

# The Story

Ruth

Sherwood Oaks Christian Church

Week of November 30, 2008

## **Read Chapter 13 of “The Story.”**

The Israelites have made it to the Promised Land and spread out to inhabit it. However, during a period of famine, some headed to Moab to find greener pastures. In this chapter, we see Ruth (a Moabite) leave her own land and follow her mother-in-law Naomi (an Israelite) back to Israel once the famine had ended.

- 1. Under what circumstances would YOU be willing to leave your home country and follow someone to THEIR country to live? Would there have to be something in it for you...or would you consider it even if the only benefit was to the other person?**
- 2. Both Ruth and Naomi suffered tremendous loss. Why does a good and gracious God allow tragedy to come upon those who love him?**
- 3. When difficult times come, what causes you to continue to hope in God? (Or do you lose hope?)**
- 4. There are confusing cultural details regarding the responsibilities and opportunities of extended family members to care for and even rescue each other. Some see this as an example of how God has redeemed and rescued us. What does Ruth’s story reveal to you about the love of God?**
- 5. What does Ruth’s story reveal about how God views all people groups? What does that mean for you?**
- 6. Ruth left her home to follow Naomi and to follow God. How is God asking you to follow him?**

**7. What steps can you take to become a more selfless, loving person?**