



Bible Books Chapter by Chapter Series

RUTH

Ruth 1:16-17 "... where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. 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."

Course Text: Ruth

"The Book of Ruth does not specifically name its author. The tradition is that the Book of Ruth was written by the Prophet Samuel probably between 1011 and 931 B.C.

"The Book of Ruth was written to the Israelites. It teaches that genuine love at times may require uncompromising sacrifice. Regardless of our lot in life, we can live according to the precepts of God. Genuine love and kindness will be rewarded. God abundantly blesses those who seek to live obedient lives. Obedient living does not allow for "accidents" in God's plan. God extends mercy to the merciful.

"The setting for the Book of Ruth begins in the heathen country of Moab, a region northeast of the Dead Sea, but then moves to Bethlehem. This true account takes place during the dismal days of failure and rebellion of the Israelites, called the period of the Judges. A famine forces Elimelech and his wife, Naomi, from their Israelite home to the country of Moab. Elimelech dies and Naomi is left with her 2 sons, who soon marry 2 Moabite girls, Orpah and Ruth. Later both of the sons die, and Naomi is left alone with Orpah and Ruth in a strange land. Orpah returns to her parents, but Ruth determines to stay with Naomi as they journey to Bethlehem. This story of love and devotion tells of Ruth's eventual marriage to a wealthy man named Boaz, by whom she bears a son, Obed, who becomes the grandfather of David and the ancestor of Jesus. Obedience brings Ruth into the privileged lineage of Christ."

Read more: <http://www.gotquestions.org/Book-of-Ruth.html>

Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst)
3. Pray (The idea is to leave our troubles with God so we can give Him our full attention.)
4. Read the lesson's chapter aloud from the Bible (or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is Scripture based.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is good to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission first.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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Ruth Chapter 1

Please read Ruth Chapter 1 and answer the following questions:

[1A] Ruth 1:1-3 Where did they go to escape the famine? _____

[1B] Ruth 1:4-5 What were the names of the three widows? _____

[1C] Ruth 1:6-7 They set out on a journey to where? _____

[1D] Ruth 1:8-9 What did Naomi tell her daughters-in-law to do? _____

[1E] Ruth 1:10-13 Did her daughters-in-law turn go home? _____

[1F] Ruth 1:14-15 Which one went back to Moab? _____

[1G] Ruth 1:16-18 Why did Naomi allow Ruth to go with her? _____

[1H] Ruth 1:19 Was their arrival noticed? _____

[1I] Ruth 1:20-21 Who did Naomi say had brought her back empty? _____

[1J] Ruth 1:22 What time of year was it when they returned? _____

[1K] Which of the people in this chapter do you most admire? Which of them do you least admire? Why?

Think & Pray _____



NAOMI AND HER DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW

And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whithersoever thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God. . . (Ruth 1: 16) [1: 18]

Ruth Chapter 1

- [1A] Ruth 1:1-3 Where did they go to escape the famine? Moab (2 or 3 days walk) Ephrathites just means they were from Bethlehem in Judah. Ephratha was just another name for Bethlehem. (See Genesis 35:19, Genesis 48:7 & Micah 5:2)
- [1B] Ruth 1:4-5 What were the names of the three widows? Naomi, Ruth and Orpah
- [1C] Ruth 1:6-7 The set out on a journey to where? Judah
- [1D] Ruth 1:8-9 What did Naomi tell her daughters-in-law to do? Go home to their mothers
- [1E] Ruth 1:10-13 Did her daughters-in-law turn go home? No, not a first
- [1F] Ruth 1:14-15 Which one went back to Moab? Orpah
- [1G] Ruth 1:16-18 Why did Naomi allow Ruth to go with her? Ruth was determined to follow her
- [1H] Ruth 1:19 Was their arrival noticed? Yes, "the city was stirred because of them."
- [1I] Ruth 1:20-21 Who did Naomi say had brought her back empty? The Lord Almighty
- [1J] Ruth 1:22 What time of year was it when they returned? Barley harvest

