

The Book Of

Ruth



Ruth Reading Schedule

Week 1 –Background and Overview of Ruth

_____ Day 1 - Ruth chapters 1-4 / *An Overview*

_____ Day 2 – Ruth 1:16-17 / *A Committed Friend*

_____ Day 3 - Ruth 1:4; Judges 3:12-14; Matthew 1:5 / *A Heritage*

_____ Day 4 – Ruth 1:1; Judges 21:25 / *Dark Days*

_____ Day 5 – Ruth 1:1-2 / *Let's Begin!*

Week 2 – Ruth 1

_____ Day 1 –Ruth 1:1-5

_____ Day 2 –Ruth 1:6-9

_____ Day 3 –Ruth 1:10-13

_____ Day 4 –Ruth 1:14-18

_____ Day 5 –Ruth 1:19-22

Week 3 – Ruth 2

_____ Day 1 –Ruth 2:1-2

_____ Day 2 –Ruth 2:3-9

_____ Day 3 –Ruth 2:10-13

_____ Day 4 –Ruth 2:14-16

_____ Day 5 –Ruth 2:17-23

Week 4 – Ruth 3:1 – 4:12

_____ Day 1 –Ruth 3:1-4

_____ Day 2 – Ruth 3:5-9

_____ Day 3 –Ruth 3:10-18

_____ Day 4 – Ruth 4:1-6

_____ Day 5 –Ruth 4:7-12

Week 5 – Ruth 4:13-22

& A Study of the Kinsman Redeemer

_____ Day 1 – Ruth 4:13-22

_____ Day 2 – Jesus Christ, Our Kinsman-Redeemer

_____ Day 3 – Worthy Is the Lamb

_____ Day 4 – A Great Gift

_____ Day 5 – Amazing Love

Join the GMG Community:

Share your daily SOAK at 7:00am on

Facebook.com/GoodMorningGirlsWLW

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Welcome to Good Morning Girls! We are so glad you are joining us.

God created us to walk with Him, to know Him, and to be loved by Him. He is our living well, and when we drink from the water He continually provides, His living water will change the entire course of our lives.

Jesus said: "Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ~ John 4:14(ESV)

So let's begin.

The method we use here at GMG is called the **SOAK** method.

- **S** – The S stands for **Scripture** – Read the chapter for the day. Then choose 1-2 verses and write them out word for word. (There is no right or wrong choice – just let the Holy Spirit guide you.)
- **O** – The O stands for **Observation** – Look at the verse or verses you wrote out. Write 1 or 2 observations. What stands out to you? What do you learn about the character of God from these verses? Is there a promise, command or teaching?
- **A** – The A stands for **Application** – Personalize the verses. What is God saying to you? How can you apply them to your life? Are there any changes you need to make or an action to take?
- **K** – The K stands for **Kneeling in Prayer** – Pause, kneel and pray. Confess any sin God has revealed to you today. Praise God for His word. Pray the passage over your own life or someone you love. Ask God to help you live out your applications.

SOAK God's word into your heart and squeeze every bit of nourishment you can out of each day's scripture reading. Soon you will find your life transformed by the renewing of your mind!

Walk with the King!

Courtney, WomenLivingWell.org, GoodMorningGirls.org

Introduction to the Book of Ruth

{Week 1 is an excerpt from the Workbook titled: **Ruth: God's Amazing Love For You** by Courtney Joseph with Beverly Wise}

Preface

The story of Ruth and Boaz is one of the most beautiful examples of God's love and sovereignty recorded in the Bible.

As the Book of Ruth begins you will see two women who were facing the worst days of their lives. They could not have known how God was setting the stage for their greatest blessings to come.

If you have suffered the loss of a loved one or the loss of a dream, then you will know exactly how Ruth felt. Ruth's past could have held her back, but she courageously went forward with her life and she let God direct her paths.

In this study, you will see that you do not have to have a perfect family to be used by God. You will see a friendship that is life changing and you will see that nothing in life happens by accident.

Woven through out this beautiful love story is a greater story of God's amazing love for us. In Week 5, we will take an in-depth look at how Boaz's love for Ruth is a picture of God's love for us. Be sure you finish Week 5 because like the finale of a fireworks show – it is simply the best!

I hope that this verse-by-verse study of the book of Ruth fills you to the brim with hope! Be sure to set aside at least 20 minutes a day for your study and if you fall behind, use the weekends to catch up.

Let's begin this journey together as we walk with the King,

Courtney

Week 1 – Introduction and Overview

Verse of the Day:

If any of you lacks wisdom,

Let him ask God,

Who gives generously to all.

James 1:5

Day 1

Loss, Loyalty, Love and Lineage

Who doesn't enjoy a good love story? The romance genre of books and movies is a billion dollar industry, so I know I'm not alone.

Every winter, my daughter and I pop popcorn and cuddle up on the couch and watch Hallmark Christmas movies. What is the one common theme through all of these family friendly movies? Romance. They are predictable, and that one little kiss at the end, is always the best part!

