

## The Book of Ruth Walks-Week 4- Naomi

**May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

Walk a route that brings you joy.

- Why did you choose this route?
- Is this a gentle walk or a demanding walk?
- What joy will it bring you?

### **Read Ruth 4:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the LORD made her conceive, and she bore a son. <sup>14</sup> Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin, and may his name be renowned in Israel! <sup>15</sup> He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” <sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. <sup>17</sup> The women of the neighbourhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Although Boaz is not the next of kin, who could take Ruth as his wife as local custom dictates, the next of kin declines and Boaz acquires the land of Elimelech (Naomi’s late husband) and with it Ruth. It is in this way that the line of Elimelech and his sons continue, which we can see reinforced by the reaction to Ruth having a son.

Ruth is still seen as an outsider, but Boaz is encouraging the elders to see her as a way to strengthen and build up the Israelite tribe. They accept the marriage and from this union we get the grandfather of King David (the one who defeats Goliath and from whom Jesus will take his lineage).

Naomi’s journey has taken her from her homeland because of a famine, to set up home in a country that had different customs, to then lose her husband and later on her sons. Returning home, she has been accompanied by a woman who was no longer obligated to her and yet brings her back home. Naomi, is once again in a place that she knows, with people that might have known her from before. With the girl that she brings with her, is the chance at a future of peace. To end her story, she has been granted a grandson, who is as good as her own. Her sorrow has turned to joy and through her family connections a saviour will come.

- What strengths can you see from Ruth and Naomi’s relationship?
- How important is it to allow others to help us?
- How easy is it to allow others to help us?
- What joy have you received?

Think of those who you know, who need support. Lift them to God. Let them know that they are not alone. Thank God for those who are your Ruth’s.

## **Naomi Activity:**

**Can you create Naomi's family tree? Now have a go at creating your family tree. Where are you in your tree? Are there family members you try and hide? Ask God to bless your tree.**