

**Bible Study 4 – Ruth’s response to tragedy – Ruth 1:1-22**

*Ruth is an ancient love story between Ruth and a man named Boaz. But it’s primarily a story about God’s love and care for Ruth and Naomi. It shows that love is self-sacrifice for the other person. And it is choosing to give up your freedom for the other person – you learn to want what is best for the other. And it is a commitment (Ruth makes a covenant with Naomi), a promise to never leave, to persevere, to not give up, even when all seems lost. It shows God working in the darkest of times towards bringing salvation through Jesus Christ. And that the tragedies of common people can lead to the ultimate triumph of God.*

<b>The context</b>	Joshua led the Israelites when they occupied Canaan. In the book of Judges most of the tribes disobeyed God by failing to destroy or drive out the Canaanites. Instead, they intermarried and followed Canaanite gods. They forgot God and suffered cycles of sin and its consequences. The story of Ruth is set in the times of the judges. It is about Naomi’s transformation from despair to happiness through the selfless acts of Ruth and Boaz. And Ruth the foreigner became an ancestor of Jesus Christ!
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**PART 1 Read & then write each section in your own words – Ruth 1:1-22**

Tragedy (v.1-5)	
Farewell (v.6-14)	
Commitment (v.15-18)	
Return (v.19-22)	

**PART 2 Things I discovered in this passage**

- 1. What does it teach about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?**
- 2. What does it teach about people?**

**3. Summarize a key verse in your own words.**

**4. In your opinion, what is the main point being taught in these passages?**

**5. Which other parts of the passage caught your attention?**

**6. How is Ittai the Gittite like Ruth (2 Samuel 15:19-22)?**

**7. Which parts of the passage was difficult to understand? What questions come to your mind?**

After Naomi suffered a tragedy, her foreign daughter-in-law in an act of selfless love supported her by moving to Israel and following their God. This shows that pagans can turn around and follow God. What’s our attitude towards foreigners and unbelievers?