As we begin our study through the book of Ruth, it's fun to note that this is a beautiful love story. Not only will there be a wedding at the end (so I'm assuming that includes a kiss), but there will also be a baby boy born.

However, this story is about so much more than love and lineage. This story begins with a terrible loss. Following Ruth's great loss, she had a decision to make and there we will see the loyalty of Ruth. Ruth is not only a good friend but she is also a faithful follower of God.

Ruth's story is one of loss, loyalty, love and family lineage...and hope!

If you love God and want His will for your life – you will relate to Ruth.

If you have suffered the loss of a loved one or a dream – you will relate to Ruth.

If you have ever felt like your past might hold you back – you will relate to Ruth.

If you believe redemption is possible for your life no matter what you've gone through – you will relate to Ruth.

So let's get started on our 5-week journey, verse by verse, chapter by chapter, through the book of Ruth!

Your assignment for today is to read through all 4 chapters of the book of Ruth in one sitting. So grab your favorite drink and go to your favorite spot and curl up with a blanket and enjoy! I'll see you back here in 15 minutes.

...

After you complete your reading, take a moment to reflect on the entire story.

Who are the main characters in the book of Ruth?

Discussion Questions:

What is your first overall impression from reading through the book of Ruth?

What insights has the Holy Spirit already revealed to you?

I'm so glad you have committed to studying the book of Ruth with us. Write a prayer below of commitment to God, asking Him to help you complete every page of this study.

We need the help of the Holy Spirit to speak God's truth into our hearts and minds as we read God's Word. James 1:5 says, *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”*

May God give us wisdom on this journey, and may we live well because we are drinking from the living well, the living words of God. Keep walking with the King.

Verse of the Day

*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.*

Ruth 1:16

Day 2

A Committed Friend

There are only 2 books in the Bible named after women: Ruth and Esther. Both of these women had internal beauty. We do not know who the author of the book of Ruth is, but the genealogy in chapter 4 suggests it was written during or after the time of David. Jewish tradition credits Samuel as the author.

In the Hebrew Bible, the book of Ruth is grouped with Song of Solomon, Esther, Ecclesiastes, and Lamentations. Each of these books are associated with Israel's principal feasts and were read by rabbis on special occasions during the year. Ruth was read annually at the Feast of Weeks, also known as the Feast of Pentecost.

Two of the most beautiful verses in the entire Bible are found in Ruth chapter 1.

Write out Ruth 1:16,17 below.

These verses are often read at weddings, but in its context, Ruth said these verses to her mother-in-law, Naomi.

The Hebrew word for Ruth means “*friend*” and “*companion*.”

How do these verses relate to the meaning of Ruth’s name?

What was the only thing that would part Ruth from Naomi?

Ruth was a woman of character, who loved without barriers! She had an interracial marriage and an interracial friendship with Naomi. She was a committed friend because Naomi’s God had become her God. Naomi’s life would forever be changed because of this young woman’s courage to commit her life to her.

Ruth and Naomi’s friendship is a role model for our women friendships.

Ruth said: “*For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge.*”

Perhaps you have a close friend who has moved away. Most likely you keep in touch through yearly visits, phone calls and Christmas cards. Can you imagine making the commitment to move where she lives, so she would never be alone? This was a huge sacrifice!

Ruth said: “*Your people shall be my people.*”

Ruth and Naomi were different ages, races and religions. How would this world be different if women broke down barriers and loved other women different than themselves?

Naomi's love for God gave Ruth a desire to know God. Ruth said, "*and your God my God.*"

When people look at your life do you think they say, "I want her God to be my God?" Do your friendships bring others closer to God?

Sometimes God uses sermons and good books and programs to change women's lives. But the most effective tool for discipleship is friendship. Friendships change lives. We can be tempted to run around doing a thousand different service projects and miss this. Time and consistency and your presence in the life of a friend make a huge difference. It's within friendship where we can talk and walk and wrestle out our faith. It is powerful!

Over our lifetime, we will have a limited amount of time to invest in our friendships. So let's reflect on our friendships and make them matter.

Discussion Questions:

List your closest friends.

How can you be more selfless as a committed friend?

What changes can you make to open yourself up to friendships that cross barriers like race, age and religion?

How can you bring your friends closer to God simply through being a committed friend?

In the end, in Ruth 4:15, it was said of Ruth's love that it was worth more than seven sons. In Hebrew culture sons were highly valued, and the number seven symbolized perfection. So Ruth's friendship was better than Naomi having a perfect family!

If God is not central in our lives, we will be tempted to pursue a perfect family and a perfect life. The reality is, there are no perfect families or lives. The gospel frees us from this bondage of perfection and moves us into grace filled relationships.

Let's choose love and living a committed life today. Close in prayer and ask God to show you how you can be a better friend and draw others closer to God.

