

Reader Script/RUTH, BIBLE AS LITERATURE

- 1/NAOMI (sadly):** I think I will leave Moab and go back to my homeland. There is nothing for me here.
- 2/RUTH:** Moab must be a sad place for you.
- 3/ORPAH (agreeing):** Your husband died here as did your two sons – my husband and Ruth’s husband.
- 1/NAOMI (crying):** My name shouldn’t be Naomi, it should be Mara.
- 3/ORPAH:** Mara means “bitter”.
- 1/NAOMI:** Yes, the lord has dealt bitterly with me. I will go back home to my own people.
- 3/ORPAH (kindly):** We will go with you.
- 1/NAOMI (sweetly):** No, go back to your parents’ home. May the Lord bless you with another happy marriage.
- 2/RUTH (pleading):** We want to go with you.
- 1/NAOMI (lovingly):** It is better for you to stay with your own people. I have no other sons for you to marry. You should stay here.
- 3/ORPAH (sobbing):** If you insist I will return.
- 1/NAOMI:** Your sister-in-law has left. Why do you wait?
- 2/RUTH (begging):** Don’t make me leave! I want to go where you go, and live where you live. Your people will be my people and your

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God will be my God. I want to die where you die. Let nothing but death separate us.

1/NAOMI:
(affectionately)

You've touched my heart. Come with me to Bethlehem, the city where we used to live. It will be barley harvest time.

2/RUTH:

We will need grain for food. May I go into the fields and pick up any grain leftover from the reapers?

1/NAOMI:

Yes, dear daughter, go.

4/BOAZ (puzzled):

Who's that girl?

5/FOREMAN:

She's the girl from Moab who came back with Naomi. She asked if she could gather grain after the reapers.

4/BOAZ:
(approvingly)

Naomi is a relative. I'm glad you gave the Moab girl permission.

5/FOREMAN:
(admiring)

She came to the fields early in the morning and only stopped for a short rest.

4/BOAZ:
(gently to Ruth)

Listen child, don't go to any other field to gather grain. Stay behind my women workers. I've warned the young men not to bother you. When you get thirsty, help yourself to water.

2/RUTH (gratefully):

Oh, thank you. Why are you so kind to me? I am a foreigner!