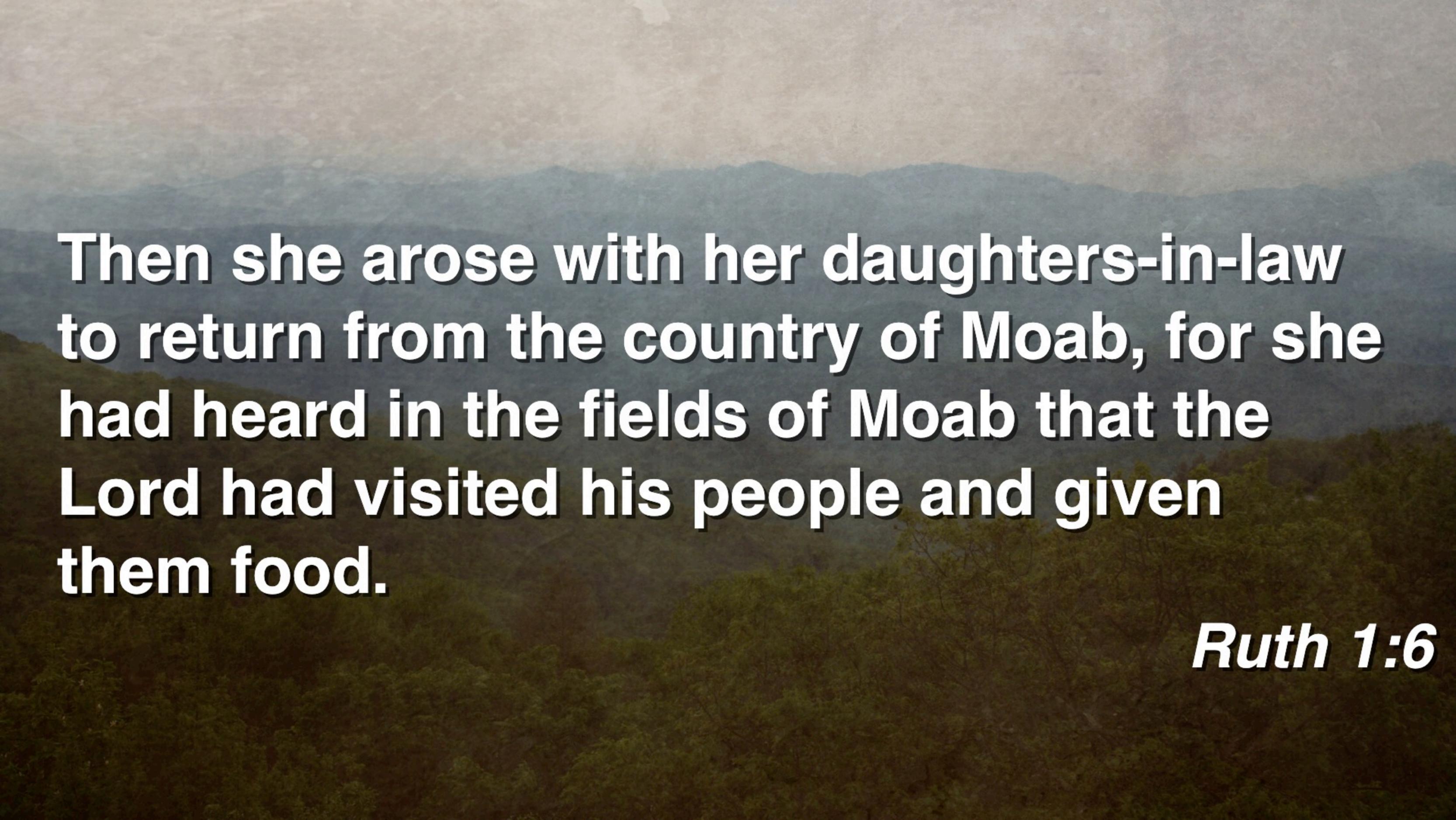


**In those days there was no king in Israel.
Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**

Judges 21:25

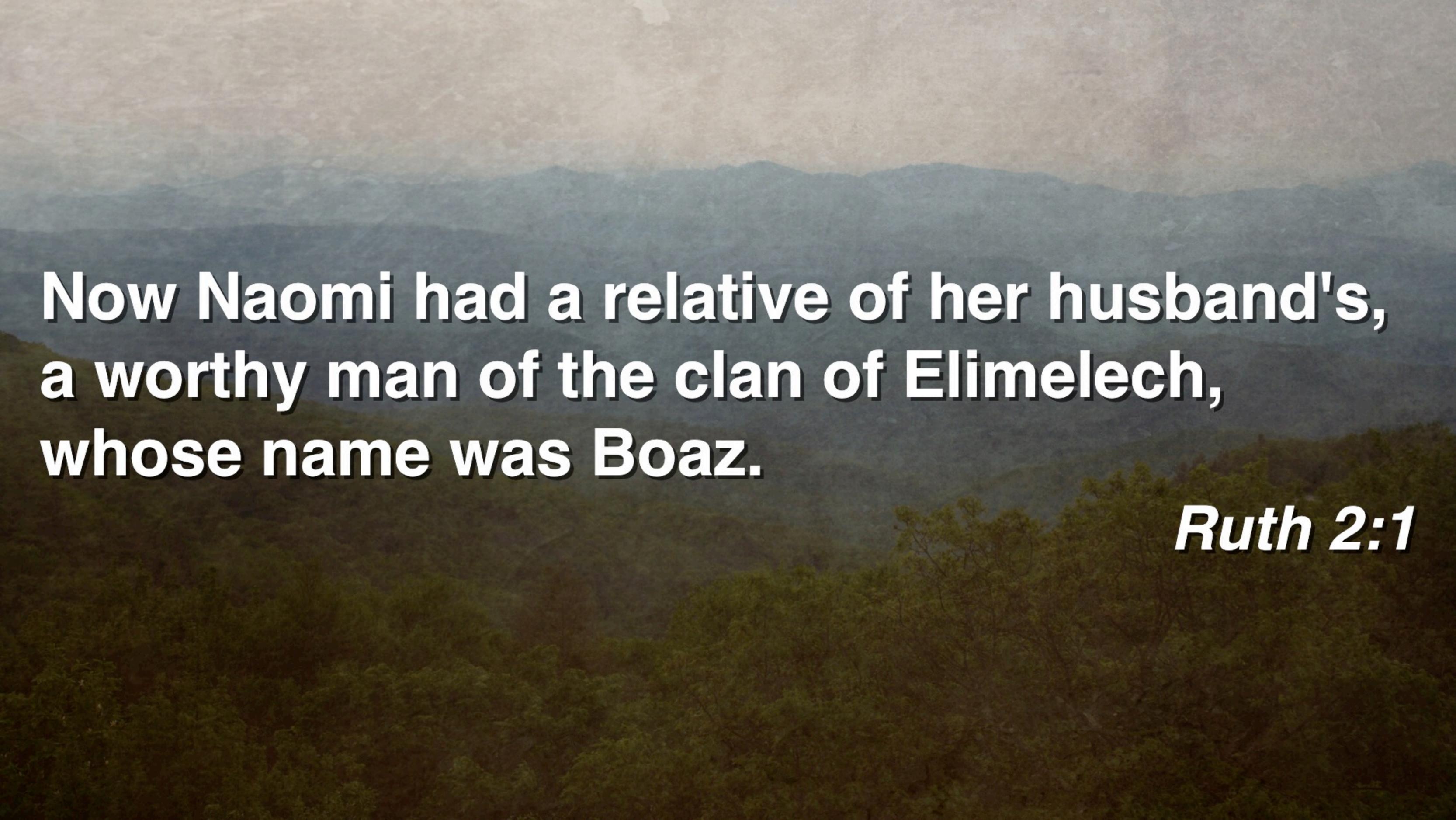
Understanding Moab

- **Origins are in an incestuous relationship (Gen. 19:30-38)**
- **Seeks to bring divine curses on God's people (Num. 22:1-6)**
- **Gateway to idolatry and sexual immorality for God's people (Num. 25:1-3)**
- **Defeated Israel in battle and enslaved God's people (Jud. 3:12-14)**

A scenic landscape with rolling hills and mountains under a hazy sky. The foreground is filled with dense green foliage, while the background shows layers of blue-toned mountains receding into the distance. The overall atmosphere is soft and slightly overcast.

Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food.

Ruth 1:6



**Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's,
a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech,
whose name was Boaz.**

Ruth 2:1

⁵Then Boaz said, "The day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the widow of the dead, in order to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance." ⁶Then the redeemer said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

Ruth 4:5-6

**¹⁸Now these are the generations of Perez:
Perez fathered Hezron, ¹⁹Hezron fathered
Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab,
²⁰Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon
fathered Salmon, ²¹Salmon fathered Boaz,
Boaz fathered Obed, ²²Obed fathered Jesse,
and Jesse fathered David.**

Ruth 4:18-22

Chiastic Structure of Ruth

- 10 years barrenness and death in Moab (1:1-5) A1
- Naomi desires to leave Ruth, but Ruth clings to her (1:6-18) B1
- Naomi laments her loss to townspeople (1:19-22) C1
- Naomi commits to Ruth's plan (2:1-3) D1
- Boaz shows favor to Ruth (2:4-17) E1
- Naomi and Ruth discuss what has happened (2:18-23) F1
- Ruth commits to Naomi's plan (3:1-6) D2
- Boaz again shows favor to Ruth (3:7-15) E2
- Naomi and Ruth discuss what has happened (3:16-18) F2
- Boaz states he wishes to cling to Ruth (4:1-12) B2
- Townspeople rejoice at birth of Naomi's grandchild (4:13-17) C2
- 10 generations to King David (4:18-22) A2

God's Direct Intervention in the Book of Ruth

- **Ruth 1:6—provision of bread**
- **Ruth 4:13—provision of life**

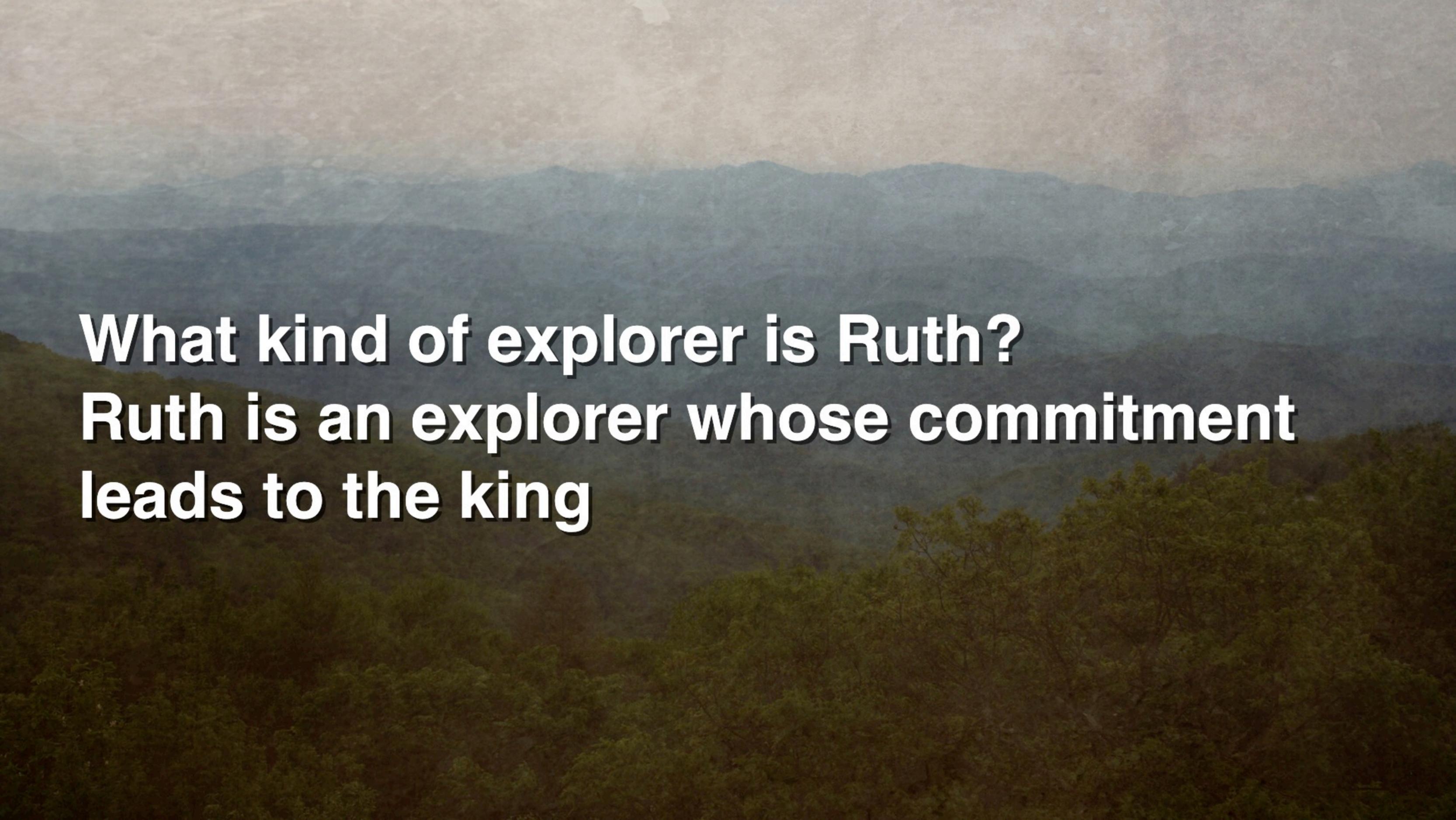
**Though God intervenes in the Book of Ruth,
God never speaks.**

