

**NARRATOR:**     **When Naomi heard in Moab  
that the LORD had come to the aid of his people  
by providing food for them,  
Naomi and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there.**

**With her two daughters-in-law she left the place  
where she had been living  
and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.  
Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law:**

**NAOMI:**         Go back, each of you, to your mother's home.  
May the LORD show kindness to you,  
as you have shown to your dead and to me.  
May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest  
in the home of another husband.

**NARRATOR:**     **Then she kissed them and they wept aloud and said to her**

**RUTH+ORPAH:**   We will go back with you to your people.

**NARRATOR:**     **But Naomi said:**

**NAOMI:**         Return home, my daughters.  
Why would you come with me?  
Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands?  
Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband.  
Even if I thought there was still hope for me –  
even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons –  
would you wait until they grew up?  
Would you remain unmarried for them?  
No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you,  
because the LORD's hand has gone out against me!

**NARRATOR:**     **At this they wept again.  
Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth clung to her.**

**ORPAH LEAVES**

**NARRATOR:**     **Naomi said**

**NAOMI:**         Look, your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods.  
Go back with her.

**NARRATOR:**     **But Ruth replied**

**RUTH:**           Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you.  
Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay.  
Your people will be my people and your God my God.

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**THE STORY OF RUTH, PART TWO: Ruth 2:1-12**

**NARRATOR**  
(if there are Foreman + Harvester readers)

**NARRATOR:** Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, from the clan of Elimelech, a man of standing, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi:

**RUTH:** Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favour.

**NARRATOR:** Naomi said to her:

**NAOMI:** Go ahead, my daughter.

**NARRATOR:** So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech.

**Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters:**

**BOAZ:** The LORD be with you!

**NARRATOR:** they called back:

**HARVESTERS:** The LORD bless you!

**NARRATOR:** Boaz asked the foreman of his harvesters:

**BOAZ:** Whose young woman is that?

**NARRATOR:** The foreman replied:

**FOREMAN:** She is the Moabitess who came back from Moab with Naomi. She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She went into the field and has worked steadily from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter.

**NARRATOR:** So Boaz said to Ruth:

**BOAZ:** My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with my servant girls. Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the girls. I have told the men not to touch you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled.

**NARRATOR:** At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She exclaimed:

**RUTH:** Why have I found such favour in your eyes that you notice me – a foreigner?

**NARRATOR:** Boaz replied:

**BOAZ:** I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband – how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.

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