

# “FOR WHEREVER YOU GO I WILL GO”

## The Book of Ruth

### Who wrote The Book of Ruth?

No one is sure who actually wrote The Book of Ruth but it probably was written long after these events happened. Tradition has always held that The Book of Ruth is an accurate historical account of events.

### How did The Book of Ruth get its name and/or what does that name mean?

The Book of Ruth is named after the Moabite woman who was joined to the Israelite people by her marriage with the influential Boaz of Bethlehem.

### When did these events take place?

The events in The Book of Ruth took place in "the time of the judges" (Ruth 1:1) probably sometime between 700 and 800 B.C.

### For more about The Book of Ruth:

See page 238 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

Let's say it was completely up to you! How much would you do to prove to your family members that you love them? Would you be willing to change schools or give up seeing your friends, just to remain close to your parents and/or brothers or sisters? What if they decided to move across the country or even to a place totally different in Europe or Asia? Would you be willing to go with them? Or, what if the person in question wasn't even a member of your immediate family but someone related to you by marriage? Would you decide to make the same sacrifices for them?

In The Book of Ruth, you will read how unselfish love and caring compassion for her mother-in-law inspired Ruth to make these kinds of decisions and choices. This short book tells a beautiful story of a woman who is admired and respected not only for what she did for Naomi but for what she became to the people of Israel. In this story, you'll meet Boaz, a very important person in Bethlehem who takes Ruth as his wife ensuring that she will become an ancestor of Christ. Once you read this inspiring story, it will be easy to see why God would choose Ruth for this role in His plan of loving salvation.

**Interesting Fact:** The most famous verses of The Book of Ruth are verses 16 and 17 of chapter 1. Although they are sometimes mistaken for the words between man and wife, they are actually the words of a woman to her mother-in-law.

**Bonus Point:** Where is the common greeting, "The Lord Be With You" first mentioned in The Book of Ruth?