Chiastic Structure of Ruth

- 10 years barrenness and death in Moab (1:1-5) A1
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- 10 generations to King David (4:18-22) A2



The Strength of Ruth's Commitment
“Clung” of Ruth 1:14 = “Hold Fast” of
Genesis 2:24

A scenic view of a mountain range with a dense forest in the foreground and a hazy sky. The mountains are layered, with the closest ones showing more detail and the further ones fading into a misty atmosphere. The foreground is filled with lush green trees, some of which are in sharp focus while others are blurred, creating a sense of depth. The overall lighting is soft, suggesting either early morning or late afternoon.

What kind of explorer is Ruth?

Ruth is an explorer whose commitment leads to the king

“Within the broad parameters of the gifts of daily bread and of human life itself, the book of Ruth presents God’s working as hidden and mysterious, like yeast at work in a loaf of bread, until all is transformed. God is at work through the everyday actions of faithful people seeking to manifest Divine loyalty in their loyal interactions with those around them.”

—Katherine Sakenfeld

Three Facets of Ruth's Commitment

I. Costly—1:15-16

II. Complete—1:17

III. To the Common—2:1-3, 23, 3:5

Contrasting Esther and Ruth

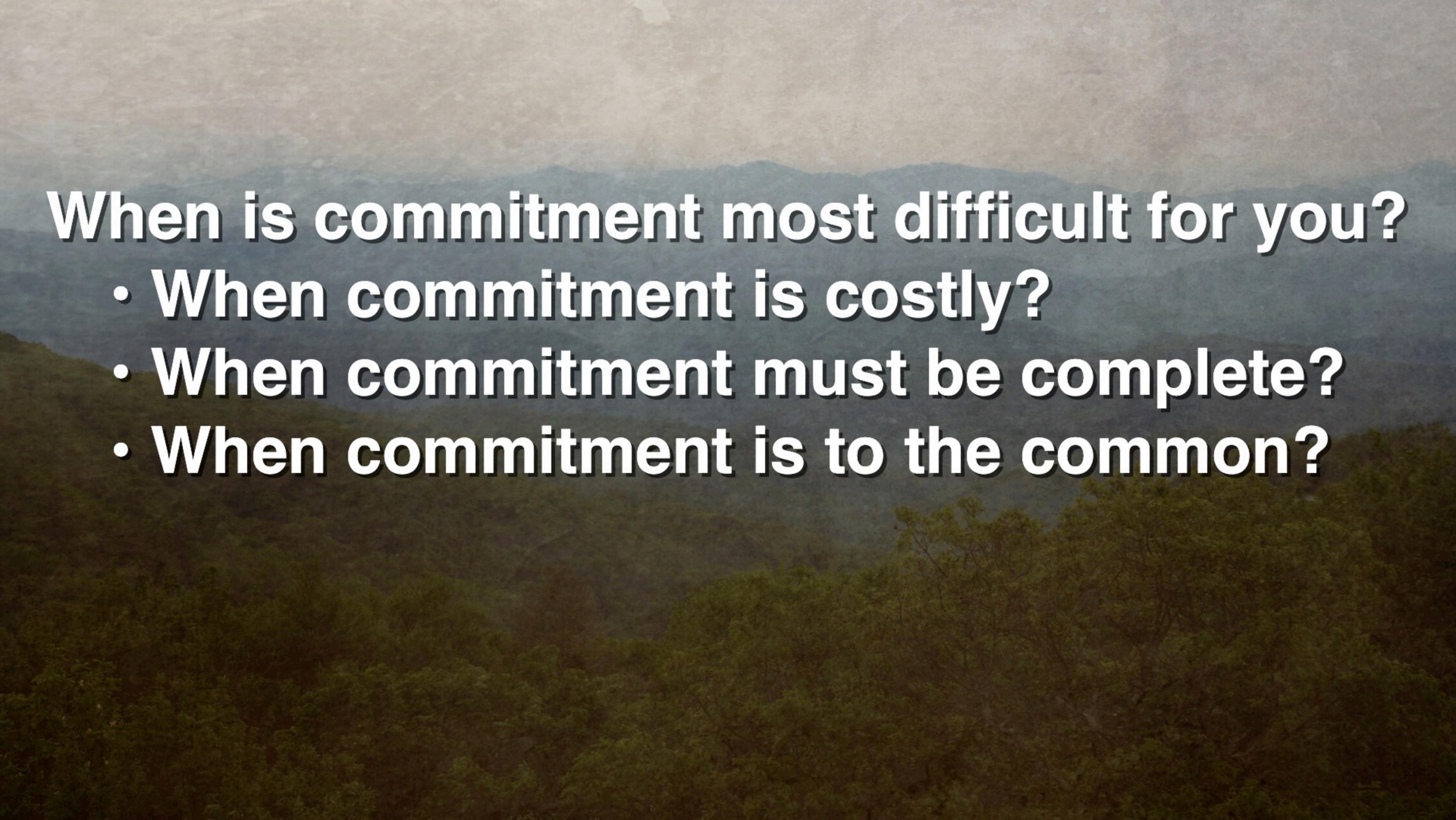
- **Esther is a story of great courage**
- **Ruth is a story of great commitment**

Keyword in Ruth

- **“Hesed” — 1:8, 2:20, 3:10**

“Hesed is often translated as ‘loving kindness’ or ‘compassion,’ that is, as an emotion. But in Hebrew it is an action, namely the act of fierce covenant fidelity. That is, keeping loyal to the covenant (the agreement) precisely when it is most difficult or most threatened.”

—*Brennan Breed*



When is commitment most difficult for you?

- **When commitment is costly?**
- **When commitment must be complete?**
- **When commitment is to the common?**

When is commitment most difficult for you?

