

A workbook aid for studying

THE BOOK OF
RUTH

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PREFACE

This study book is intended to aid a Bible class in the study of Paul's epistle to the Ruth. The material herein will not take the student on a verse-by-verse analysis of the text, but is intended to bring attention to significant portions of the text. Rather than providing textual insight from the writer, the booklet has been designed with questions to provoke thought and further study on the student's part, so that principles and lessons applicable for the Christian's life can be learned.

The usefulness of the material, and the success of the Bible class is primarily dependent upon the preparation which is given by each participant. Verse references from Ruth are provided with each question. These are given as a starting point for answering the questions. Seldom will a question be fully answered and all the relevant points of a discussion exhausted by the given verses. Students are encouraged to look beyond the designated texts for related passages which will help to answer questions and reveal the lessons to be learned from the inspired record. Some questions given may require diligent investigation on the student's part to completely answer.

It is my hope that the questions provided will touch on all the important lessons which can be gleaned by the child of God today from these books. However, the class should not be limited to these questions. Perhaps segments of text which the given questions do not directly deal with, or detailed points which are found in the text will provoke questions on the student's part. Such questions are welcomed and encouraged. Though the intent of this class material is to benefit us for Christian living today, the class should also be conducted in such a manner that we also come to a better appreciation of the events and customs which are found in the times of old.

May this workbook be used to the glory of God and the strengthening of saints.

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From Moab To Bethlehem

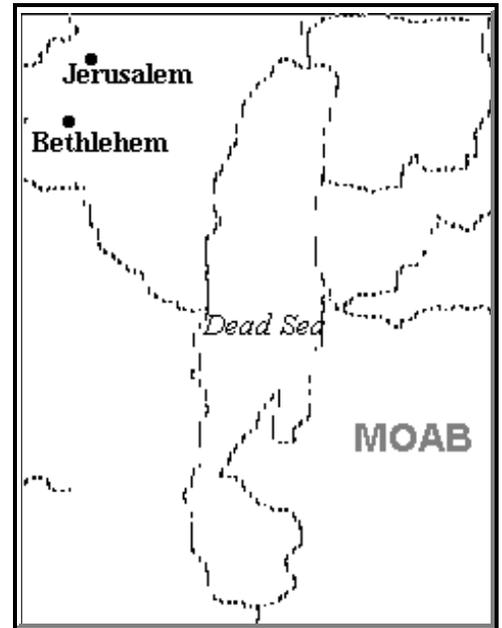
RUTH 1:1-22

“Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.” (1:16)

1. Often times, the names given to people in the Bible are indicative of some characteristic of the person. Investigate the meaning of the following names:

- Ruth
- Naomi
- Orpah
- Mahlon
- Chilion
- Mara

2. As the names of people are significant, so are the names of cities. What does “*Bethlehem*” mean?



3. Why did Naomi not want her daughters-in-law to go with her from Moab? (1:8-13)
4. Orpah turned back, but Ruth would not. What does each statement below indicate to us about Ruth’s character? (1:16-17)
- “*Entreat me not to leave you...*”
 - “*...wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge...*”
 - “*...Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.*”
 - “*Where you die, I will die...*”

– *“The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me.”*

5. How were they received at Bethlehem? (1:19)

6. Discuss the words spoken by Naomi once they had arrived in Bethlehem. (1:20-21)
– *“...the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.”*

– *“I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty.”*

– *“...the LORD has testified against me...the Almighty has afflicted me...”*

7. Consider the implications of Ruth’s decision to go with Naomi.

8. Comment on the characteristics we find in Naomi and Ruth. How can we learn and benefit from them?

**“A man who has friends must himself be friendly,
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”
— Proverbs 18:24 —**

Boaz And Ruth Meet

RUTH 2:1-23

"The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."
(2:12)

1. Who is Boaz? What do we know of this man? **(2:1, 3)**
2. Ruth requested that Naomi allow her to go glean in the fields. What does this suggest about Ruth's character? What does this reveal about their economic status? **(2:2-7)**
3. Why did Boaz treat Ruth so well? Why did he not want her to go to another's field? **(2:8-14)**
4. Discuss the words of Boaz from **verse 12**. What does this reveal to us about God's dealings with the non-Israelite people of Old Testament times?
5. How much grain did Ruth glean from her day in the field? How did Boaz assist her in gathering so much? **(2:15-18)**

6. Why had Ruth kept back some of the parched grain given to her for lunch? What does this reveal about her character? **(2:14, 18)**

7. How did Naomi react to the amount of grain which Ruth had gleaned from the field? **(2:19)**

8. Naomi's disposition has changed a great deal since she first returned to Bethlehem. Compare her attitude now with what we saw in chapter 1. **(2:20)**

9. How long did Ruth continue to glean in Boaz's fields? **(2:21-22)**

Boaz And Ruth At The Threshing Floor

RUTH 3:1-18

“And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you are a virtuous woman.” (3:11)

1. Why did Naomi command Ruth to go to Boaz at the threshing floor? (3:1-4)
2. Discuss the duty of a close relative (see **Deuteronomy 25:5-10**).
3. What was the purpose of Ruth lying down at Boaz’s feet? (3:4, 7-8)
4. What risks did Ruth open herself to by obeying Naomi’s words?
5. Comment on Ruth’s phrase: “...take your maidservant under your wing...” (3:9)

Boaz Redeems Ruth

RUTH 4:1-22

“Then the women said to Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!” (4:14)

1. When Boaz called aside the closer relative, why did he also compel ten elders of the city to sit with them also? (4:1-2, 4)
2. In this particular case, what responsibilities fell to the close relative? (4:3-5)
3. Did the man desire to purchase the land? Did he desire to take Ruth as wife? (4:4-6)
4. What does the relative’s refusal to fulfill his duty as a close relative reveal about his character?
5. What Israelite custom of the day are we told of, and what purpose did it serve? (4:7-8)
6. Comment on the people’s words to Boaz (4:11-12):
– *“The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah...”*