[1K] We don't know really know much about them, do we?. Chilion means "pining" or "wasting away" and he died. Elimelech means "my God is king" and I certainly admire that if he lived up to his name. Mahlon means "sick" and sure enough, he died, too. Orpah means "gazelle" and she ran back home, but that seems understandable to me. Naomi means "my delight" but she changed her name to Mara which means "bitterness." I can't imagine having to live with that much grief. She lost both her sons and her husband. I don't fault her for becoming bitter, but I would have preferred it if she had just left her name alone and not complained. Not that I would do any better, but I would have admired her more if she had more courage than me. Ruth means "friendship" and she certainly lived up to her name. I admire her for that.

For further thought:

- (1L) Compare Ruth 1:11 with Matthew 22:24 and Deuteronomy 25:5. What did you learn?
- (1m) Read Genesis 19:30-38. What does it tell you about the ancestry of Ruth and Orpah? (Ruth 1:4) What do you know about your ancestors? What difference does it make?
- (1n) Thinking about Ruth 1:16-17 – How important is loyalty to you?
- (1o) Why did Ruth and Orpah make different decisions?
- (1p) If someone asked you what Ruth chapter 1 was about what would you tell them?
- (1q) What did you learn about Ruth chapter 1 that you would like to remember?
- (1r) What verse or passage from Ruth chapter 1 would be best to memorize? Why?

"Ruth is one of four women specifically named in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. Matthew 1:5–6 says, 'Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.'" -- GotQuestions.org

Ruth Chapter 2

Please read Ruth Chapter 2 and answer the following questions:

[2A] Ruth 2:1 Whose family was Boaz a part of? _____

[2B] Ruth 2:2-3 In whose field to Ruth glean? _____

[2C] Ruth 2:4-7 Did Boaz know who Ruth was? _____

[2D] Ruth 2:8-9 What did Boaz call Ruth? _____

[2E] Ruth 2:10 What did Ruth do when Boaz spoke kindly to her? _____

[2F] Ruth 2:11-12 What was the topic of Boaz' response? _____

[2G] Ruth 2:13 What did Ruth call Boaz? _____

[2H] Ruth 2:14 What did Boaz tell her to do with her bread? _____

[2I] Ruth 2:15-16 What two things were Boaz servants not to do? _____

[2J] Ruth 2:17-20 How much did Ruth glean? _____

[2K] Ruth 1:22, 2:21-23 & Deut16:9. What period of time does Ruth chapter 2 cover? _____

[2L] Why didn't Boaz just give Ruth some money and let her go home?

Think & Pray _____



Ruth Chapter 2

- [2A] Ruth 2:1 Whose family was Boaz a part of? Elimelech Naomi's husband, Ruth's father-in-law
- [2B] Ruth 2:2-3 In whose field to Ruth glean? Boaz Gleaning was a common practice of poor people. They would follow the harvesters and gather what was missed or dropped.
- [2C] Ruth 2:4-7 Did Boaz know who Ruth was? Not by sight, but he had obviously heard of her
- [2D] Ruth 2:8-9 What did Boaz call Ruth? My daughter What does that tell us about their probable relative ages? Nothing. It might have been about age, but it just as easily could have been about class distinction.
- [2E] Ruth 2:10 What did Ruth do when Boaz spoke kindly to her? Fell on her face and asked why
- [2F] Ruth 2:11-12 What was the topic of Boaz' response? Ruth's good reputation
- [2G] Ruth 2:13 What did Ruth call Boaz? My Lord
- [2H] Ruth 2:14 What did Boaz tell her to do with her bread? Dip it in the vinegar
- [2I] Ruth 2:15-16 What two things were Boaz servants not to do? Insult or rebuke Ruth
- [2J] Ruth 2:17-20 How much did Ruth glean? Ephah (a little over a bushel)
- [2K] Ruth 1:22, 2:21-23 & Deut16:9. What period of time does Ruth chapter 2 cover? 7 weeks

[2L] The Bible does not explain, but in my opinion, it is usually a mistake to give poor people money. If it is an emergency give them food, shelter, clothing, medical care and whatever else they might need to sustain life. If there is time, help them figure out how to get those things for themselves. I have seen too many people with what I call "learned helplessness." They are no good to themselves, to the people around them, or to the Kingdom of God, because all they have ever learned how to do is manipulate, beg, and trick others into doing things for them. It is a sad waste of a human life.