- **When commitment is costly?**
- **When commitment must be complete?**
- **When commitment is to the common?**
 - **Is there a commitment you need to make today?**

**¹The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ,
the son of David, the son of Abraham.**

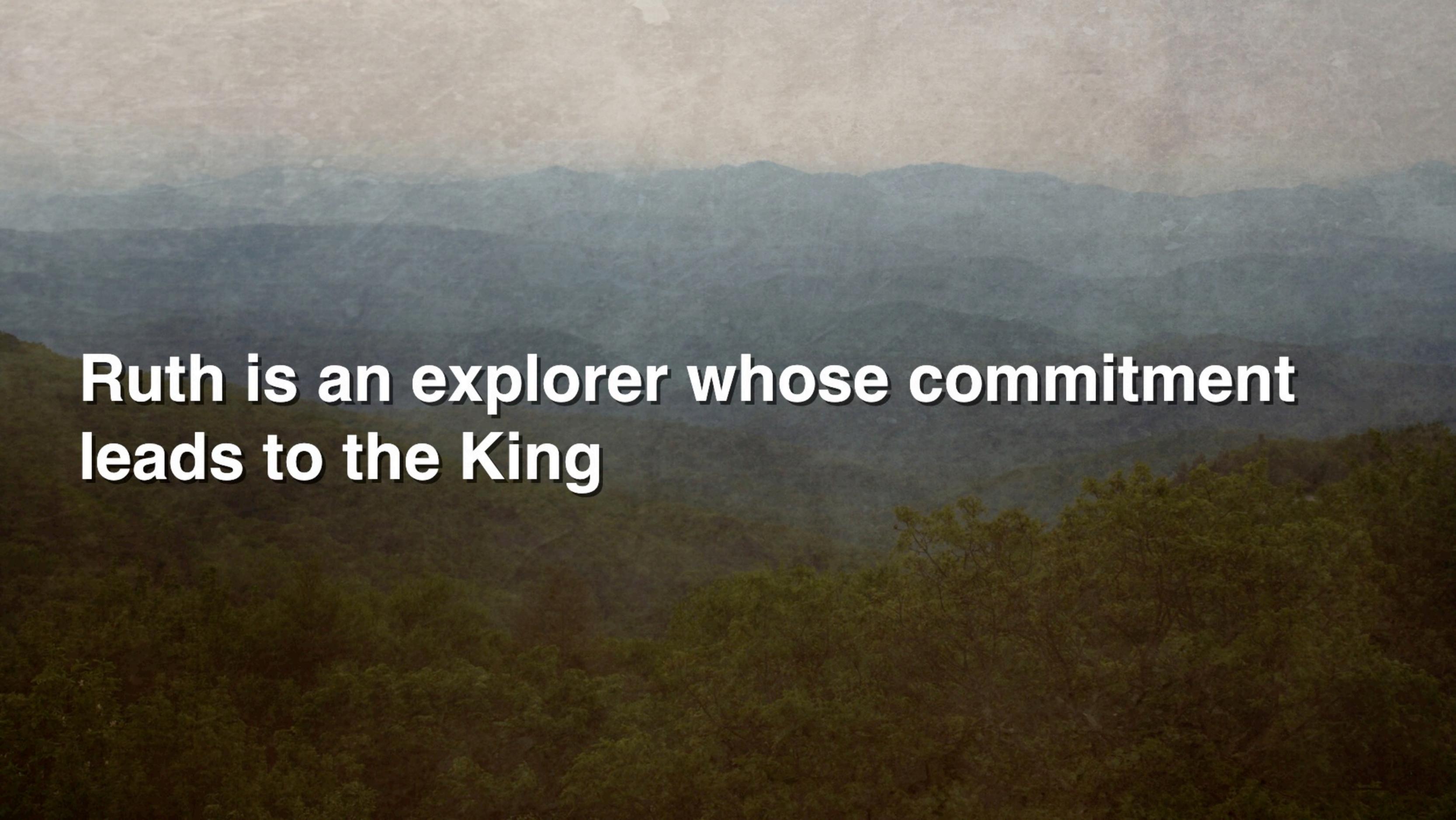
**²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac
the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of
Judah and his brothers,**

³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon,

**⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab,
and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and
Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the
father of David the king. And David was the
father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,**

¹⁵and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

Matthew 1:1-6, 15-16



**Ruth is an explorer whose commitment
leads to the King**