**Loving like Ruth**

But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.”When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her. **Ruth 1:16-18**

The story of Ruth is usually well-known and well-loved. Ruth was a Moabite girl who married into Naomi’s family. Naomi and her husband Elimelech were Israelites from Bethlehem, who had moved to Moab with their sons Mahlon and Chilion, because of famine.

After ten years, all the men in the family had died, leaving Naomi with two daughters-in-law who were Moabites, foreigners. Naomi realises it is time to go home to Bethlehem and asks her daughters to return to their families. Neither wishes to go, but eventually Orpah does go home and Ruth refuses to leave.

The words from the passage above are Ruth’s to Naomi. They demonstrate Ruth’s love for her mother-in-law. She will go to an unknown land, where she will be an outsider, where they have different customs and worship a different God. If you have ever moved to a new area or a new country, you may have some idea how she feels. It is a brave move and one that shows the depth of her love for Naomi.

**Q – What would you do for someone you love?**

**Q – Is there anything that you wouldn’t do for them?**

Ruth’s love is selfless and giving. This continues when they move to Bethlehem. Ruth goes to work in the fields to support them both and follows Naomi’s instructions around Boaz, even though it could put her in danger. Ruth’s love for Naomi and what she is willing to do for her is an echo of how much God loves us and what God is willing to do for us.

God is willing to come to earth as one of us, live among us, be treated as one of us, suffer like one of us and died for us. In John’s gospel we read:

*“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.* [*Greater*](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbiblehub.com%2Fgreek%2F3173.htm%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3J_lgH3Vi7XbGQ7vNxbkUnVIbnA9cS8aa0UTPDyXt4ryQeKrr5by0s3eo&h=AT3XuMrQmgMM0noMYXw80LqWty7qA5KjIwOU50EvQOlZ2HtTBrwR10XHuSQOELQoCTJX5Ytmv5wUrhHPSXdIfnmWx94QR_Q81xqi_0KnDlhqVw_cnB2-D6PE_7vb2R_9H_6vi5W-TkLtoESe2mc)[*love*](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbiblehub.com%2Fgreek%2F26.htm%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1cgOPgq_6ARXZddAf3VZconJXkueTb03BBMyYpB7Nn85G97892l2iRt5M&h=AT1-KpRotGR0murUdkTO53aQLHLCALNLd8TDdMZbOKz95Ugrq27quGfsgEZR1g1cHMhEOJJ3Ftp_nLTtParhd5WsOqF5j5zdPRW7QrkCPGvAeBqtivztUr9zC1ZB57rfBSPlfJn3JDPEvMRaIa4)[*has*](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbiblehub.com%2Fgreek%2F2192.htm%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3xoyLJjewM4psSGMC5ITFQ3bXF3ZOP_cU0VXBfrOwcKcsfSg5Xx6oen4Q&h=AT0y0ZkShrnGpL7AR69wzZTnJTaW8Wul5N6EeuVz9_cJsS5xj05dxcHz9c49OIRg63BUgj93n6IZx-W7GclKFWDVWaOYTa6DhPM_SGSZ9TV9syjJZJYqfOChFULHTcYmZPV7_QB1xj2TIngxOyaw3_f68aTOWgEq)[*no one*](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbiblehub.com%2Fgreek%2F3762.htm%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1quCeRdP6138wnv-P6jQa9b4EJpoBvbz4Gp9vHLxkKF3BzMpE5yHVbkH4&h=AT2i7s07p8uV2BjiWA7VGTtmeFXeHKYN6naNsfJrzoR9ounCUS_dcQq5QGYuKZ58QcsEYUo55HFiznKZEJUGWpSDSlEuGX80q9-syxKoDtXw0xxCLyIF3z0fJq3MyXwJ-nHedfRQrWgTo-PB6hg)[*than this,*](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbiblehub.com%2Fgreek%2F3778.htm%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2mNcnF5dgY9gT_dTKMT8VcrXCECgqek989RPmgFKryrS6oyVN3qwxXtAM&h=AT0b6goiqRad5uKffRafA5XYGwXWAJ7TI1oos3bceZ_3drhwptlF3d3iyzFx2Y3jua5loYytymariPZ0F-9F-QwsxAim-KjQdjV4bORuagBffjtOEXkUhu-0-OfmQyknkvgl-3RqxUu0_C4LMG4) *to* [*lay down*](https://biblehub.com/greek/5087.htm?fbclid=IwAR3M8OqINEeIJ4DJEbxsafrX2o83CnAbhErN1gufnmWKJfcB0IthUDh9FKI) *one’s* [*life*](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbiblehub.com%2Fgreek%2F5590.htm%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1hU_qzAHH7Rl_M2tQc7B6UOD7MAh_sKI0LFQBdBu30eOtEO5CUN6PDh-g&h=AT28IJxvT5LFdQAvI-l-ZaofI_Kxr5IK363SBB4_rINEz0CrajrX2drDLTqUs55LAcJGvZncr2JUJAflUPHQkpvjqV7UV5GwCsMU3xi-vUWiEVdlcLlIAa-qiPHNej0E-V_5JGe4ApOf5ocdUYU)[*for*](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbiblehub.com%2Fgreek%2F5228.htm%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR37Oa16sm0Xud6L0fFECcxiqaqBWBLAE6qS4aSLv0n5whV8OAHciL0P6xg&h=AT34rQ74eXcX2Q1hukcCjQvynjoX3TP9E2rbRdTumLniz_jAkC2Box-sm1w0gqPQtYIATx71EJSyMMujMApj8EtPZwuuzJXpY847SzWfP0uVVBuuqg0F1et_zS_vSDUBW3N4v5WbeZD9cJhh5wg)[*one’s*](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbiblehub.com%2Fgreek%2F846.htm%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3H2VzKqvmmHIGy-tK969bga4so4XdMbnLa_rcD6-WBu9Gp3MPRUWrZVaY&h=AT0dkQYFQfEo-70WQvntE9NQhnkUpcINksMF_ms6N_syuKlP2TyiH6XD7kNws6Frd0hiME-JqwHP6c24DPFNakVDkFPG18fIW65ADtefa8LjTTNVpgttZ-0JIIKMe6H_1T2udKwHJqfjXBiLheA)[*friends.*](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbiblehub.com%2Fgreek%2F5384.htm%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR3bqNIXSXUQI6y-51y3KABx-GUlYRX3OUPCkbktX_x1oxGAvBCj_S1YDl0&h=AT0kkEzXW82nMnmSAwoyX7p43XSpvG0eytSb81nJBUvIdhnu2Cyq5-ajT1Y3x2tH-eBO1q59i14KDKelgO-SZ1jC1er-rZKHHDQ6i03A9WjoJqE_JS435r6vNVAaYPuQRvm7Vh2a0k3m0JrDEHk)*”*

**John 15:12-13**

**Q – God loves us so much that he laid down his life for us. How does that make you feel?**

**Q – What is your response to such love?**