The Verse of the Day:

But our citizenship is in heaven,

and from it we await

a Savior, the Lord Jesus.

Philippians 3:20

Day 3 - A Heritage

When my kids were little, we took them to Ellis Island to see where my great grandparents first arrived to America. So we drove 10 hours to Pennsylvania. From there we took a train to Penn Station, a taxi to Battery Park and a ferry to see the Statue of Liberty. From the Statue of Liberty, we boarded another ferry and finally made it to Ellis Island.

Did I mention we waited in line for nearly 2 hours to catch the ferry? Did I mention there was a security check that made us feel like criminals? Did I mention how we were all squished on the ferry to the island? As an impatient American, that was not my favorite experience of the day.

Well, God had a life lesson in store for me that day!

My great grandfather came over on a boat from Hungary, in the early 1900's, so we stood where he once stood. As I read the history of the horrific month long boat ride from Europe to the land of opportunity, I was humbled. The pictures of the travelers squished onto the boat, with only the clothes on their back and nothing but hope packed in their hearts, touched me.

Suddenly the long car ride, train ride, taxi ride, line, security check and ferry ride seemed minor compared to what my great grandfather went through to see Lady Liberty!

Great grandpa came with a dream – to make life better for generations to come and there I stood – living out his dream. Could he have imagined how amazing his great granddaughter's life would be – all because of his sacrifice?

Thank you Lord for such a brave and visionary great grandfather!

Ruth's Heritage:

While my grandpa came to America in hopes of a better life, today we will see that Ruth made a choice that did not necessarily mean she'd have a better life.

Read Ruth 1:4. Ruth was not Jewish. What was her nationality?

Read Genesis 19:30-38. What is the origin of the country of Moab?

This story is a troubling read. After God destroyed the city of Sodom and Gomorrah, the incestuous relations of Lot and his two daughters produced 2 sons, Moab and Ben-ammi. These sons formed the nations of the Moabites and the Ammonites.

Read Judges 3:12-14. What was the relationship like between Israel and the Moabites?

The Moabites and Ammonites were Israel's enemies. The Moabites oppressed Israel for 18 years during the times of the Judges.

Read 1 Kings 11:33. Who did the Moabites worship as their God?

Naomi and her sons immigrated to Moab to avoid death from the famine, and the very thing they feared happened. All 3 men died.

Since Ruth was a Moabite and the Moabites were bitter enemies of the Jews, you can see that Ruth was putting her life in danger to return with her mother-in-law to Bethlehem.

Naomi was too old to work, too old to remarry, her only children were dead, and she had no land. She was in complete poverty. So Ruth was giving up her own life, her own name, and her own people to become a stranger in a foreign land. When Ruth chose to leave her country, she knew it might be a worse life.

We all know the end of the story. It all works out beautifully. But Ruth did not know the end of her story, yet she still chose the selfless way.

Discussion Questions:

Put yourself in Ruth's shoes. After studying the history of her people, what sort of fears do you think Ruth had?

When you make decisions, do you tend to take the selfless route or the selfish route?

It is natural to think that the selfish route will make us happier, but when we choose to trust God and live selflessly, we are free and blessed.

What is your heritage? Did anyone have to make a sacrifice so you could live where you live today?

What is your spiritual heritage? Who made a sacrifice so you could be a child of God?

While I value my American citizenship and the sacrifice of my great grandparents, I value even more my citizenship in heaven and the sacrifice of Jesus for my salvation.

Philippians 3:20 & 21 says,

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Our citizenship is in heaven. This means that we are foreigners in this world and our lives should look different than those who are not citizens of heaven. It means that we should love selflessly, even if it makes us uncomfortable. We have a great hope of heaven.

Let's close our study today by glancing at Matthew chapter 1. This is the genealogy of Jesus. Look specifically at verse 5. There are two women's names. Who are they?

Friends – this is grace at its best! Rahab a prostitute and Ruth a Moabite are both in the genealogy of Jesus Christ! Do you know what this means? This means it doesn't matter where you've come from or what you've done, God wants to use you. All he asks is for your complete surrender and a willingness to live selflessly for his glory.

Our citizenship is in heaven. Let's live for eternity!

Verse of the Day

For the grace of God

has appeared,

bringing salvation for all people.

Titus 2:11

Day 4 - Dark Days

Today is our final day of overview. Tomorrow we will begin our verse-by-verse study through the book of Ruth.

Ruth lived during one of Israel's lowest points spiritually.

According to Ruth 1:1, when did the story of Ruth take place?

The book of Ruth occurred during the days of the judges, before Israel had kings to rule over them. Even though Ruth is placed in the Bible chronologically after the book of Judges, the events in Ruth occurred during these days.

The approximate dates when the judges ruled are 1400 – 1050 BC. The events in Ruth are believed to have occurred closer to the beginning of the 350-year period than the end of the period.

