

STUDY

Ruth Bible Study Questions and Answers (Free PDF)

A 5-session walk through Ruth, from a famine in Bethlehem to the birth of Obed, with an answer key for leaders. Free to print, no sign-up.

A 5-session study of Ruth for groups or solo reading.

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.

Ruth 1:16 (NIV)

"Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter."

Ruth 1:20 (NIV)

May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.

Ruth 2:12 (NIV)

The study guide

SESSION 1 · RUTH 1:1-22

Empty and Bitter

A famine drives Naomi's family to Moab, where her husband and sons die. She returns to Bethlehem with Ruth, a Moabite widow who will not leave her side, and she arrives bitter and empty-handed.

1. What losses does Naomi suffer in Moab, and what does Ruth say to her in Ruth 1:16-17?

2. How does Naomi describe God in Ruth 1:20-21, and why do you think Ruth chooses him anyway?

3. Where have you felt like Naomi, full when you left and empty when you came back, and who stayed beside you?

SESSION 2 · RUTH 2:1-23

Gleaning in Boaz's Field

Ruth goes to glean behind the harvesters and finds herself in the field of Boaz, a relative of Naomi's husband. He shows her kindness and protection beyond anything she could have asked.

1. How does Boaz treat Ruth in Ruth 2:8-16, and what has he heard about her according to Ruth 2:11?

2. Ruth 2:3 says she happened to come to Boaz's field. Why might the writer tell it that way, and what does Ruth 2:20 show about who was really leading her?

3. Where has God met a need in your life through someone's plain, everyday kindness?

SESSION 3 · RUTH 3:1-18

At the Threshing Floor

Naomi sends Ruth to Boaz at the threshing floor to ask for his protection as a guardian-redeemer. He blesses her and promises to see the matter settled, though a nearer relative stands first in line.

1. What does Naomi tell Ruth to do, and what does Ruth ask of Boaz in Ruth 3:9?

2. What does Boaz say about Ruth's character in Ruth 3:10-11, and what does his answer show about how he keeps the law and his word?

3. Where is God asking you to trust wise counsel and then wait for him to settle what you cannot?

SESSION 4 · RUTH 4:1-12

The Redeemer at the Gate

At the town gate Boaz brings the matter before the elders. The nearer relative declines, and Boaz redeems Naomi's land and takes Ruth as his wife, while the people bless them.

1. What does Boaz put before the nearer relative in Ruth 4:3-5, and why does the man step aside in Ruth 4:6?

2. What does Boaz's redemption cost him, and how do the elders and townspeople respond in Ruth 4:11-12?

3. What would it mean for you to stand as a redeemer for someone this week, at some cost to yourself?

SESSION 5 · RUTH 4:13-22

A Son and a Line

Ruth bears a son, and the women of Bethlehem praise God for Naomi's restored joy. The closing genealogy shows that the boy, Obed, is the grandfather of King David.

1. What do the women say to Naomi in Ruth 4:14-15, and who is the child in Ruth 4:17?

2. Why do you think the book ends with a family line that reaches David, and what does Ruth's place in it say about God's welcome of outsiders?

3. Where has God turned your emptiness into something you could not have planned, and how will you thank him for it?
