

# Questions for Ruth 1:1-22

1. Why did Elimelech and Naomi leave Israel? Why might they have went to the country of Moab instead? List some of the mistakes of Elimelech and his family made according to the Law of Moses. (Verses 1-5)

2. What observations can we make about the emotional and spiritual state of Naomi? Why did Naomi want to send her daughters-in-law back to their families, knowing that they worshipped pagan gods? (Verses 6-13)

3. What were the options (Including Law of Moses and culturally) for unmarried or widowed women in that time period for ensuring they had a livelihood and financial stability? What are the pros and cons of such things as opposed to our modern day systems?

4. Why was Ruth so determined to stay with Naomi? What is it about her words to Naomi that shows us her faith towards God and loyalty? Why is this statement by Ruth used often in wedding ceremonies and are there elements of it that could be dangerous in other contexts? (Verses 14-18)

5. What does it say of the city of Bethlehem that they were all excited about the return of Naomi? What is the meaning of the names “Naomi” and “Mara”? What does this encounter tell us about Naomi’s state of mind? When is the barley harvest? (Verses 19-22)