How does Judges 21:25 describe the culture in Israel, during the days when the judges ruled?

If you read through the book of Judges, you will see that the nation of Israel was weak in its faith. They were disobedient to God and held to no absolutes.

“Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”

These were very dark days.

It is into this cultural setting that we see the lives of Ruth and Boaz lived out as examples of obedience, purity and faith. Even in the darkest of times, God is always at work in the hearts and lives of those who are faithful to Him.

Discussion Questions:

Read 2 Timothy 3:1–5. Do you think the times we are living in resemble the dark days of the judges from the past? Explain your answer.

How then should we as Christians commit to live our lives regardless of cultural norms?

Our times parallel the times of the judges, since today everyone is doing what is right in his own eyes. We must be careful to live obediently according to the Word of God so that we can continue to receive blessings and enjoy our relationship with God.

We need to be “lights” in an increasingly “dark” world.

As we study the book of Ruth, we will learn that even in the midst of our spiritually dark, sinful culture, we, as followers of Jesus Christ, are to live out our faith to the glory of God. Our ultimate hope is in our Savior, our Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Titus 2:11-14 says, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works."

Have you chosen to follow Jesus?

If you have not received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, confess your sins (I John 1:9), believe and receive Him now. Jesus Christ is our only Hope!

Let's Pray.

Dear Heavenly Father,

You are so good. Thank you for the sacrifice of your Son and the forgiveness of our sins. Forgive us for putting our hope and trust in the wrong things. Please open our eyes and hearts to understand your word clearly. Help us to obey and honor you with our lives. Change us, and make us more like you.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

The Verse of the Day

*God is our
refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.*

Psalm 46:1

Day 5- Let's Begin

I remember back in my high school English class, reading novels at home. Then in class we would discuss them. I was always amazed at how much I would learn during our class discussions. I had missed much of the symbolism and underlying meanings when reading the book on my own. Sometimes I wondered if the book we were discussing in class was the same book I had read at home. I was such a literal reader that the figurative language fell flat on me, and I needed the insight of others to draw it out.

If you are new to the book of Ruth, you may miss some of the symbolism. That's okay! As we come to the end of the study, I will explain how Boaz is a picture of Jesus, acting in grace to redeem Ruth. There are also quite a few other interesting lessons woven into this book that we will see in the end.

The words "redeem", "redeemer" and "kinsman-redeemer" are key words in this book. They are used 20 times. Another key word is LORD, which in Hebrew is Yahweh, and it is used 17 times. This is the covenant name for God.

Throughout this study we are going to do some color-coding. The color-coding is optional. If you want to do this in your Bible, you may. If this makes you uncomfortable, you can purchase a special Bible just for coloring in, print out the book of Ruth from the Internet, or skip this part of the study. Do whatever works for you. The point of color-coding is to help us slow down and soak in God's Word, as we read it carefully.

We will be using the English Standard Version (ESV) since it is a close word for word translation of the original scriptures. But you may use whatever version you prefer.

GMG BIBLE COLORING CHART

COLORS	KEY WORDS
PURPLE	God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Saviour, Messiah
PINK	women of the Bible, family, marriage, parenting, friendship, relationships
RED	love, kindness, mercy, compassion, peace, grace
GREEN	faith, obedience, growth, fruit, salvation, fellowship, repentance
YELLOW	worship, prayer, praise, doctrine, angels, miracles, power of God, blessings
BLUE	wisdom, teaching, instruction, commands
ORANGE	prophecy, history, times, places, kings, genealogies, people, numbers, covenants, vows, visions, oaths, future
GRAY	Satan, sin, death, hell, evil, idols, false teachers, hypocrisy, temptation

Let's begin!

In Ruth chapter 1, we will learn about two women, two countries, and two decisions. Go to God in prayer, asking God's Spirit to reveal His truth to you, as you study His Word.

Now open your Bible to Ruth chapter 1. Slowly read verses 1 & 2 and color-code the verses. Mark them orange because these two verses cover history, time, place, and people.

We have already established that the events taking place in the book of Ruth occurred "*in the days when the judges ruled*". (Ruth 1:1) The nation of Israel was in steep spiritual decline because "*everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*" (Judges 21:25)

As our story unfolds in chapter 1, we are given a window into the lives of a family of four, living in Judah during these dark days when the judges were ruling over the people of Israel.

According to Ruth 1:1, what happened in Judah to cause a man and his family to choose to leave their homeland and travel to a foreign country, remaining there for a period of time?

The famine must have been very severe for this family to leave their home to go and live in Moab.

Sometimes in the Old Testament, we see God withholding rain causing a drought, which would result in famine in the land of Israel because the people were disobedient to God's Law. God would use these times of famine as discipline or judgment upon His people, to bring them back to Him in repentance. An example of this can be seen in I Kings 17-18, during the days of Elijah.

Famines could also occur for other reasons. Please read Judges 6:1-6. What caused the famine for Israel according to these verses?

