



The Book of Ruth *Discussion Questions*

Week 1

Day 1

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

What insights has the Holy Spirit already revealed to you?

Day 2

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?

Day 3

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?

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?

Day 4

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?

Day 5

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?

Week 2

Day 1

Elimelech faced a difficult decision regarding the welfare of his family. Do you think he made the right decision, moving his family into a pagan land so that they would have food to eat, or do you think he should have stayed in Bethlehem, waiting for the famine to end, trusting God to provide for the needs of his family?

Was Elimelech doing "what was right in his own eyes" rather than trusting God? Do you think his faith was weak?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:7. What does this verse teach us about how God wants us to live?

Day 2

Have you ever wept when you said goodbye to a loved one? Who was that person, and what were you feeling as you said goodbye?

Now imagine these three women saying their goodbyes. What does their relationship teach us about mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law?

Day 3

Looking again at Ruth 1:12-13, do you think Naomi had lost hope because of the difficult, bitter circumstances she'd endured during her last 10 years living in Moab?

Did she blame God for the painful loss of her husband and two sons? Explain your answer.

Have you personally seen God's hand at work in your own life? In what ways?

How does seeing Naomi's faith help you to hold on to hope, even in the midst of difficult circumstances?

Day 4

When you placed your faith in Christ, was it an emotional decision or a life long commitment?

What has your faith cost you?

Is there any part of your heart that sometimes longs for the world or your old ways?

Day 5

Have you ever felt empty, hopeless and bitter like Naomi?

Where do we need to go to find our hope?

What do you learn in Romans 15:13?

Week 3

Day 1

What are some practical examples of ways to care for others in need?

Share a time when you helped meet someone's need, the manner in which you helped meet their need, and how God blessed you for your generosity.

Day 2

Does God still work in our lives and guide us today? What do you learn in Philippians 2:13?

Can you give an example from your own life where God was clearly at work, guiding you to accomplish His plan and purpose for you?

Day 3

How do you live counter to your culture? Do you daily seek to obey God's will according to His Word, whether it is “politically correct” or the popular thing to do? Can others see through your righteous living that you are a righteous woman?

Day 4

How do we know that Ruth was not a wasteful person? What did she do with her leftover food? (Look at 2:18)

According to Mark 6:42-44, how many people were fed, how abundant was the provision of food, and what was done with the leftovers?

What can we learn from the example of Jesus and Ruth in these passages of Scripture?

Day 5

Just as Naomi experienced a turning point in her life, have you ever experienced a time in your own life when your bitterness was turned to faith and hope in God?

As we close out our study of chapter 2, what character traits do you admire in Boaz?

What character traits do you admire in Ruth?

Week 4

Day 1

Read Psalm 127 and 128. What does God say is needed to build a family and a home that is blessed by Him?

Day 2

What do we learn about God's Word in 2 Timothy 3:16-17? How does Scripture provide teaching and training for godly living?

Like Ruth, are you willing to take godly, Biblical instruction from others? Why or why not?

Day 3

Proverbs 31:10-31 describes the virtuous woman. Read these verses and compare your character and actions to the woman described in Proverbs 31. Are there any character traits you need to work on?

Day 4

Is there something in your life today that you are worried about? What is the next hard thing that you need to do?

How does watching Ruth's strength as she waits on the Lord to sovereignly work things out in her life encourage you?

Day 5

What can we learn from this passage of Scripture about marriage, the family and prayer?

Week 5

Day 1

What lessons can we learn from Ruth? How is Ruth's love, loyalty and care for her aging mother-in-law a model for us to follow?

Day 2

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?

Day 3

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.

Day 4

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?

Day 5

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?