

## WHEN DREAMS SHATTER

### Ruth 1:1-7

NEIL TRAINER

January 14, 2018



## NOTES

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### Ruth 1:1-7

Suggested Questions for Individual Study or Group Discussion\*



- How many places have you lived? What are some of the reasons for any moves you have made?
- The Book of Ruth takes place “when the judges ruled” (Ruth 1:1). For background on this time period, read Judges 2:6-19. How would you describe this period in Israel’s history?
- *Read Ruth 1:1-7.* What major events occur in the life of this family?
- Imagine these events from Naomi’s perspective. What are some of the many losses she experiences? What might be her emotions and mental state with each?
- What challenges would confront Naomi as an older widow living as an ethnic minority and immigrant in a foreign land? To what extent is Naomi responsible for the situation in which she finds herself?
- What leads Naomi to begin a return to her former home in Judah (1:6-7)? What makes the decision to go back easier? What obstacles or inertia need to be overcome first?
- Where is God in the beginning verses of this story?
- Recall a time when you have experienced loss and struggle, perhaps through no fault of your own (e.g., death of a loved one; a move; a financial downturn; a health crisis)? What was helpful and gave you hope during that time? What was not helpful? Where was God working during this time in your life?
- In your current life circumstances, what does hope look like for you? In what ways might the LORD be inviting you to leave the place where you’ve been living and set out on a return to where God is working?
- How can your small group or others pray for you?

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\*Select or adapt questions to fit the needs and makeup of your group.