Once again, in the early days of the judges, the people of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and there was military oppression and war. The Midianites would invade, stripping the land of all its produce and crops, which left the Israelites with very little food to eat.

The godly people as well as the ungodly people all suffered.

According to verse 1, in what specific city in Judah is this family from?

Bethlehem was surrounded by grain fields that gave it its name, which means “House of Bread.” But there was no bread in Bethlehem at this time because of the famine.

Bethlehem was located in the territory given to the tribe of Judah, about 6 miles south of Jerusalem. We are familiar with this city because it is the birthplace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This family of four left Bethlehem and traveled to Moab, about 50 miles east on the other side of the Dead Sea. Obviously, there was no famine in Moab, and they probably only planned to live in Moab temporarily until the famine in Judah ended. We have seen that the nation of Moab had oppressed Israel, and they were a nation of idol worshipers.

How does God describe Moab in Psalm 60:8? (Repeated also in Psalm 108:9)?

The Amplified Bible says, “*Moab is my wash pot.*” In other words, they are his footbath, fit for the lowest form of servitude.

God is reminding and reassuring His people Israel that He is in possession of the land, and He is sovereign, in charge of the nations.

What were the names of the four family members moving to Moab according to verse 2?

Hebrew names usually carried a meaning.

Elimelech, the father's name, means “*my God is King,*” testifying to his faith in God.

Naomi, the mother's name, means “*the pleasant one.*”

The son's names, Mahlon and Chilion, mean “*the sick, weakling*” and “*the pining one*”. The sons’ names could indicate they were unhealthy, sickly and weak.

Verse 2 tells us they were Ephrathites, which means “*fruitful place.*” This is what the people were called who were from the region around Bethlehem-Ephrathah.

Discussion Questions:

Naomi followed her husband’s lead away from the Promised Land, into a foreign country with foreign customs. How do you think she felt in this new land?

Naomi’s husband’s choices led to her instability. Have you ever had a time when someone else’s choices caused you to suffer? How did God show up in the midst of your suffering?

Our God’s love is constant and never changing. Even on our hardest days, he is there with us and taking care of us. Sometimes we cannot see what is ahead or how He will provide for our needs or solve our problems. But He is there. Though this book of the Bible may be named after Ruth, this story is also about Naomi and how God lovingly took care of her. God cares for the least of these.

Continue to put your trust in God. He loves you!

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”

Psalm 46:1

Let's close out our week of Bible study in prayer.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your Word and for what you have taught us this week. Help us to apply all that we have learned. Thank you for your loving care and constant presence in our lives. Help us to follow your lead and trust you more.

In the strong name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

If you would like to continue the rest of this in-depth study using the “***Ruth: God’s Amazing Love For You***” in-depth Study Guide - you can find it available on www.WomenLivingWell.org or out on Amazon here: <https://amzn.to/2N4xi1x> or use the following pages to SOAK the book of Ruth on your own. You will find an explanation of how to use the SOAK method at the beginning of this journal. Also, you will find that the final four days of Week 5, have been included in this journal. This is so you don’t miss out on a deeper look at the Kinsman-Redeemer. I hope it helps you in your study! ☺

Week 2

RUTH 1:1-5

S – The S stands for Scripture

O – The O stands for Observation

A – The A stands for Application

K – The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer

RUTH 1:6-9

S – The S stands for Scripture

O – The O stands for Observation

A – The A stands for Application

K – The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer

RUTH 1:10-13

S – The S stands for Scripture

O – The O stands for Observation

A – The A stands for Application

K – The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer

RUTH 1:14-18

S – The S stands for Scripture

O – The O stands for Observation

A – The A stands for Application

K – The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer

RUTH 1:19-22

S – The S stands for Scripture

O – The O stands for Observation

A – The A stands for Application

K – The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer

Week 3

RUTH 2:1-2

S – The S stands for Scripture

O – The O stands for Observation

A – The A stands for Application

K – The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer

RUTH 2:3-9

S – The S stands for Scripture

O – The O stands for Observation

A – The A stands for Application

K – The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer

RUTH 2:10-13

S – The S stands for Scripture

O – The O stands for Observation

A – The A stands for Application

K – The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer

RUTH 2:14-16

S – The S stands for Scripture

O – The O stands for Observation

A – The A stands for Application

K – The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer

RUTH 2:17-23

S – The S stands for Scripture

O – The O stands for Observation

A – The A stands for Application

K – The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer

Week4

RUTH 3:1-4

S – The S stands for Scripture

O – The O stands for Observation

A – The A stands for Application

K – The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer

RUTH 3:5-9

S – The S stands for Scripture

O – The O stands for Observation

A – The A stands for Application

K – The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer

RUTH 3:10-18

S – The S stands for Scripture

O – The O stands for Observation

A – The A stands for Application

K – The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer

RUTH 4:1-6

S – The S stands for Scripture

O – The O stands for Observation

A – The A stands for Application

K – The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer

RUTH 4:7-12

S – The S stands for Scripture

O – The O stands for Observation

A – The A stands for Application

K – The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer

Week 5

RUTH 4:13-22

S – The S stands for Scripture

O – The O stands for Observation

A – The A stands for Application

K – The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer

Verse of the Day

*You are not your own,
for you were bought with a price.*

So glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:20

Day 2 - Jesus Christ, Our Kinsman-Redeemer

Begin with prayer.

