

Choices: the Book of Ruth



Study Guide



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Series Overview

This study considers the choices that Ruth made at critical points in her life to show us what is involved in making wise choices.

Using This Guide

You may choose to use this guide:

- for personal study and reflection
- as a discussion guide with any group of people interested in making good choices

1 – Choose Family

Icebreaker: Choose Family

If you could choose a family member, what would you look for in an ideal family member?

Questions for Study or Discussion

- In our culture today, how common is it for people to do what seems right in their own eyes (**Jdg 21:25** and **Ruth 1:1**)? What authority do you rely on in your life to help you make wise choices?
- When Naomi’s husband and both her sons died, what choices did she have to consider physically, culturally, and emotionally (**Ruth 1:1-18**)?
- Think about a time that you wanted to choose to walk away from God, your family or church; what were the factors that you weighed in your decision (**Luke 10:38-42**)?
- How do you enter each of the spiritual families?
 - ▶ **John 1:12-13**
 - ▶ **John 8:44**
- How does God save us (**Eph 2:8-9**)?
- Have you made the “Ruth-less” decision to follow Jesus Christ as your Lord (**Rom 10:9-10**)?
- If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, do you cling to Him and follow Him as Ruth did with Naomi, or do you just kiss Him and go back to your old ways as Ruth’s sister did (**Ruth 1:14-18**)?

Dig a Little Deeper

- Use a Concordance or an online tool to look up the meaning of the names of the characters in [Ruth 1:1-18](#).
- Compare the kiss of [Ruth 1:14](#) and [Luke 22:47-48](#).
- Consider the significance of Ruth's birth family ([Deu 23:3-5](#)).
- What is the duty of the husband's brother ([Deu 25:5-10](#))?

2 – Choose Attitude

Icebreaker: Attitude When Sacrificing

Think of a time when you had to suffer or sacrifice to care for someone else. What was your attitude?

Questions for Study or Discussion

- Based on Naomi's words in **Ruth 1:19-21**, what was her attitude?
- Consider Ruth's attitude (**Ruth 2:2**). She offered to take a menial, physically demanding job to support Naomi and herself.
- How can focusing on **Philippians 4:6-9** help your attitude when you are struggling?
- What does **Colossians 3:23-24** tell you about your attitude and actions?
- How is the world around you your field (**Ruth 2:8** and **Mat 13:38**)?
- What attitude do Ruth's words and actions communicate (**Ruth 2:10-13**)? How does this compare with your attitude toward Christ as your Redeemer?
- In **Ruth 2:15-16**, Boaz ordered his workers to purposefully drop extra handfuls for Ruth. Compare this with **Philippians 4:19**. Give an example of a time when God provided extra handfuls in your life.
- What is your focus, the pain you are experiencing, or the desire to seek God and believe He loves you?

Dig a Little Deeper

- Consider the concept of gleaning ([Lev 19:9](#) and [Ruth 2:2](#)). In our culture, what is comparable to gleaning?
- Think about a time when God arranged things to provide you an unexpected blessing or teach you a lesson ([Ruth 2:3](#) and [Rom 8:28](#))? In your opinion, is there such a thing as a “coincidence”? Explain your reasoning.
- Think about what it means to be joyful in the midst of a trial ([Jas 1:2-4](#)). What is the benefit of this attitude?
- Besides biological child, what can daughter or son mean?
 - ▶ [Ruth 2:8](#)
 - ▶ [1Sam 3:6](#)
 - ▶ [1Sam 3:16](#)
- Use a Concordance or an online tool to look up the meaning of the names of the characters in [Ruth 1:19-2:18](#).

3 – Choose Following

Icebreaker: Good Follower

Make a list of characteristics of a good follower.

Questions for Study or Discussion

- Consider Ruth's submission to both Naomi and Boaz ([Ruth 2:21-23](#)). What does mutual submission look like at home, in the work place, and within the church ([Eph 5:21](#))?

- Under whose ultimate authority are you ([1Pet 5:5-6](#))? What is the advantage of being humble?

- How did Ruth's selfless submission affect Naomi's attitude ([Ruth 2:20](#))?

