

2015 Fellowships Joint Bible Study (6/2015)

Leader'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 2:12-23

Background

"The [Hebrew] word **hesed** bears a much fuller sense than "kindness" (2:20) as rendered by the NIV. It is one of Yahweh's most treasured characteristics. Hesed is one of those Hebrew words whose meaning cannot be captured in one English word. This is a strong relational term that wraps up in itself an entire cluster of concepts, all the positive attributes of God - love, mercy, grace, kindness, goodness, benevolence, loyalty, covenant faithfulness." (Block)

Also, hesed sums up the ideal lifestyle for God's people. It is the way God intended for human beings to live together from the beginning - the "love-your-neighbor-as-yourself" brand of living, and active, selfless, sacrificial caring for one another that goes against the grain of our fallen natures. (James).

Read Ruth 2:12-16

Who were Boaz's parents? (See Matthew 1:5)

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What do you know about Boaz's mother from the Bible? (See Joshua 2:1-22; 6:17)

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What similarity do you find between Boaz's mother and Ruth?

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From verse 12, how did Boaz comfort Ruth who turned to God for refuge in faith?

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Compare and contrast Boaz's view of God from Naomi's (1:20-21).

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From Ruth's reaction (2:13), what character do you see from that?

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What did Boaz do for Ruth? How was that kindness unusual (see Lev. 19:9-10)?

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Meditation/Reflection

How would you describe Boaz? What can you learn from him?

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Have you experienced unusual kindness before? What was it?

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What unusual kindness have you done lately? What motivated you to do that?

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Read Ruth 2:17-23

An ephah would have weighed about 29 pounds.

Do you think God has begun to fulfill Boaz's prayer in verse 12? Who did God use to do that?

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Ruth saved the left over food for Naomi. What does that tell you about her?

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What was Naomi's reaction after learning that Ruth had been working in Boaz's field?

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Verse 20, the word kindness in Hebrew is hesed (see the background info). Naomi called Boaz's extraordinary treatment of Ruth hesed.

Guardian-redeemers are the near relatives and they have certain duties. What do the following verses say about the duty of the guardian-redeemer?

Lev 25:25 -

Lev 25:47-48 -

Num 5:8 -

Deut 25:5-10 -

Do you think Naomi's view of God changed? How?

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What advice Naomi gave to Ruth? Why?

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Meditation/Reflection

Do you think Boaz knows that God would use him to fulfill his prayer for Ruth? Why did God choose him?

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In the past, have God ever used you to fulfill your prayer for someone? What was it?

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Are you currently praying for someone? Do you think/want God might want to use you to fulfill your prayer?

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If you have something good, who do you usually share that with? Ask God to show you how you can share more of your blessing.

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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 Publishers, 2001

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Group Sharing Questions

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

In this study, we saw how Boaz showed extraordinary kindness (hesed) to Ruth. What are some specific ways you can do to show God's extraordinary kindness and love to the people around you (relatives, coworkers, friends, brothers and sister in Christ)?

Have your view of God changed over the years since you accepted Christ? How? What events caused those changes?

PRINCIPLE: God's loving-kindness extends to all who belongs to Him.

How have you experienced God's love and blessing in your life? Please share.