During the first week of our study together, I mentioned my high school English class and how I needed the class discussions to draw out the symbolism in a story. Today I am excited to begin an in-depth look at the symbolism that is woven throughout the book of Ruth. This is beyond exciting to me especially because it is so personal. While I have grown very fond of Ruth and Boaz, it is the God of Ruth and Boaz that I deeply love. Learning more about how God loves me is so comforting.

1 Corinthians 6:19 & 20 says,

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

Friends, Satan longs to own you, but he did not buy you. He can't have you. You were bought with the price of Jesus' blood. You are God's! You belong to Him, and He belongs to you. Let's take a deeper look at this truth in the book of Ruth.

Let's begin with a brief review of the duties of the kinsman-redeemer:

1.) The kinsman-redeemer had to be a close blood relative.

Look at Ruth 2:1. Was Boaz a close blood relative? Yes or No (circle one)

2.) He was to redeem the land. (Leviticus 25:25)

Look at Ruth 4:9. Did Boaz redeem the land? Yes or No

3.) He was to redeem a blood relative from slavery if they had become so poor that they had sold themselves into slavery, which was a common

occurrence in ancient Bible times. (Leviticus 25:47-49)

Look at Ruth 4:10. Did Boaz buy Ruth? Yes or No

4.) He must be willing to redeem. (Ruth 4:3-6)

Look at Ruth 3:9-13. Was Boaz willing to redeem Ruth? Yes or No

A nearer relative, closer than Boaz, was not willing to redeem both the land and Ruth. (Ruth 4:3-6)

5.) He must be able to pay the redemption price. (Ruth 4:9-10)

Look at Ruth 4:9-10. Was Boaz able to pay the redemption price? Yes or No

6. There is one additional duty we have not yet studied. A kinsman-redeemer was also the “avenger of blood.”

A kinsman-redeemer was to avenge the murder of a close, blood relative. Blood avengers were appointed to kill only a murderer of a close relative, not one who had unintentionally killed a relative. One who committed an unintentional murder could flee to a city of refuge for protection from the blood avenger. (Numbers 35:9-21)

Israel was instructed by God that the shedding of innocent blood was always to be avenged. The Biblical penalty for murder was capital punishment instituted by God in Genesis 9:5-6.

So far we have reviewed the duties of the kinsman-redeemer, and we have seen the picture that Boaz provided of our kinsman-redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Now let's look at the best part – Jesus and His love for us!

Look back at the list of qualifications. What was the first qualification Jesus had to fulfill in order to redeem us?

Read John 1:1-2 & 14. How did Jesus fulfill the first qualification of being a close, blood relative?

When Jesus, who is God, became a man, He fulfilled the requirement and fully qualified to become our redeemer.

Read Luke 1:30-35 and Galatians 4:4. What do you learn about the supernatural birth of Jesus?

The Holy Spirit came upon Mary, who was a virgin, and she conceived a son. God is His Father. Mary gave birth to a flesh and blood baby boy, the Son of the Most High God. Jesus did not cease to be God when He took on humanity. Jesus is fully God and fully man.

Discussion Question:

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus Christ was willing to leave the glories of heaven to come to earth and take on the form of a man?

You are so loved and valued!

What a great sacrifice Jesus was willing to make on our behalf.

The story of Ruth and Boaz is one of the most beautiful examples of God's love and sovereignty recorded in the Bible. The redemption and the relationship between Boaz and Ruth help us to have a deeper understanding of our own redemption and relationship with Jesus Christ.

Just as Boaz became Ruth's kinsman-redeemer and redeemed his Gentile bride, so Jesus Christ, our kinsman-redeemer, will redeem His own Gentile bride, the church.

Jesus is our Bridegroom, and we are His bride. Someday our Bridegroom will come to claim us. He will take us to be with Him forever, and we will celebrate the marriage supper of the Lamb. (Revelation 19:7)

In light of this truth, may we rejoice and give God praise as we are *“waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”* (Titus 2:13)

Verse of the Day

*“Worthy is the Lamb
who was slain,
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and might and honor
and glory and blessing!”*

Revelation 5:12

Day 3 - Worthy is the Lamb!

Begin with prayer.

Yesterday we looked at the first qualification of a kinsman redeemer and how Jesus fulfilled that qualification. Today we'll look at the second qualification.

Do you remember when Boaz went to the nearer kinsman and offered the land and Ruth to him? That man turned down the offer. Do you remember that man's name?

