



A STORY OF  
HOPE

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

<sup>2</sup> There was a man named Elimelech, and the name of his wife, Naomi; and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem in Judah. So they entered the land of Moab and remained there. <sup>3</sup> Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup> And they took for themselves Moabite women as wives; the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other, Ruth. And they lived there about ten years. <sup>5</sup> Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Ruth 1:1-5

<sup>16</sup> But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the Lord do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me."

Ruth 1:16-17



HERE IS WHAT'S  
COMING UP



GIVE NOW



<sup>19</sup> So they both went until they came to Bethlehem. And when they had come to Bethlehem, all the city was stirred because of them, and the women said, “Is this Naomi?” <sup>20</sup> She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. <sup>21</sup> I went out full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has witnessed against me and the Almighty has afflicted me?”

Ruth 1:19-21

“So she went out and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelech.”

Ruth 2:3

<sup>8</sup> Suddenly, around midnight, he wakened and sat up, startled.

There was a woman lying at his feet!

<sup>9</sup> “Who are you?” he demanded.

“It’s I, sir—Ruth,” she replied. “Make me your wife according to God’s law, for you are my close relative.”

<sup>10</sup> “Thank God for a girl like you!” he exclaimed. “For you are being even kinder to Naomi now than before. Naturally you’d prefer a younger man, even though poor. But you have put aside your personal desires.

<sup>11</sup> Now don’t worry about a thing, my child; I’ll handle all the details, for everyone knows what a wonderful person you are.

Ruth 3:8-11 (LB)



I will do for you whatever you say, for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence. <sup>12</sup> But now, although it is true that I am a redeemer, yet there is also a redeemer more closely related than I. <sup>13</sup> Remain this night, and when morning comes, if he will redeem you, good; let him redeem you. But if he does not wish to redeem you, then I will redeem you, as the Lord lives.

Ruth 3:11-13

So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife, and he had relations with her.

And the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

Ruth 4:13

So they named him Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Ruth 4:17

<sup>4</sup> Now Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, <sup>5</sup> in order to register along with Mary, who was betrothed to him, and was pregnant. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock at night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood near them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. <sup>10</sup> And so the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; <sup>11</sup> for today in the city of

David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:4-11