



=THE BOOK OF RUTH=
Lesson 2

INTRODUCTION: The famine that was in Beth-lehem-judah caused Elimelech and his wife, Naomi, to take their two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, to go into Moab. They went just to sojourn to get something to eat. They stayed ten years. Their backsliding was punished by the boys' marriages to heathen girls, the death of Elimelech, and eventually, the death of the two boys, Mahlon and Chilion. This left Naomi with her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth. Naomi decided to go back to Beth-lehem. How sad it is that she waited so long! She shouldn't have left at all. If she had not sojourned, perhaps the boys would not have married outside the will of God and her husband and sons would not have died. However, after ten years she decided to go back. Orpah, one of the daughters-in-law, remained in Moab. In spite of Naomi's insistence that Ruth do likewise, Ruth would not do so, and she gives us one of the most beautiful passages of Scripture in the entire Bible for our lesson today. It is found in Ruth 1:16 and 17. There are several choices she made in these verses that every young person should make.

- I. **SHE CHOSE THE CHRISTIAN PATH.** In Ruth 1:16, notice the words, "whither thou goest, I will go." (Teacher, explain to the pupils the importance of being on the Christian path. Warn them of the various things that are off the Christian path. Lead the class in a discussion of what should be on the Christian path and what should not be on the Christian path.)
- II. **SHE CHOSE THE CHRISTIAN HOME.** Read also the words, "where thou lodgest, I will lodge." (Lead the class in discussing the attributes of a Christian home.)
- III. **SHE CHOSE CHRISTIAN FRIENDS.** Notice the words, "thy people shall be my people." (Teacher, discuss with the class members the importance of their choosing only Christian friends. Discuss dating, social activities, marriage, etc. Warn them of running with the wrong crowd. Discuss with them what is the wrong crowd and what is the right crowd.)
- IV. **SHE CHOSE THE CHRISTIAN GOD.** Notice the words, "and thy God my God." (Talk with the class about what this means. It means more than just being saved. It means to serve the Christian God. It means to follow His will, to do His will, to be what He wants you to be, to make Him Lord of your life, etc.)
- V. **SHE CHOSE THE CHRISTIAN DEATH.** These words are in verse 17a, "Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried." (Of course, young people do not think much about death, but young people do die. Discuss death. Discuss Heaven and Hell and what they are like. Lead the young people to assurance of salvation.)
- VI. **THE CONDITION OF NAOMI.**
 1. **Folks were shocked when they saw her.** Notice Ruth 1:19. The people asked, "Is this Naomi?" People could hardly believe that this was she. She had been so lovely; sin had made its mark. (Teacher, discuss with the class the importance of living for God. Discuss how different sins can affect the body, especially the countenance and looks. Discuss, for example, dope and cigarettes. Discuss the cynical look that comes from immorality.)
 2. **Naomi's name was changed.** In Ruth 1:20, notice that her name was changed to Mara, which means "bitter." She went out full, the Bible says, but she came back empty. See Ruth 1:21. This is interesting, because Naomi thought that she went out "empty" when there was a famine in the land. She no longer is pleasant, but bitter. (Teacher, discuss with the class that there is an emptiness apart from the emptiness of the stomach. Discuss spiritual emptiness, that of not having a fulfillment of life's purpose or of being in the will of God. How vital this part is!)

CONCLUSION: This is the kind of lesson that could offer much class discussion, and it is also a very vital one. Let us do our best to teach our pupils to make the right choices.