



BIBLE STUDY

MAJOR CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE



<https://campus.cru.org/college/bsu/community-group-material/>

STUDY **08**

RUTH

RUTH

OVERVIEW

What Do I Need to Know About the Passage?

RUTH 4

The story begins when a famine forces Naomi, her husband Elimelech, and their sons Mahlon and Kilion to leave Israel and move to Moab to survive. While there, Elimelech dies, and later both sons also die after marrying Moabite women, Ruth and Orpah. Naomi is left grieving and alone with her daughters-in-law. When she hears the famine in Israel has ended, she decides to return home and urges Ruth and Orpah to stay in Moab and remarry. Orpah leaves, but Ruth refuses and promises to stay loyal to Naomi and to Naomi's God.

When Naomi and Ruth arrive in Israel, the story highlights their different attitudes. Naomi is bitter and hopeless after her losses, while Ruth, though a foreigner, shows remarkable loyalty and love. Ruth chooses to support Naomi by working in the fields to gather leftover grain. There she meets Boaz, a kind and godly landowner who is also a relative of Naomi. Boaz protects Ruth and provides for both women, showing the same loyal love that Ruth has shown Naomi.

This loyal, selfless love is captured by the Hebrew word *hesed*, meaning faithful love expressed through action. Ruth demonstrates *hesed* by caring for Naomi through hard work and sacrifice. Boaz also shows *hesed* by generously helping Ruth and Naomi. As Naomi experiences this kindness, her bitterness begins to soften, showing how loyal love and grace can change a person's heart.

Eventually, Ruth and Boaz grow close, and Ruth boldly asks Boaz to marry her according to their customs. Boaz gladly agrees, praising her character and kindness. They marry and have a son named Obed, which restores hope and joy to Naomi. The story ends by revealing that their family line leads to King David and, later, to Jesus, emphasizing the theme of God's faithful and loving care throughout the story.

Group Context Questions

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY AND HOW?

Who: is Ruth in the Bible?

What: did Ruth do in the Bible?

When: is Ruth first seen in the Bible?

Where: is Ruth at in the Bible?

Why: should we know about Ruth?

How: does Ruth and his story impact us?

VOCABULARY WORDS

Hesed

- Many biblical words such as mercy, compassion, love, grace, and faithfulness relate to the Hebrew word *hesed* (חסד). *Hesed* is not merely an emotion or feeling but involves action on behalf of someone who is in need. *Hesed* describes a sense of love and loyalty that inspires merciful and compassionate behavior toward another person.

Redeemer

- "Kinsman-Redeemer" (Goel): In the Old Testament, this was a close relative responsible for buying back sold property, freeing a family member from slavery, or marrying a widow to carry on the family name.

CONTEXT QUESTIONS

Allow your group to share some of their prior knowledge of who this character is and their significance. Familiarize yourself with this character so you can also answer. Make sure to do this in a way that is inclusive of those who may not have any prior knowledge.

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Watch This Video With Your Group

VIDEO LINK HERE: [RUTH VIDEO](#)

This video is a general overview of the entire book of Ruth. It will be very helpful regarding context and background info.

Allow your group to discuss what they gathered from the video. What stuck out to them? Eg. "If you were to take notes over this video what would be some of the main ideas you write down?"

VIDEO

- Feel free to share these videos with your group so they can also watch. You may also find any other outside sources that you might think to be valuable to their understanding of the Word.

What Are the Questions?

RUTH 4

LAUNCH

Can you remember a time when loyalty or servant-heartedness from someone changed the direction of your life? What was that like? What did they do?

RUTH 4: 1-6

1. What sticks out to you? What are some repeated words or ideas?
2. What can be noted about Ruth's character based on the video and passage?
3. What caused the Redeemer, who Boaz talked with in verse 4, to change his mind in verse 6?

RUTH 4: 7-12

4. What was the custom to confirm a transaction concerning redeeming and exchanging?
5. Why was a sandal used to confirm the transaction? What do you think this symbolizes?

