

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?...

A Video Bible Study Series

(John 6:68, NIV)

EPISODE 1 – LOVE FOR EACH OTHER

LOVE SERIES (BOOK OF RUTH)

- **1 Corinthians 13** is often called the love chapter. One passage from **verses 4-7** is often read at weddings.
- *“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”*
- The only One who is perfect at this kind of love is Jesus, but there is a powerful story found in the Old Testament that demonstrates this love for another person. It is the story of Ruth and Naomi found in the book of **Ruth**.
- This story takes place about 1,300 years before Jesus was born. It was after Joshua led the Israelites into the promised land. Naomi lived in Bethlehem with her husband and two sons and there was a famine in the land. There wasn't enough food and people were going hungry.
- Naomi and her family left Bethlehem and went to the country of Moab. Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons.



(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

- Both her sons married Moabite women who worshiped other gods. One was named Orpah and the other was Ruth. After they had lived in Moab about ten years, both of Naomi's sons also died. This was a hard time for Naomi. She was alone without her husband and sons.
- News came that Bethlehem was recovering from the famine and there was enough food. Naomi planned to return home to Bethlehem, and she encouraged her daughters-in-law who were both from Moab to return to their families.
- Orpah returned to her family. But Ruth pledged her life to Naomi in these words found in **Ruth 1:16-17**: *"Wherever you go I will go, wherever you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there be buried."*
- In Jewish culture, it would be hard for two women to survive without husbands. Jewish law provided a way they could make a meager living that was called gleaning. People who were poor, like Ruth and Naomi, could follow behind the workers harvesting the crops and pick up the grain left on the ground.
- To provide food for the two of them, Ruth said to Naomi, *"Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor."* It was back-breaking work that produced little food unless the owner of the land was generous and saw to it that more grain was left behind.
- Boaz was a landowner and a relative of Naomi. Unknowingly, Ruth went out to glean grain from a field belonging to Boaz. Boaz recognized Ruth's devotion to her mother-in-law, Naomi, and made sure there was plenty of grain left for her to gather.
- Later Boaz purchased the land belonging to Naomi's husband who had died. As part of the purchase, He also took Ruth as his wife. Their marriage would provide security and protection for both Ruth and Naomi.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

- Ruth and Boaz had a son named Obed. Obed would become the grandfather of King David, and it would be generations later that Mary and Joseph would give birth to Jesus. Joseph came from the family line of King David.
- It was through Ruth's love for Naomi that God showed His love for all of us through the birth of His Son Jesus. This is because God is the source of the love we have for each other. It is through this love that God works in our lives.
- **Galatians 5:22-23**; *"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."*
- The first fruit of the Spirit listed in this passage is love. Ruth's love found its source in God. Likewise, we can be certain that our love for others is the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the fruit of God working in our lives. We are unable to love apart from God. It doesn't happen without Him.
- In Ruth's case, God had a divine purpose. Because God loves us, He wanted Ruth and Naomi to survive, and He wanted Jesus to be born from the family line of Ruth and Boaz to save the world.
- The Holy Spirit is also the source of our love for each other and He wants to use our love for His divine purpose. It might be so that our love for another person helps that person puts their trust in Jesus.
- Maybe the food we give to a food pantry out of love feeds a future Sunday school teacher. That Sunday school teacher may teach a godly person who one day leads a nation that honors God.
- **Galatians 6:9**; *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Naomi and her family leave Bethlehem and go to Moab?

- There was a famine in the land. There wasn't enough food and people were going hungry, so Naomi and her family left Bethlehem and went to the country of Moab.

2. How did Ruth show her love for Naomi?

- Ruth made a commitment to stay with Naomi. She would go back to Bethlehem, and even worship Naomi's God. She was leaving her family. Ruth had a sacrificial and practical love that would be necessary for the survival of both these women.

3. What did Ruth need to do to provide food for Naomi and herself?

- Ruth went into the fields and picked up the leftover grain left behind by the harvesters. She hoped the harvesters would leave enough grain for them to survive.

4. What did Boaz do for Ruth and Naomi?

- Boaz allowed Ruth to gather grain from his fields and made sure she had enough grain. He purchased that land that belonged to Naomi's husband that also resulted in Boaz marrying Ruth which provided security to both Ruth and Naomi.

5. Who is the source of our love for each other?

- The Holy Spirit is also the source of our love for each other and He wants to use our love for His divine purpose. It is the fruit of God working in our lives. We are unable to love apart from God.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. Take a few minutes to think about people in your life. Who does God want you to love?

- Do you have a family member, or someone who cares for you? Is there a roommate, neighbor, or co-worker that God would want you to show kindness? Think about ways you can show love to these people. Ask the Holy Spirit for help.

2. Who are some people you can love by asking for their forgiveness or forgiving them?

- Spend some time in prayer, then plan a visit to restore any broken relationships in your life.

 <https://connection-ministries.org>