

# NAOMI - RUTH CONNECTION

## LESSON ONE - INTRODUCTION

By Sandy Harber

When my husband was fighting for his life against covid I turned to God and His Word for help and comfort. When Charlie died, I dug in deeper, searching for answers, for comfort, and for purpose. I found comfort and reassurance of God's love in the Psalms. I found wisdom in the book of Job. It taught me that God is Sovereign. He doesn't owe me an explanation. My job is to simply TRUST in Him (His goodness and His wisdom).

I never thought to turn to the little book of Ruth for help and guidance. After all, Ruth is a romance story, isn't it? Ruth gives us insight into Jesus' role as the Kinsman-Redeemer. Ruth is the story of a young woman's love and care for her mother-in-law. How was it relevant to my present situation?

Then I remembered that Ruth was a widow. Naomi was a widow. I am now a widow. Maybe they have some insights for me, after all. Naomi was also a mother who lost both of her children. She had no other children or grandchildren. Naomi was alone in a foreign land (Moab) among people who knew nothing of her (Israeli) customs and beliefs. Later, it was Ruth who found herself among strange people (Israelis) and customs. The book of Ruth does indeed contain lessons for those of us who have sorrow, who are grieving, who are angry, confused, afraid of the future, unsure of what life had in store, and/or are looking for purpose or direction.

The wonderful thing about the Bible is that it is a living book. You can read the same verses over and over and discover new truths every time, depending on where you are in your life. I'm studying Ruth now with a completely different perspective than I had in the past. I'm amazed at the fresh insights I have gleaned that apply to where I am in my life today. I'm thankful the Lord has directed me to this book.

*"Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope.  
This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me." Psalm 119:49-50*