

RUTH: A BAD BEGINNING  
Ruth 1:1-5 (NIV)

*In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. <sup>2</sup>The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. <sup>3</sup>Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup>both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.*

Ruth 1:1-5 (NIV)

❖ What's the SETTING?

- Ruth is set in the time of the JUDGES in the Old Testament (after Moses and Joshua but before Samuel and David).

❖ Who are the MAIN CHARACTERS?

- NAOMI
- RUTH
- BOAZ

❖ What's GOD Doing?

1. How does this story fit into God's OVERARCHING PLAN to redeem us through his Son, Jesus?
2. What is God's LOCAL PLAN, especially in the Old Testament, for His people, Israel?
3. What is God's PERSONAL PLAN unfolding in the lives of the main characters in this story—Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz?

*Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.*

Psalm 42:11 (NIV)

*And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.*

1 Peter 5:10 (NIV)

❖ Bottom Line: BAD beginnings don't have to equal BAD endings when GOD is writing our story.