

SECOND DAY: Read Ruth 1

1. Naomi's story begins with a factual account of the devastating circumstances surrounding her and her family. Read the following verses and write what they reveal about this:
 - a. Ruth 1:1-3
 - b. Ruth 1:4,5
 - c. Ruth 1:6,7

2. Think about these bereaved women, Naomi and her two young daughters-in-law beginning a long journey back to Naomi's homeland in Israel, facing an uncertain future. Summarize their dialogue from Ruth 1:8-13.
 - a. What does this scene suggest to you about their relationship?
 - b. How would you describe Naomi's example as a mother-in-law?

3. Read Ruth 1:14-17. Notice the significant decisions these two young women made. Share what impresses you the most about Ruth's decision.
 - a. What could be so compelling about Naomi that Ruth chose to follow her?

4. When Naomi realized, Ruth was determined to go with her, *she stop urging her* (Ruth 1:18 TLP) and the two traveled on to Bethlehem. From Ruth 1:19-22 describe what happened when they finally arrived.
 - a. Naomi means *pleasant*. Why did Naomi want those in the city to call her *Mara*?

(1.) What insight does this give us into her thoughts and feelings?

(2.) How might we minister to someone like Naomi who has suffered from painful experiences?

*Trust in Him at all times; ye people,
pour out your heart before Him:
God is a refuge for us. Selah*
Psalm 62:8

THIRD DAY: Read Ruth 2

1. Naomi and Ruth *came to Beth-lehem in the beginning of barley harvest* (Ruth 1:22b). Even though Naomi was not yet in a place to see it, the Almighty God was working out His beautiful plan for her and her loyal daughter-in-law. Behind the scenes the Lord was sovereignly orchestrating events. What does Ruth 2:1-3 reveal about this?
 - a. Verse 2b reveals that Ruth expected to find grace as she went into the fields to glean. Naomi apparently taught her the laws and customs of the Jews. Observe the events of that day scanning Ruth 2:3-17. Summarize what you see.

2. When Ruth came home and gave her report at the end of that memorable day (Ruth 2:18,19), what was Naomi's reaction? Answer from Ruth 2:20,22.
 - a. Thoughtfully consider Naomi's words. How do they reflect signs of hope and a change of heart?

Advanced Student: *Kinsman* in Ruth 2:20b refers to *the one who redeems*. Research the background of the *kinsman-redeemer* from the Mosaic Law and briefly explain its meaning as revealed in the book of Ruth.

3. Through the *barley* and *wheat harvest* Ruth continued to glean in the fields of Boaz. Pause and think about how the Lord used Boaz to provide for Naomi and Ruth during their time of need. How is this a picture of our Lord?
 - a. Observe the attitudes and actions of Boaz in Ruth 2:4-16, How do they reflect the character of the Lord?
 - b. What does this mean to you today?

Man's extremity is God's opportunity.
-selected

FOURTH DAY: Read Ruth 3

1. The fascinating story continues in Ruth 3:1-4 where we read Naomi's expressions of love and concern for Ruth. What detailed instructions did she give her in verses 3,4?
 - a. This may seem strange to us in our culture, but in that day, it was the accepted practice and there was nothing evil or suggestive about it. Notice Ruth's response in verse 5. Why would she be willing to do this?
2. Look at Ruth 3:6-15 and discover the tender outcome of Ruth following Naomi's directions. In your own words briefly describe what happened.
 - a. The phrase *spread thy skirt over* (verse 9) also translated in some versions *take under your wing*, was a symbolic action denoting protection. What would be the result of his action for Ruth and Naomi?

(1.) Boaz is a type of our Lord. How is His care for believers pictured in Psalm 91:1-6?

3. As you read Ruth 3:16-18 catch the excitement and suspense when Ruth reported to Naomi the results of her encounter with Boaz. Consider the instruction Naomi gave to Ruth as you write verse 18 phrase by phrase.
 - a. Focus on the words *sit still* and *wait*. No more action could be taken; nothing remained but to wait. Draw an application for your life from this instruction.

*We can rest because He doesn't.
We can trust because He finishes.*
-selected

FIFTH DAY: Read Ruth 4

1. In Ruth 4:1-10 we see Boaz taking immediate action to fulfil the role of a kinsman-redeemer. Fill in the blanks from portions of verses 9,10 that reveal how the matter turned out.

And Boaz said... I have _____ that was Elimelech's, and _____ that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of _____. Moreover, _____ the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I _____ to be my _____

2. This story is a beautiful picture of Christ our Kinsman-Redeemer. Who in His humanity was able and willing to redeem (purchase) His bride, the Church, through His on the cross. Selah. Record what Matthew 20:28 and 1 Peter 1:18,19 declare about this.
3. Consider the final chapter in the story of Naomi by reading Ruth 4:13-16. Choose two or three phrases from these verses that reveal the wonderful works of the LORD. Write them here:
 - a. Tell which one of these phrases particularly blesses you and why.
4. How did God use Naomi and Ruth, two ordinary women, to accomplish His extraordinary plans? See Ruth 4:17-22, Matthew 1:5,5 and John 7:42

