

CBC's Women's Ministry Bible Study  
**TWELVE EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN** by John MacArthur  
CHAPTER 4 - *Ruth: Loyalty and Love (Ruth 1:16)*

After reading chapter four, please respond to each item in preparation for group discussion:

1. Ruth was a living, breathing “perfect depiction of the story of redemption”, “reduced to a state of utter destitution from which she could never hope to redeem herself by any means” (p.69). How are you, also, a living, breathing depiction of the story of redemption?
2. Who were the Moabites? Why were they so despised by the Israelites? What god did Scripture call “the abomination of Moab”? (Genesis 19:36-37; Numbers 25:1-5, 1 Kings 11:7; 2 Kings 3:26-27)
3. Although the Israelites were forbidden to marry Canaanite women, Elimelech's sons, Mahlon and Chilion, married Moabite women. What unique problem did this create for Naomi upon their deaths?
4. Describe Naomi's character in spite of her circumstances.
5. Read Ruth 1:6-17. What was it that bound Ruth to Naomi?
6. Naomi and Ruth returned to the small town of Bethlehem. Can you recall other Biblical characters that have a history in this place?

7. What can we know of Boaz' character through the narrative?
8. Boaz heard of Ruth's loyalty to Naomi. What circumstance did God orchestrate for Boaz to also observe Ruth's character?
9. Why was the method Naomi instructed Ruth to use to propose marriage an effective one for Boaz and Ruth's circumstances? What indication do we have that Boaz was a willing *goel* on her behalf?
10. All that happened to Ruth and Naomi in Bethlehem was witnessed by the community. They wept and mourned with Naomi and they rejoiced with her!  
What prophetic blessing did they pronounce upon Boaz and his bride-to-be?

What prophetic blessing did they give to Naomi?

11. Ruth, a pagan, a foreigner, a stranger, and an impoverished widow became a mother in the royal line of Abraham's Seed and Eve's Deliverer. She is a witness to us of loyalty and of faithfulness and of redemption. How do you resonate with this?

***"Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God."*** Ruth 1:16 NKJV