He is unnamed.

Forever his name is forgotten. He was unwilling to make the sacrifice to purchase the land that included Ruth and Naomi.

But Boaz was willing!

No matter the cost and no matter how it affected his reputation, Boaz was willing to make sacrifices to take on Ruth and Naomi and their land. In the same way, Jesus is willing to redeem us, no matter the cost!

Romans 5:6-8 says,

*“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.
For one will scarcely die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

The love that Jesus has for us is a deep sacrificial love. You are so loved!

Let's take a look at the second qualification of a kinsman-redeemer.

Turn back to your lesson from yesterday. What was the second qualification?

Now read Genesis 1:1 & 26-28. Who does the earth belong to, and who was to have dominion or rule over it?

The earth belongs to the Lord because God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in it, but God gave man the responsibility to rule over the earth.

Read Genesis 3:1-7, 22-24 and Romans 5:12. A battle began in the Garden of Eden. Who entered the garden bringing sin and death with him, and what were the consequences of man's disobedience?

The serpent, a manifestation of Satan, (Revelation 12:9), entered the garden and tempted the woman to sin by eating of the forbidden fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eve ate and gave it to Adam who also ate of the fruit. It was at this point that man fell, and sin and death entered the world.

God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden because of their sinfulness.

What do you learn in I John 5:19? Who presently rules over the earth?

We know that the earth does not rightfully belong to Satan, but to the Lord who created it.

Read Revelation 5:1-14. We will look at this in more detail later in our study, but in the future, who is going to redeem the earth and take it back from Satan?

It is believed that the sealed scroll in Revelation, taken from the hand of God by the Lion of the tribe of Judah (the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world), represents the title deed to the earth.

Jesus Christ is the only one who is worthy to take the scroll, redeem the earth, and take back what was lost under Adam. This will put an end to Satan's rule over the earth. Jesus will redeem the earth and rule and reign over it.

Look at Revelation 5:9-10, and Revelation 20:4-6. Who will also be ruling and reigning with our kinsman-redeemer, Jesus Christ?

Believers will rule and reign with Christ as God had originally intended for them to do. We will receive back what was lost under Adam.

Discussion Question:

Is your heart leaping right now at all of these connections between Ruth and Boaz and Jesus and us? Share what you are feeling and how God is speaking directly to you through his Word.

I hope today's reading has filled you to the brim with hope! I am simply in awe of how God has orchestrated this picture of His deep love for us.

Praise His holy name!

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

Revelation 5:12

Verse of the Day

*Thanks be to God
for his inexpressible gift!
2 Corinthians 9:15*

Day 4 - A Great Gift!

Begin with prayer.

In chapter one, Ruth and Naomi were facing the worst days of their lives. They could not have known how God was setting the stage for their greatest blessings to come. In the same way, in our darkest moments, we cannot see what is up ahead, but we have a sovereign God who is at work in our lives for our good and His glory.

Naomi and Ruth chose to trust God with their lives; and as a result He blessed them. We too need to trust God even in the hard times, because we have a redeemer who loves us and wants to bless us too.

Let's take a deeper look at the next 3 qualifications for the kinsman-redeemer.

Turn back to your lesson from Day 2 of this week. What is the third qualification?

In our earlier studies, we saw that redemption can mean to set free by paying a price. It also means to purchase or ransom.

Read John 8:34, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:16 and 2 Peter 2:19. How have we been enslaved? What are we slaves to?

Spiritually, all of us are in bondage to sin and to Satan. We cannot set ourselves free from the power of sin, the penalty of sin, or the presence of sin in our lives.

Look at Acts 4:11-12 and John 8:34-36. Who alone can provide freedom and redemption to us from our sins?

The only one who can set us free from our sins is Jesus, so we must put our faith in Him. He alone has the power to save and redeem us.

Look back at Day 2 and write out the fourth qualification below.

What do you learn from the following verses: Mark 10:45, Luke 22:39-46, John 1:29, John 10:14-18, Ephesians 1:7, Philippians 2:5-11, and Revelation 5:9? What was the redemption price, and was Jesus willing to pay it to redeem us?

Jesus humbly and willingly laid down His life for us when He shed His blood and died on the cross. He gave His life as a ransom for many and purchased us from the slave market of sin to set us free to serve the living God.

Flip back to Day 2, one last time. What is the fifth qualification?

Look up Hebrews 4:14-16, Hebrews 9:12-14, 22, I Peter 1:18-19, and I John 3:4-5.

Was Jesus able to pay the ransom price? What made His shed blood worthy to redeem us from our sins?

Yes! His sinless, unblemished shed blood on the cross was the ransom price paid that satisfied God's wrath against the sins of the whole world. (Hebrews 2:17, and I John 2:2)

Boaz loved Ruth and redeemed her with money so that she could become his wife, but we were not redeemed with perishable things such as silver or gold. We have been eternally redeemed with the precious blood of Jesus!