For further thought:

- (2m) Compare Ruth 2:2-3 with Leviticus 23:22 and Deuteronomy 24:19. What did you learn?
- (2n) Thinking about Ruth 2:4 – Why do you suppose the writer included the detail of the exact words of their greeting?
- (2o) Compare Ruth 2:19 with Psalm 41:1. What did you learn?
- (2p) Thinking about Ruth 2:11-12 – How good is your reputation? How do you know?
- (2q) If someone asked you what Ruth chapter 2 was about what would you tell them?
- (2r) What did you learn about Ruth chapter 2 that you would like to remember?
- (2s) What verse or passage from Ruth chapter 2 would be best to memorize? Why?
- (2t) Do you agree with this: "The sovereignty of our great God is clearly seen in the story of Ruth. He guided her every step of the way to become His child and fulfill His plan for her to become an ancestor of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:5). In the same way, we have assurance that God has a plan for each of us. Just as Naomi and Ruth trusted Him to provide for them, so should we." -- GotQuestions.org

Ruth Chapter 3

Please read Ruth Chapter 3 and answer the following questions:

[3A] Ruth 3:1-2 Where was Boaz going to be? _____

[3B] Ruth 3:3-5 What was Ruth to do before she laid down? _____

[3C] Ruth 3:6-8 Where was Ruth lying? _____

[3D] Ruth 3:9 What did Ruth ask Boaz to do? _____

[3E] Ruth 3:10 How did Boaz regard Ruth's request? _____

[3F] Ruth 3:11-12 What was the obstacle to Boaz marrying Ruth? _____

[3G] Ruth 3:13 What did Boaz promise to do if he could? _____

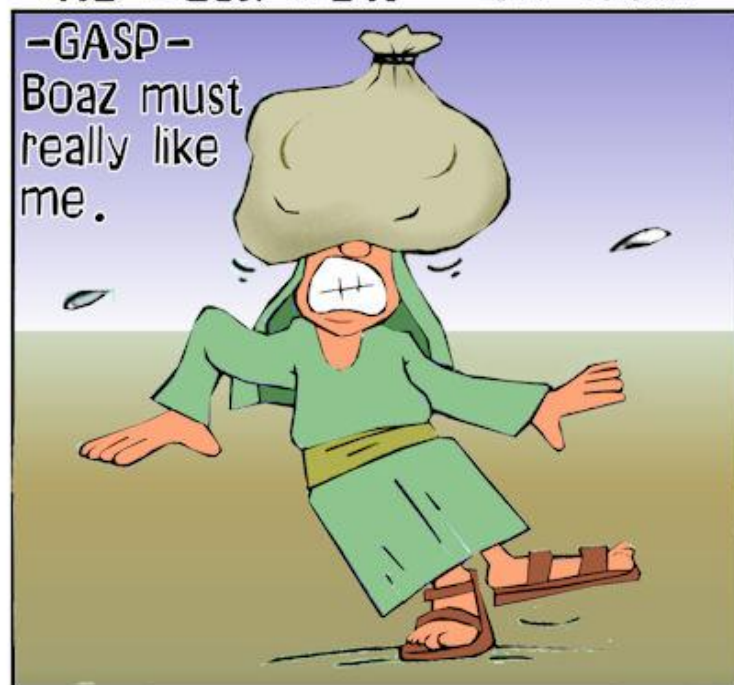
[3H] Ruth 3:14-15 What did Boaz give to Ruth before she left? _____

[3I] Ruth 3:16-18 How long did Naomi think it would take Boaz to act? _____

[3J] Read Leviticus 25:47-49. What does this passage have to do with Ruth chapter 3? So what?

