

# Guided by a cloud 32 (Exodus 13:21-22)

This week we look at two more characters suggested by Gillian and how we are guided by God. The title of our newsletter actually comes from a passage where God is guiding his people practically through the wilderness. **Exodus 13:21-22** *By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.* Later as the Israelites near the Promised Land, Joshua is commissioned by Moses to continue guiding God's people. **Deuteronomy 31:6, 8** *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.*



Jesus replied,  
"Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.  
My Father will love them, and we will come  
to them and make our home with them."

**John 14:23**

## Worship time

[Lord I need you](#)

[He Lavishes Grace \[Lean Hard\]](#)

[I Raise a Hallelujah](#)

[Praise God from whom all blessings flow](#)

**The Book of Ruth** Naomi and Ruth were two people that were guided by God through their circumstances so that they became part of the lineage of Christ.

Naomi faced famine and hardship and her husband and two sons died while in Moab. Moab was a cursed nation, condemned by God because of the way they treated Israel in the wilderness. As her daughter in laws Ruth and Orpah were from the nation of Moab, Naomi urges them to go home while she decides to return to her homeland. Orpah leaves but Ruth doesn't. Because she chose to remain with her mother in law this young widow from a cursed nation was used by God.

So why did Ruth choose to follow Naomi. Naomi was unhappy and had no visible prospects for her future. In her lament in chapter 1 she declares that she believes God is punishing her BUT she doesn't curse God or turn from Him. Naomi was a woman of every day faith who had hit rock bottom but Ruth saw that faith and said:

*"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."* **Ruth 1:16-17**

Ruth had left her parents and lost her husband but she went to a strange land where she knew no one and worshipped a new God. She loved Naomi and followed her direction. She was prepared to lower herself and glean for food in Boaz's field and sleep at his feet. Ruth was obedient and her reputation is honoured. Naomi can now say, *'The Lord always keeps his promises to the living and the dead.'* In time Ruth's child Obed becomes the grandfather of David and the lineage continues to the birth of Jesus.

A bible commentary of Ruth says: 'Ruth strikingly exemplifies the truth that participation in the coming kingdom of God is decided, not by blood and birth, but by the conformity of one's life to the will of God that comes through the 'obedience of faith'. (Romans 1:5)