- What lesson can we learn from Jesus' example of submission ([Mark 14:32-36](#))?

- Why is it important to obey those that God has placed over you in a position of authority ([Heb 13:17](#))?

- Is God more interested in your time, your talents, your treasures, or your obedience? Compare your conclusion to [1Samuel 15:22-23](#).

Dig a Little Deeper

- Think about **1Peter 2:13-17**. Remember that Peter wrote it at a time when those in authority were persecuting Christians.

- Joseph, in the book of Genesis, remained submissive and obedient to those in authority even when his family betrayed him, Potiphar's wife falsely accused him, and Potiphar punished him for crimes he did not commit. How was Joseph able to do this?

- Consider Naomi's instructions in **Ruth 3:3** from a spiritual perspective. Before you get close to your redeemer, what can you do to wash and anoint yourself spiritually?
 - ▶ **1Timothy 2:9-10**
 - ▶ **Romans 12:2**
 - ▶ **1John 1:9**

4 – Choose Risking

Icebreaker: Risk Taker?

Under what circumstances are you willing to take a risk?

Questions for Study or Discussion

- How does the scene of Ruth at the feet of Boaz picture a prayer request (**Ruth 3:7-9**)?
- Consider how Boaz praised God's work in Ruth (**Ruth 3:10**). What did Boaz praise Ruth for doing at the beginning? When have you praised God for work He has done in someone's life?
- Boaz stated that Ruth's reputation as a virtuous woman made him inclined to offer her protection (**Ruth 3:11**). What virtues do you possess that would incline God to offer you protection (**Eph 2:8-9**)?
- Look for ways Ruth fits the description of the virtuous woman in **Proverbs 31:10-31**. How do you, as part of the body of Christ, need to be virtuous for the Lord?
- Ruth was in a foreign land and culture (**Ruth 3:17**). She was doing as Naomi asked, seeking protection from someone she did not know. On the surface, this appears to be a big risk. What risky things have you done for God? What risk does God want you to take for him now?
- What keeps you from sharing your faith; from inviting friends and neighbors to worship services; or from giving of your time, talents, and treasures to reach others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
 - ▶ Is it fear (**2Tim 1:7**)?
 - ▶ Is it un-confessed sin (**1John 1:9**)?

Dig a Little Deeper

- In **Ruth 3:17**, note the phrase, “do not go empty-handed.” Contrast this with how Naomi described her situation in **Ruth 1:21**.
- Use a concordance or Bible software to look up every reference in the Gospels to “his feet.” What does this teach you about the relationship between risk and worship.

5 – Choose Waiting

Icebreaker: How Long?

How long can you wait in a line before becoming impatient?
Is waiting easier or more difficult for you than it was a year ago?

Questions for Study or Discussion

- Imagine what it would have been like for Ruth to wait (**Ruth 3:18**). Discuss the thoughts and feelings you would likely have in that circumstance.

- What does it mean to “wait on the LORD” (**Isa 40:31**)?

- What gives a person the ability to wait on God (**2The 3:5**)?

- Ruth was a stranger to this culture. She had to wait for Boaz to deal with the law of her redemption (kinsman redeemer, **Deu 25:5-10**). What did Boaz do in chapter 3? What does this picture about the relationship between us and our spiritual husband (**2Cor 11:2**)?

- As Naomi and Boaz requested, Ruth had patiently waited. What benefits do we experience when we wait on God, as Ruth did (**Ruth 4:9-10, Rom 5:3-5**)?

Dig a Little Deeper

- Read **Psalm 37:1-7**, pausing after each verse to think about it. What is the result of trusting in God? What does it mean to delight in the Lord? Are you waiting patiently on God for anything?
- Compare the genealogy of **Ruth 4:18-22** with **Matthew 1:1-17** (particularly verse 5). What is the significance of God including Ruth as a woman in the line of Christ? What is the significance of including Ruth as a Moabite?
- Compare the picture of Boaz as a redeemer, to Christ as our Redeemer (**Ruth 4:9-10**).
 - ▶ The right to redeem
 - ▶ The power to redeem
 - ▶ The desire to redeem

