

Bible Stories for Adults

Ruth

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Opening

Gathering: When has someone personally shown God's love to you and how did it feel?

Today's Focus: God has called us to love and care for one another as He has first loved us.

Key Verses: *Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.* Ruth 1:16

Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. Ruth 4:14

Opening Prayer

Lesson

The Time of the Judges (*Judges 2:10-23*)

What command did Moses give to the Israelites about the people who lived in the Promised Land?

Deuteronomy 7:2-4

How well did the Israelites remember and follow this command?

Judges 3:5-6

How did God handle this?

Judges 2:14

How did God respond to Israel's cries?

Judges 2:16

Did the judges have a lasting effect on Israel's faithfulness?

Judges 2:19

Other than following other gods, did the people of Israel at least live good and moral lives?

Judges 21:25

Elimelech's Family From Bethlehem (*Ruth 1:1-5*)

What do we learn about a family during the time of the judges?

Ruth 1:1-2

What happened to this family in Moab?

Ruth 1:3-5

Besides the command not to intermarry, what other problem did Moabites in the family present?

Deuteronomy 23:3

Going Home (*Ruth 1:5-13*)

Did Naomi stay in Moab the rest of her life?

Ruth 1:6-7

What did Naomi remember along the road?

Ruth 1:8-9

How did Naomi use logic to send these daughters-in-law of ten years back home?

Ruth 1:10-13

What was this *levirate marriage* that Naomi was referring to?

Deuteronomy 25:5-6 (5-10)

Bible Stories for Adults

Ruth

Page 2

Where You Go I Will Go (*Ruth 1:14-22*)

How well did this sensible logic work in getting these women to go back home?

Ruth 1:14-15

How did Ruth respond to Naomi's urging that has become a famous phrase of devotion?

Ruth 1:16-17

How did Naomi respond to Ruth's stubbornness?

Ruth 1:18-19

How happy was Naomi to see her friends after so many years?

Ruth 1:20-21

What About Food? (*Ruth 2:1-3*)

How would two poor widows find food in Bethlehem?

Ruth 1:22, 2:2

How would she be able to find a field where the owner would let her glean?

Leviticus 23:22

Old Testament Harvesting

Harvesting grain in ancient Canaan took place in April and May (barley first, wheat a few weeks later)

1. Men cut ripened standing grain with hand sickles or pulled out of ground
2. Women bound the grain into sheaves
3. Gleaning - Stalks left behind were gathered
4. Sheaves were transported to the threshing floor - usually by donkey, sometimes by cart
5. Threshing - The grain was loosened from the straw by treading of cattle, by toothed threshing sledges or by the wheels of carts
6. Winnowing - Grain tossed in air so afternoon wind would blow away straw and chaff
7. Sifting - Grain was sifted to remove any leftover chaff, dirt, etc.
8. Grain was bagged for transportation and storage

Aren't You Lucky? (*Ruth 2:3*)

Whose field did Ruth happen to glean in?

Ruth 2:3, 1

Was it entirely by chance that Ruth happened upon Boaz's field?

Proverbs 20:24

A Friendly Relative (*Ruth 2:4-16*)

What did Boaz do when he learned that Ruth was gleaning in his field?

Ruth 2:4-9

Did Boaz normally do this for strangers coming into his fields?

Ruth 2:10-13

How else did Boaz go out of his way to help this poor Ruth?

Ruth 2:14-16

Bible Stories for Adults

Ruth

Page 3

A Fruitful First Day (*Ruth 2:17-23*)

What did Naomi think of what Ruth was able to bring home that first evening?

Ruth 2:17-19a

Did Naomi know who Boaz was?

Ruth 2:19b-20

Did Boaz's kindness to Ruth go beyond the first day?

Ruth 2:21-23

Naomi's Concern (*Ruth 3:1-6*)

What was Naomi's concern as harvest and their source of food were ending?

Ruth 3:1

What idea did Naomi come up with to solve this problem?

Ruth 3:2-4

What did Ruth think about such a strange suggestion?

Ruth 3:5-6

Boaz's Surprise (*Ruth 3:7-18*)

How did Ruth explain her actions when Boaz woke up and found her there?

Ruth 3:7-9

Corner of garment

How did Boaz respond to this request by the young Ruth?

Ruth 3:10-13

How else did Boaz show concern for Ruth that night?

Ruth 3:14-15

What did Naomi think of what Boaz had done and promised?

Ruth 3:16-18

The Kinsman-Redeemer (*Ruth 4:1-4*)

What was the first thing Boaz did that morning?

Ruth 4:1

Why else was it important for Boaz to be at the town gate?

Deuteronomy 25:7-10

What did Boaz present to the kinsman-redeemer and how did he reply?

Ruth 4:2-4

What Jewish law was Boaz referring to?

Leviticus 25:25

Hidden Treasure (*Ruth 4:5*)

What treasure came with the land that Boaz tried to present as a liability?

Ruth 4:5

What parable of Jesus might Boaz's action remind you of?

Matthew 13:44

Bible Stories for Adults

Ruth

Page 4

Always a Catch (*Ruth 4:6-12*)

How did the kinsman-redeemer respond to this catch?

Ruth 4:6-8

How long did Boaz wait before laying claim to this land and Ruth?

Ruth 4:9-10

How did the elders and witnesses accept Boaz's claim?

Ruth 4:11-12

Naomi and the World are Blessed (*Ruth 4:13-22*)

Besides being paid for the land, how else was Naomi blessed through Ruth's marriage to Boaz?

Ruth 4:13-16

Though interesting, what made Ruth's story important enough to become part of the Scripture?

Ruth 4:17

What other important Bible character descended from Ruth?

Matthew 1:1

Jesus' Ancestry (*Matthew 1:11-17*)

How could God allow a non-Jew to taint Jesus' ancestry? Were there any others?

Matthew 1:5 (Joshua 6)

Were there any other scandalous women in Jesus' ancestry?

Matthew 1:3 (Genesis 38)

Are any other women mentioned in Jesus' family tree?

Matthew 1:6 (2 Samuel 11)

What does this tainted ancestry remind us?

Galatians 3:26-29

Who is our kinsman-redeemer?

Galatians 4:4-7

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How do I act when I am all-alone and no one is watching?
(*Judges 17:6; Ruth 2:11-12; 2 Samuel 12:12; Psalm 44:21; 90:8; Matthew 6:1-18; Eph 5:1-21*)
2. For whom would I forsake everything to go where they go?
(*Ruth 1:16-17; Deut 31:6-8, 16-18; Proverbs 4:1-6; 27:10; Mark 10:28; Luke 5:11, 28*)
3. Who do I try to please or impress where I would make their god my god?
(*Ruth 1:16-17; 1 Kings 11:1-13; 2 Kings 17:7-20; Matthew 6:33; Mark 10:29-30*)
4. When have I gone out of my way to care for those in need?
(*Ruth 2:8-16; Proverbs 14:31; Matthew 10:40-42; 25:31-46; Luke 10:25-37; 1:5-13*)
5. Do I see my part in God's overall plan?
(*Ruth 4:17-22; Matthew 1:1, 5-6; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Ephesians 3:1-14*)