Discussion Question:

John 3:16-17 are very popular verses. Now that we have a fresh understanding of Jesus' work on the cross, how do these verses touch you more personally? What do you learn about God's heart in them?

God loved us so much that He Himself provided the ransom price for our sins. God sent His Son into the world to purchase for Himself a bride, the church, with His own unblemished blood.

Jesus was willing and able to pay the redemption price, which was free to us, but came at a great cost to Him!

Oh what a glorious gift!

"Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!"

2 Corinthians 9:15

Let's pause to pray and give thanks to our great redeemer, Jesus Christ!

The Verse of the Day

*May the God of hope
fill you with all joy
and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the
Holy Spirit you may
abound in hope.*

Romans 15:13

Day 5 - Amazing Love

Begin with prayer.

We have reached our final day of our study in the book of Ruth and today's reading and conclusions are amazing! This is like the finale of a fireworks show – it's simply the best! But before we begin, I want to look back for a moment.

Ruth's story was one of loss, loyalty, love and family lineage...and hope!

If you love God and want His will for your life, then you are like Ruth.

If you have suffered the loss of a loved one or a dream, then you are like Ruth.

If you have ever felt like your past might hold you back, then you are like Ruth.

And if you believe redemption is possible for your life no matter what you've been through, then you are like Ruth.

Hold on to hope!

Remember that friendships change lives.

Remember that you don't have to have a perfect family to be used by God.

Jesus' family line is filled with people who are not perfect.

Remember that we are foreigners in this world because our citizenship is in heaven.

Remember that nothing in your life happens by accident.

You are a part of the greatest love story of all time, and that love story is between you and your kinsman-redeemer, Jesus. He was willing to pay the price for you, and He loves you.

So let's look at the final qualification.

The sixth and final qualification of the kinsman-redeemer was his responsibility to avenge the murder of a close blood relative.

Let's review. What were God's instructions to Israel when innocent blood had been shed? Read Genesis 9:6. How was the blood of the murdered person to be compensated for?

Because God created man in His own image, when a human life was taken, the murderer was to be put to death.

In Numbers 35:19, who does Scripture say was to carry out this penalty for the intentional taking of a human life?

The close relative, the kinsman-redeemer, was to avenge and put to death the murderer. It was his duty to act as the blood avenger.

We have seen that Jesus left the glories of heaven to take on human flesh so that He could be our close relative, our kinsman-redeemer, and act as our blood avenger.

Read John 8:44, Romans 3:23 and Romans 5:12. When was mankind murdered, and who murdered him?

Satan is a liar and a murderer. He was a murderer from the beginning when he entered the Garden of Eden and brought about the fall of man. Death came through sin and has spread to all men because "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Satan brought death to Adam and Eve and to every human being ever since.

Who is responsible to act as our blood avenger and kill the devil, the murderer of mankind?

Our kinsman-redeemer, Jesus Christ, is our blood avenger because He became a close relative when He became a man.

This event is yet future, but ultimately a time is coming when God is going to avenge the blood of His people, Israel. What do you learn in Joel 3:11-21, especially verses 19-21?

God will act as the blood avenger for Israel. These verses are referring to when Jesus Christ returns to earth a second time. The nations are going to be judged by God for the way they have treated God's people, Israel. God will avenge the innocent blood that has been shed in Judah and Jerusalem.

Look up Revelation 19:11-20:10. What do you learn about the final avenging of the blood of the bride of Christ, the church? What about Satan? When will he be destroyed?

Once again, we are speaking of the future. Our kinsman-redeemer, Jesus Christ, is going to return from heaven to earth in all His glory!

Jesus is coming in righteous judgment to destroy the wicked, to defeat Satan and to establish His kingdom and take control of the earth. Satan will be bound for 1000 years during which time the Lord and His saints will rule and reign upon the earth. There will be one final attempt at rebellion by Satan against God, but it will fail. Satan will then be cast into the lake of fire where he will be tormented day and night forever.

Those of us who have put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ will be eternally blessed to enter His kingdom where we will live with our kinsman-redeemer,

our Bridegroom, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords giving praise and worship to our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Messiah, forever and ever!!

“AMEN. COME, LORD JESUS!”

Revelation 22: 20

Isn't this so exciting? What amazing love!

Jesus Christ truly is our kinsman-redeemer!

Just as Ruth put herself at the feet of Boaz and believed his promise to her, we too must humble ourselves and put ourselves at the foot of the cross and believe the promises of God.

Naomi found hope again because the Lord had not left her without a redeemer.

Our only hope is found in Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

What have you learned about God from reading the book of Ruth?

What have you learned about your own life from reading the book of Ruth?

Romans 15:13 says: *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”*

Praise God, He has not left us without a redeemer!

Our hope is in Him, and Him alone.

Our King and Redeemer is coming soon!

He loves you so. Keep walking with the King.