**Ruth 1**

**Introduction:**
1. In the time of the Judges – a time of injustice and oppression
2. There is peace of sorts between Judah & Moab
3. Ruth is an ancestor of Jesus, and great-grandmother of David

**Questions:**
1) Why did Naomi’s family go to Moab?
2) Why did they return from Moab?
3) To what degree is v. 6 an expression, and to what degree is it literally true? Is this a special case because the Jews were God’s chosen people?
4) At what point does Naomi tell Orpah & Ruth to return their families to Moab?
5) Did Orpah do something wrong by going back?
6) How sincere is Ruth’s basis for becoming a Jew and worshipper of YHWH?
7) v. 21: Naomi names YHWH as the cause of her suffering. Is this right or reasonable?
8) This chapter shows the example of Ruth’s behavior at a moment of choice in her life.
    What choices like this have we or will we face?

**EXTRA CREDIT:** When is the barley harvested?
Facts:
“Kinsman-Redeemer” is the Hebrew “ga’ all” which is translated elsewhere as avenger, redeemer, relative, claim, defender, etc.

The translation “k-r” is only used here in Ruth.

Boaz is the son of Salmon and Rahab, of Jericho fame.

Jewish law provided for widows and their deceased husbands such that a kinsman-redeemer could ensure the continuation of a male line by having a child with the widow. Not only does this assure a continuous family line, but it provides support for the widow who would otherwise have no solid means of “income.” So, Ruth is a prime candidate for being kinsman-redeemed.

Questions (1 and 2 need not be chronologically addressed):
1) There are three main themes in Ruth: Providence, Redemption, Relationships. How have each of these themes been developed in this second chapter?
   a) Providence: vv. 3, 4, 16, e.g.
   b) Redemption: v. 20
   c) Relationships: vv. 1, 8, 10, 20

2) What have our characters done, how have they changed, what can we learn from their behavior and actions?
   Naomi: Compare 1:20 with 2:20. Is she sincere or a fair-weather friend of God?
   Ruth: Ruth’s character is shown again in vv. 2, 7, 10, 17, 20ff -- loyalty, sincerity, frank/bold, forthright, humble. Is it possible to be all these things? Note, it could be dangerous for a woman to glean in certain men’s fields...
   Boaz: We meet Boaz the first time. What is the first impression of him? (v. 4) Does he follow the Law? What are his motivations?

3) Bonus Questions:
   a) The book of Ruth was written in Davidic or post-Davidic times. Do you think the author’s choice of context in using “ga’ all” was significant or even prophetic? Who else could be called a “kinsman-redeemer?”
   b) What or how much is an ephah?
   c) Packers by 17.