Naomi were in Moab before Elimelech died, but it appears that shortly after that, Naomi's two sons married. What does Deuteronomy 7:3 say to the Israelites about marriage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Look up Genesis 24:3-4. Abraham finds himself in a similar situation concerning his son Isaac while dwelling in a foreign land. What decision does Abraham make in these verses?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Do you think the absence of Elimelech had a profound affect on the choices these two young men made? Is so, how so?

We read that ten years after Naomi's two sons married, they both died leaving Naomi and her two daughters-in-law with no husbands. Although we don't know how or why they died, the meaning of the name Mahlon is "sickness" or "man of weakness." The name Chilion is a derivative of Kilion, meaning "pining" or "wasting away." We could possibly speculate that neither of these men were in good health.

12. As we read verses 6 through 18 in this first chapter of Ruth, we see that Naomi had developed quite a strong relationship with her two daughters-in-law. What does this tell you about Naomi's character, in spite of the instructions of Deuteronomy 23:6, and whatever disappointment she may have felt over the choices her two sons had made?
  
13. What decision does Naomi make in verses 6 & 7?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. As we read verses 8 & 9, it appears that maybe Naomi had second thoughts about her initial decision. Do you think she changed her mind as they began their journey back to Bethlehem? If so, what do you think her reasons might have been?



- a. We might be quick to judge Orpah harshly, but do you see any suggestion that Naomi or Ruth considered her choice an act of selfishness?
  - b. We can find ourselves at times thinking critically of someone who has made a choice we feel is inferior to ours. How does this speak to you and how should this affect the way we minister to others?
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19. Verse 14 tells us that even as Orpah kissed Naomi and left to go back home, Ruth clung to her. Naomi's final persuasion in verse 15 is worth our looking at. What final reason does she give to Ruth to go back?
  20. We can be so easily influenced by others and so easily dissuaded from what we feel the Lord is speaking to us by the opinions and pressures of other people. What does Naomi tell Ruth that Orpah is returning to? (See her last comment in verse 15).

- a. Why would Naomi want to see Ruth (or Orpah, for that matter) do that? What do you think was going through her mind (or what *wasn't* going through her mind) as she made this statement?
  
  - b. Do you think this was a lack of faith on Naomi's part? Do you think she was oblivious to God's workings in Ruth's heart all those years? Share your thoughts.
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21. Ruth's response in verses 16 and 17 is one of the most beautiful and well-loved passages in all of Scripture. Write down your impressions and what speaks most to your heart as you read her final appeal to Naomi. Share what stands out to you most in these verses.

22. What do you think this decision on Ruth's part cost her? What losses did she have to endure? What hardships would she have to overcome?

23. What spoke to you most about this first lesson in our study of Ruth?