

# Lesson 1

## Ruth 1.1-22

This is just a reflective question to get us into the study. Don't make too much of it, but don't be too dismissive either. *What do you expect things to look like when God is at work? What do you expect to see when God is working in your life, in your family, in your church, etc.?*

Read **Ruth 1.1-22**

1. Look at **v. 1**. This is the setting for the book. "In the days when the judges ruled..." Look back to **Judges 21.25**. What characterized the "days when the judges ruled?"
  - What else does **v. 1** tell us about the setting for this book?
  - Look at **v. 20**. This is kind of a wrap up of everything so far from Naomi's perspective. Where has all this brought her? How does she perceive her condition in life (and how God has treated her)?
2. What kind of emptiness are you up against right now? What kind of disappointment are you facing right now?
  - What kind of emptiness/disappointment are you fearing right now?

3. Do you see (have you ever seen) God as being 'against you?' Even for a moment? (Be honest with yourself!)
  
4. Read **Mark 9.17-24**. What is the father declaring in **v. 24**? What does the father need help with specifically (apart from his son)? How does that relate to Naomi's condition? Your condition?
  
5. What does unbelief do in the life of a believer? What thorns does unbelief produce?
  - a) **Ruth 1.20-21** – What do you see about Naomi's view of God? In spite of her "designation" of God, what condition does she feel God has left her in?
  
  - b) Do you think Naomi has considered everything here? What does that tell us about unbelief and one's understanding of God and His purposes?
  
  - c) Look at **Ruth 1.8b**. What else has Naomi overlooked about God's dealings with her?
  
  - d) Look at **v. 20a**. What else does unbelief tend to produce in us?

6. If all you ever learned about God you learned from what Naomi says here, what would you think of God?
  - If all people ever learned about God they learned from what you say and behave, what would they think about God?
  
7. What is God doing “big picture” here? Go back to **Ruth 1.1** and **21.25**. What is the condition of the nation (not morally, but nationally). Look at Ruth 4.22. What is the last word in this book? Do you see the connection? No king → Greatest King. What is God teaching His people here about Himself and His purposes?