Think & Pray _____

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Ruth returns 'incognito' with 6 portions of barley from big man on campus 'Boaz'.
Ruth 3:15-16

Ruth Chapter 3

[3A] Ruth 3:1-2 Where was Boaz going to be? Winnowing barley at the threshing floor. This was the process of separating the edible and inedible parts of the harvest.

[3B] Ruth 3:3-5 What was Ruth to do before she laid down? Uncover Boaz' feet

[3C] Ruth 3:6-8 Where was Ruth lying? At Boaz' feet

[3D] Ruth 3:9 What did Ruth ask Boaz to do? "Spread your covering over your maid" What did it mean to "spread your covering over" someone? It could also be translated as "spread your wings over" someone. The exact meaning would depend on context, but the general meaning was to take them into your family or household. In this case Ruth was clearly proposing marriage.

[3E] Ruth 3:10 How did Boaz regard Ruth's request? As a kindness and a compliment to him

[3F] Ruth 3:11-12 What was the obstacle to Boaz marrying Ruth? A closer relative

[3G] Ruth 3:13 What did Boaz promise to do if he could? Redeem her

[3H] Ruth 3:14-15 What did Boaz give to Ruth before she left? A load of barley

An engagement present?

[3I] Ruth 3:16-18 How long did Naomi think it would take Boaz to act? That day

[3J] "A major theme of the Book of Ruth is that of the kinsman-redeemer. Boaz, a relative of Naomi on her husband's side, acted upon his duty as outlined in the Mosaic Law to redeem an impoverished relative from his or her circumstances (Lev. 25:47-49). This scenario is repeated by Christ, who redeems us, the spiritually impoverished, from the slavery of sin. Our heavenly Father sent His own Son to the cross so that we might become children of God and brothers and sisters of Christ. By being our Redeemer, He makes us His kinsmen." -- GotQuestions.org Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

For further thought:

(3k) Thinking about Ruth 3:14 – Why do you suppose they wanted to keep it secret?

(3l) It was seven weeks from Boaz and Ruth's first meeting to their engagement. How long did you wait before proposing or agreeing to marriage? Why?

(3m) Thinking about Ruth 3:10 – Why do you think Boaz considered her offer a kindness when she was poor and he was rich?

(3n) If you had been Ruth or Boaz, what would you have been feeling? What would you have done differently?

(3o) If someone asked you what Ruth chapter 3 was about what would you tell them?

(3p) What did you learn about Ruth chapter 3 that you would like to remember?

(3q) What verse or passage from Ruth chapter 3 would be best to memorize? Why?

(3r) Read Proverbs 31:10-31. Some say this is a description of Ruth. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Ruth Chapter 4

Please read Ruth Chapter 4 and answer the following questions:

[4A] Ruth 4:1 Where did Boaz go? _____

[4B] Ruth 4:2 Who did Boaz ask to sit down with them? _____

[4C] Ruth 4:3-4 Did the nearer relative agree to buy the land from Naomi? _____

[4D] Ruth 4:5-6 When he realized Ruth was part of the transaction what did he do? _____

