

2015 Fellowships Joint Bible Study (9/2015)

Student's Version

Guidelines

- 1. Spread out the work over several days.** Allow time for the things God is teaching you to sink in.
- 2. Pray each time before you start.** Pray for a humble heart and ask God to help you to understand and apply what you have learned.
- 3. Unless specified, answer the questions without consulting the Commentary or Internet.** The goal is to develop a habit to think and meditate God's Word on your own with the help of Holy Spirit.

Ruth 3:1-18

Background

“It seems that several weeks had elapsed between the end of chapter 2 and the beginning of chapter 3. The events of this chapter occur at barley winnowing time, which probably happen after both the barley and the wheat had been cut and gathered at the threshing floor.

Naomi approaches the subject of finding a husband for her daughter-in-law gently, with an affectionate address of Ruth as “My daughter.” This is only one word in Hebrew, but it is highly significant, expressing the relationship between these two women from Naomi's perspective and laying the foundation for the daring scheme she will propose.” - Block

Read Ruth 3:1-6

Why did Naomi find a home for Ruth? What was her motivation? What was her motivation?

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Where in chapter one Naomi expressed the same concern?

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What instructions did Naomi give to Ruth to prepare for meeting Boaz (v. 3)?

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“By removing the symbols and garments of widowhood, Ruth is indicating her intention of engaging once again in the normal activities and relationships of life. She is thus available for the marriage that Naomi seeks for her” - Federic Bush.

What did Ruth do (v. 6)? What do you learn about Ruth from her action?

Meditation/Reflection

If Ruth follows Naomi's advice, what risks might she face?

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Why was Ruth willing to take the risk?

Read Ruth 3:7-18

Boaz found Ruth lying at his feet. What was the significance of the position?

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What did Ruth ask Boaz to do? In today's language, what is the request.

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“Spread the corner of the garment” is an idiom means to marry (see Ezekiel 16:8). . It probably reflects a marriage custom still attested among Arabs whereby a man symbolically took a wife by throwing a garment-corner over her (Hubbard).

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Boaz said, "The Lord bless you, my daughter. This kindness (hesed) is greater than that which you showed earlier."

What was the earlier kindness (Ruth 2:11)?

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What is the current kindness?

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What did Boaz promise to do for Ruth?

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Why didn't Boaz promise to redeem her himself? What does that tell you about Boaz's character?

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What did Boaz do to try to protect her (verses 13-14)?

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What did Naomi tell Ruth to do after hearing what happened in the field?

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Why did Naomi think that Boaz would not rest until the matter is settle that day?

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What are the possible outcomes for Ruth at this point?

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Meditation/Reflection

Boaz praised Ruth of not running after the younger men, whether rich or poor. Why did Boaz help Ruth?

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Why didn't Ruth go after other younger man instead? Why is this a kindness? How is this related to her earlier kindness (Ruth 2:11)?

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What do you learn from Ruth in this study?

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References:

Engaging God's Word: Ruth and Esther. Colorado Springs: Community bible Study, 2012.

Block, Daniel Isaac *The New American Commentary Volume 6 Judges and Ruth.* B&H Publishing Group, 1999.

Cook, David *The Wiersbe Bible Study Series: Ruth and Esther.* Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2008.

Higgs, Liz Curtis *The Girl's Still Got it.* New York: WaterBrook Multnomah, 2012

Hubbard, Robert L. *The NICOT - The Book of Ruth.* Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1988.

James, Carolyn Custis *The Gospel of Ruth: Loving God Enough to Break the Rules.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008

Rivers, Francine *Unshaken.* Wheaton: Tyndale House Rublishers, 2001

Group Sharing Questions

(Bible study leaders: Please make sure everyone is in the Sanctuary for the Wrap Up by 8:30PM. Thanks!!)

Who do you go to ask for spiritual advises when you make plans?

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Have you been in a situation that you knew something was risky/difficult but decided to do it because it was the right thing to do? What gave you the courage?

Read Psalm 127:1 and Proverb 16:9, what do you learn about our effort/plan and God's sovereignty? How do these verses help us to understand Naomi's plan?

PRINCIPLE:

True love/obedience sometimes requires us taking risks, but we know that God is in control.

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