6. Where was this transaction made? Why does it matter that it was in public?

7. What do the elders in verse 11 say of this event? Who do they wish Ruth to be like?

RUTH 4: 13-22

8. What do the women say to Naomi? Why was Naomi the one who was redeemed? How is this redeemer described?

9. What is the genealogy of Ruth and Boaz? Why does this matter?

RUTH

QUESTIONS

What Are the Questions? (Continued)

MATTHEW 1: 5-6 & EPHESIANS 1:7

NEW TESTAMENT CORRELATION

In light of this passage, how can we look at these New Testament passages and better understand the character of Christ? How can we use these passages and interpret scripture using other scripture?

MATTHEW 1: 1-6

10. What sticks out to you?
11. How is the story of Ruth culminated in this genealogy?
12. What does this passage in Matthew teach us about God's presence throughout the story of Ruth? (God is not frequently mentioned in Ruth, but He is still active)
13. Who are some unexpected names found in this genealogy? What does this matter?

EPHESIANS 1:7

14. How does this passage relate to the story of Ruth?
15. How can we relate Boaz and his role as a kinsman redeemer to Christ?
16. How do both of these passages help us understand and correlate the Old and New Testament?

APPLICATION

17. How have you experienced being an outsider, but then being welcomed and loved? What redemptive aspects can be found in your life story?
18. Have you ever felt like God is not as active or present in your story, similarly to the reading of Ruth? How do you deal with that? What can you remind yourself of?
19. Have you ever experienced loyalty like the loyalty Ruth displays to Naomi?

FALLEN CONDITION

“What do these passages reveal about our fallen condition?”

- Help your group understand and identify the broken state of humanity due to our sin and where we see that evident in these passages.

CHRIST CENTERED SOLUTION

“What do these passages tell us about Christ's response?”

- Amidst our broken, sinful nature, what does Jesus offer as a solution? Where do we see a solution in these passages?

GRACE ENABLED RESPONSE

“What do these passages teach us about how we should live?”

- How should we live now with these two truths in mind? Develop a one or two sentence long summary of each section to form a summary of what you can learn from these passages.

What Are the Answers?

1. Allow your group to discuss.
2. Ruth is a Moabite woman who, alongside her mother in law, experienced great loss, but displays tremendous loyalty and servitude to Naomi.
3. He wanted the land and inheritance, but did not wish to marry Ruth because that would result in impairing his own inheritance.
4. The exchanging of a sandal.
5. A sandal represents where a person walks. Handing it over says, "I give up my right to tread on this land; it's yours now."
6. It was made in public so that there would be witnesses.
7. They wish for Ruth to be like Rachel and Leah, who built up Israel through their offspring.
8. They say she is blessed and has been redeemed. She is redeemed through a continued bloodline. The redeemer is called a nourisher of life and redeemer of old age.
9. The genealogy of Ruth and Boaz leads to David, a prominent figure in the Old Testament and a shadow of Christ.
10. Allow group to discuss.
11. The story is culminated in the bringing forth of the savior and ultimate redeemer, Jesus.
12. Although He may not be frequently mentioned as compared to other books, He is presently redeeming Naomi and bringing forth the line of David.
13. Tamar and Rahab are both mentioned despite the broken situations they were involved in. These broken individuals are important figures in the genealogy of Christ.
14. This passage helps us understand what a redeemer looks like and does and shows us the culmination of Ruth's line in Christ and what He has done.
15. Just as Boaz brought forth redemption to Naomi and healed her broken spirit, Christ also does this for our eternal souls.
16. Genealogy is often overlooked, but is an important connection between the OT and NT. These passages also share strong themes such as redemption and loyalty.
- 17-19. Allow group to discuss.

What's Next?**DISCUSS WITH YOUR GROUP:**

Should we continue discussion on this passage or move on through the text next week?

Do you guys feel confident in your understanding of what was discussed tonight?

Any questions? (Allow anyone to come to you in private if needed)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [The Sandal Exchange](#)
- [God in Ruth](#)

Announcements**WHAT'S GOING ON?**

Where is Cru at this week?

What upcoming events do we have?

Any other announcements? Should be in the slack.

Prayer**BREAK OFF AND PRAY**

Take this time as an opportunity to model prayer to those who are younger in their faith.

Provide opportunities for those who wish to pray.

Model different types of prayer like the ACTS model.