

Gulf Cove UMC
Winter Study: Women of the Bible
Rev. Patty Frick, Facilitator

Week 5 Focus: Women Who Define Belonging and Discipleship (3/2-3/2026)

Opening Prayer

Old Testament: Ruth and Naomi



Naomi, an Israelite widow, returns to Bethlehem after losing her husband and sons.

Ruth, her Moabite daughter-in-law, chooses to leave her homeland and follow Naomi into an uncertain future.

Historical Snapshot – See Other side for map

- **Date:** Period of the Judges (approximately 1200-1050 BCE)
- **Locations:** Moab and Bethlehem in Judah (**See Map on Back**)
- **Scripture Reference:** Book of Ruth

Background: Rev. Patty

Scripture: (See Handout)

Discussion:

1. Why does Naomi want her daughters-in-law to remain in Moab when she decides to return to Bethlehem?
2. What do these words of Ruth, Chapter 1, verses 16-17 teach us about belonging?

Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God will be my God.

Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well,
if even death parts me from you.

3. How does God work thorough ordinary acts of faithfulness in this story?
4. Where might you see yourself in their story?

RUTH AND NAOMI

From Moab to Bethlehem

Period of the Judges (c. 1200 - 1050 BCE)

★ Damascus

Kingdom of
Hadadezer

Mediterranean Sea

ISRAEL

Sea
Galilee

Bethlehem
(Judah)

MOAB

(Homeland of Ruth)

KINGDOM OF
ISRAEL

Jerusalem ★

Kir-hareseth



Joppa ★

Joppa ★

XXXXA

Dead
Sea

KEY LOCATIONS & ROUTES

★ City

⬤ Town

⬤ Mountain Range

➔ Naomi & Ruth's Journey

0 25 50 miles

