
Ruth

Theme

God providentially guides and blesses all who trust Him.

Key Verse

[Ruth 2:12](#)

Things to Notice

The story of Ruth is a rare example of noble love contrasting the state of the world. The book of Ruth is set in the days of Judges. Ruth shows how God continued to offer hope and redemption to other tribes in spite of chaos which often characterized Israel ([Judg 21:25](#)).

Ruth is similar to us, a Gentile seeking refuge from a Jewish protector. Ruth was a Moabite who met the God of Israel, lost her

Jewish husband, and married Boaz as her “kinsman redeemer” ([Deu 25](#)). Ruth pictures Gentiles today who accept Jesus as their Jewish Redeemer and get “spiritually engaged” ([2Cor 11:1-4](#)).

High-Level Outline

Ruth 1	Love is a Choice	Sorrow: Ruth Weeping
Ruth 2	True Love is Sacrificial	Service: Ruth Working
Ruth 3	Love is Humble	Submission: Ruth Waiting
Ruth 4	Love Reaps a Reward	Satisfaction: Ruth Wedding

Personal Reflection and Application

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 1:14-16](#))?

What does a bad attitude do to you ([Ruth 1:19-21](#))? Consider Naomi’s attitude:

- She blamed God for her problems.
- She focused on the bad and didn’t pay attention to how God had blessed her with Ruth.
- She focused on her needs and didn’t see what Ruth or others might need.

What does a good attitude do to you?

- Helps you be kind to difficult people ([Ruth 2:1-3](#))
- Helps you be thankful for what God is doing ([Ruth 2:11-13](#))
- Helps you care for the needs of others ([Ruth 2:14-18](#))

How is your attitude affecting others?

Small Group Conversation Guide

Naomi attempted to turn her daughters-in-law back to their families ([Ruth 1:14-16](#)).

- Why did Orpah choose to go back to her family?
- Why did Ruth choose to stay with Naomi?
- What factors do you think they were considering?

Consider Ruth's attitude ([Ruth 2:2](#)). She offered to take a menial, physically demanding job to support Naomi and herself. Tell about a time when you had to suffer or sacrifice to care for someone else? What was your attitude?

Read [Ruth 2:3](#) and [Romans 8:28](#). Think of a time when God arranged things to provide you an unexpected blessing or to teach you a lesson. Is there such a thing as a "coincidence"?

Discuss how Boaz praised God's work in Ruth ([Ruth 3:10](#)). What does Boaz praise Ruth for at the beginning? When have you praised God for work He has done in someone's life?

Leadership Principles from Ruth

Your Field

Read [Ruth 2:8](#) and [Matthew 13:38](#). Consider the idea of this world as our field. Consider all aspects of your life, your family, your career, your recreational activities. What opportunities does God present to you in those fields?

Taking a Risk

Ruth was in a foreign land and culture. She did as Naomi asked, seeking protection from someone she did not know ([Ruth 3:16-18](#)). 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?

Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each chapter. Try these:

01. What a powerful promise Ruth made to Naomi	02. What Boaz did for Ruth because of her faithfulness
03. How Boaz responded when Ruth asked to be his wife	04. How the "kinsman redeemer" law of Deut 25 worked