[4E] Ruth 4:7-9 What was the symbol of the agreement? _____

[4F] Ruth 4:10 What purpose did Boaz give for marrying Ruth? _____

[4G] Ruth 4:11-12 What women were mentioned in their blessing? _____

[4H] Ruth 4:13-15 What was the gender of Ruth's child? _____

[4I] Ruth 4:16 Who nursed the child? _____

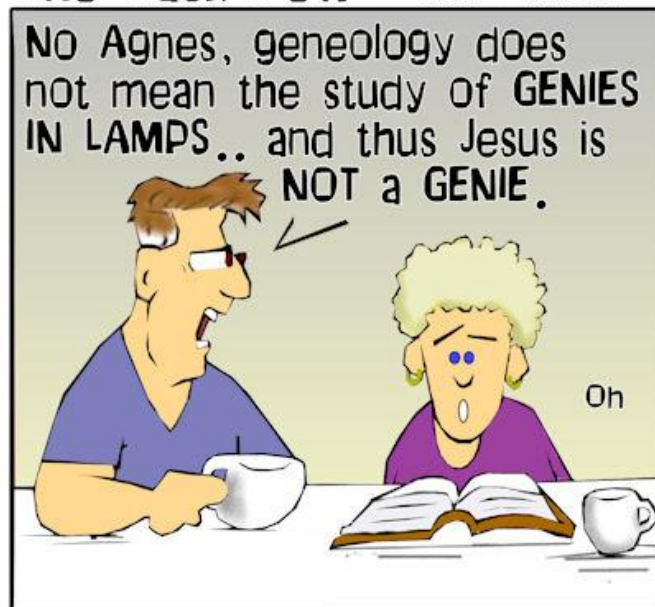
[4J] Ruth 4:17 Who named the child Obed? _____

[4K] Ruth 4:18-21 Who was Obed's grandson? _____

[4L] What do you think is the most important lesson to learn from the book of Ruth? _____

Think & Pray _____

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



The Geneology of Jesus **Mt 1:1-17, Lk 3:23-38**

Ruth Chapter 4

[4A] Ruth 4:1 Where did Boaz go? The gate This is where business was normally conducted.

[4B] Ruth 4:2 Who did Boaz ask to sit down with them? Ten elders They were needed as witnesses to the transfer of the land ownership sort of like a notary public.

[4C] Ruth 4:3-4 Did the nearer relative agree to buy the land from Naomi? Yes

[4D] Ruth 4:5-6 When he realized Ruth was part of the transaction what did he do?

Changed his mind

[4E] Ruth 4:7-9 What was the symbol of the agreement? A sandal

[4F] Ruth 4:10 What purpose did Boaz give for marrying Ruth?

To raise an heir for Elimelech and Mahlon

[4G] Ruth 4:11-12 What women were mentioned in their blessing? Rachel, Leah and Tamar

[4H] Ruth 4:13-15 What was the gender of Ruth's child? Son

[4I] Ruth 4:16 Who nursed the child? Naomi

[4J] Ruth 4:17 Who named the child Obed? The neighbor women

[4K] Ruth 4:18-21 Who was Obed's grandson? David, the King

[4L] "The story of Ruth and Boaz offers many wonderful insights for today. Among them is the principle that God often works through those who have endured tragic situations to change the lives of many others. Second, God will work through unlikely means. Ruth was a poor widow and a foreigner, yet God used her as part of the family line of both David and Jesus. Third, God's sovereign power can be seen. He is in control of everything that happens, even when we do not understand the situation." -- GotQuestions.org. Do you agree? Why or why not?

For further thought:

(4m) Compare Ruth 4:18-22 with 1 Chronicles 2:1-17. What did you learn?

(4n) Obed is Hebrew for "serving." There are at least 4 others with the same name mentioned in the Old Testament. Compare Ruth 4:17 with Luke 1:57-66. Who named you? Who were you named after? Why does it matter?

(4o) Compare Ruth 4:7-9 with Deuteronomy 25:8-10. What did you learn?

(4p) "Despite Ruth's status as a non-Israelite woman, God worked through her life to change many. Ruth serves as clear proof that God desires those from all backgrounds to follow Him and that He can work in our lives in important ways to influence the lives of many." -- GotQuestions.org. Do you agree? Why or why not?

(4q) If someone asked you what Ruth chapter 4 was about what would you tell them?

(4r) What did you learn about Ruth chapter 4 that you would like to remember?

(4s) What verse or passage from Ruth chapter 4 would be best to memorize? Why?