



## LESSON 5: GOD GIVES RUTH AND NAOMI A GOOD FRIENDSHIP

### DEEPER BIBLE: IS IT OKAY TO END A FRIENDSHIP?

- Bibles

#### Introduce

We're learning that God gives us friends. It's awesome to have friends! But what about when you feel like a friendship is over? Is it ever okay to **end** a friendship? Let's dig in to that.

*Ruth 1:8-10, and 14.*

*<sup>8</sup>But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back to your mothers' homes. And may the LORD reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me. <sup>9</sup>May the LORD bless you with the security of another marriage." Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept.*

*<sup>10</sup>"No," they said. "We want to go with you to your people."*

*<sup>14</sup>And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi.*

We've been focused on the friendship between Ruth and Naomi. But there was another friendship here that ended—the friendship between Orpah and Naomi. How would you describe the end of Orpah and Naomi's friendship? Did anyone seem mad or hurt?

It was awesome that Ruth and Naomi stayed friends. But it was also okay for Orpah to leave Naomi and do her own thing. Naomi gave her permission to do that. They cried about missing each other, but they knew it was for the best. So how do we know when a friendship is over? Let's play a game and then dig in to what the Bible says.

#### Dig Deeper

*Proverbs 17:17*

*A friend is always loyal,  
and a brother is born to help in time of need.*

The Bible says a friend is loyal. Think about a friend you want to stay loyal to.

But even though loyalty is important, the Bible also talks about how to figure out if you should stay friends with someone. Let's see what the Bible says.

*Proverbs 18:19*

*An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city.  
Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.*

Think about a fight you had with a friend. How can you know if a fight was big enough to end the friendship?

*Proverbs 16:28*

*A troublemaker plants seeds of strife;  
gossip separates the best of friends.*

Why would it be bad to stay friends with someone who gossips about you? Here's another thing the Bible says friends should do for each other.

Even if you think you need to end a friendship, that doesn't mean you should be mean to your old friend. Naomi and Orpah ended their friendship, but they were sad about leaving each other. They didn't yell at each other or say mean things. The Bible doesn't say they ever saw each other again, but if they did I'm sure they'd be kind to each other. God gives us friends. This week, ask God to give you wisdom in your friendships, and thank him for the gift of friends.