

# Ruth

When Ruth's husband died, she left her country to accompany her mother-in-law back to the homeland of the Jews. The effects of her obedience appeared quickly: God provided for Ruth and Naomi because of Ruth's faithfulness.

Prior to your study encourage your group to read the four chapters of Ruth.

- 1) What was the reason for Naomi's return to Moab? (Ruth 1:1-7)
- 2) What, other than love for Naomi, might have motivated Ruth to return with her? (Ruth 1:14-17)
- 3) Naomi tells the people not to call her by her given name, which means "beautiful" or "pleasant." She wants to be known as Mara, or "bitter." Why do you think she says this? (Ruth 1:20)  
Naomi was probably not only well known in Bethlehem but also highly respected, because of her deceased husband's reputation. The entire town greeted her when she returned (Ruth 1:19).
- 4) How is Boaz described in Ruth 2:1?
- 5) To whom does Boaz give credit for actions taken by Ruth? (Ruth 2:12)
- 6) Based on what Boaz and Naomi say in verses 15, 16, and 22, what problems was Ruth spared by gleaning in his fields? "Gleaning" is the act of collecting grain left behind for the poor (Lev. 23:22).
- 7) When she talks to Naomi, what does Ruth learn about Boaz? (Ruth 2:20)  
*kinsman-redeemer: When a man died, his brother or close relative was obliged to (1) buy back any family property that had been sold, (2) avenge his death if he was murdered, and (3) marry the widow if she was childless, to carry on the name of the deceased.*
- 8) What is Ruth's reaction to Naomi's unusual request? (Ruth 3:1-5)  
*Asking him to spread his cover over her was a request that he promise to marry her.*
- 9) What does Boaz reveal about his character by not immediately agreeing to redeem Ruth? (Ruth 3:12-13)
- 10) The other relative readily agrees to buy Naomi's land, but then changes his mind; why? (Ruth 4:1-6)  
*Although the land was identified as Elimelech's (v.3), ownership was legally transferred to his son (Ruth's husband) upon Elimelech's death. According to the law if the relative bought the property, he also had to marry Ruth. If he had a son with Ruth, part of his own estate would transfer to the family of Elimelech.*  
Boaz was descended from the "house of Perez" – who was the son of Judah.  
Take a moment to be mindful of the significance of this family line. Look up: Ruth 4:18-22; Matthew 1
- 11) What special place does Ruth occupy in history because of her faithfulness and obedience to Naomi (Matt. 1:5)?
- 12) Read Galatians 6:8 – Explain how this verse is applicable to Ruth's story.
- 13) From personal experience, describe your life when you are "sowing to please the Spirit", and when you're not.  
*While God certainly blesses us for following Him, sometimes He chooses to delay our rewards and recognition until heaven. Also, we should expect the "reward" to come from Him, and not look to people to notice and appreciate our good deeds.*
- 14) Have you ever expected earthly rewards for godly choices and been disappointed? Explain.
- 15) What encouragement would you offer to others with a similar experience? Look up: Galatians 6:9

*Ruth learned firsthand that God rewards faithfulness. Because she honored Him by loving and obeying her mother-in-law, He abundantly provided for their needs. We too can trust that no good deed goes unnoticed in God's kingdom, and as we do all things as working for the Lord, our reward is great.*