

A Verse-by-verse Study

of the book of

Ruth

2018 – Spring/Summer

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How Should We Approach God's Word?

Welcome to this verse-by-verse Bible study!

Purpose

My prayer is that this bible study, these questions, will direct our focus to a greater discovery of God.

Some of the questions will be easy to answer. Some questions may take some thought.

The answers to some questions will be obvious, to help with comprehension.

Some questions are very personal, perhaps generating things to consider, both now and in the future.

The answer to some of the questions may be "I don't know", and that is great. Answers may become apparent in discussion with others. Or answers may not become clear for years. Some things may be stored as treasure that God will bring to your mind in the future when you most need it.

Process

The approach that I suggest, as you work on the questions, is to leave your commentaries closed, and try to resist looking at the notes in your Study Bible. When you begin, answer them using your bible and various other translations, cross-references from scripture, English dictionaries, and perhaps a concordance. Once the Holy Spirit has guided you through your own discovery, then you may want to supplement what you've learned with what others think from the commentaries and Study Bible notes.

Before beginning, and perhaps from time to time during the study, it is good to read through the entire portion of scripture, to help with familiarity, overall comprehension, and identifying general themes.

It is very helpful to have a printed copy of the text, a markable copy, double or triple spaced.

As you read through the text, make annotations on your printed copy:

- Look for and mark repeated words, phrases or ideas.
- Is a particular attribute of God evident? Write it in the margin.
- Are there words you don't understand? Mark them with a question mark.
- Are there key transition words such as if/then, therefore, likewise, but, because, in the same way? Draw an arrow to connect them.
- Is an idea confusing? Write the question in the margin.

Summarize or paraphrase. This helps with both comprehension (What does it say?) and interpretation (What does it mean?).

When applying the scripture (What does it mean to me?), our first question should be "How does this passage teach me about God?" Then we can ask "How does this aspect of God's character change my view of myself?" and "How should I respond?"

[Note: Jen Wilkin's book, *Women of the Word* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014), is extremely helpful about how to study the bible. I highly recommend it.]

So... let's begin to learn more about Him.

Background

We begin our study by looking at the background to the book of Ruth.
For these questions, commentaries are definitely allowed.

Who is the Author?

When was the book of Ruth written?

When does the story of Ruth take place?

To whom was it written?

In what style is it written?

What do you see as the central theme(s)?

Try to start answering this by reading Ruth, without the initial help of commentaries.

Ruth 1:1 – Setting the Stage - Part 1

Read [Ruth 1:1-5](#).

Reread Ruth 1:1

1. Verse 1 starts with "In the days when the judges ruled". In a sentence or two, describe what those days were like. For help, read Judges 2:10-19, and Judges 6 & 7.
2. Are the days when the judges ruled like or unlike today? Explain your answer.
3. Historical context can be helpful in our comprehension. Do you think it makes sense that the story of Ruth took place during the Midianite oppression and God's subsequent deliverance using Gideon? Why or why not? (For help, reread Judges 6 & 7).
4. Lookup the word *famine* in the dictionary.
5. Investigate other instances of famine in the bible. Note any observations – e.g. known causes of the famine, reactions, results, consequences. Does there appear to be any pattern or not?
Read some or all of these sample passages:
Gen. 12:10-20;

Gen. 26:1-6;

Gen. 41:28-32; 41:53-42:3; 43:1-2; 47:13-21; 50:19-20

Judges 6:1-16

2 Sam. 21:1

2 Kings 8:1-2

Luke 15:13-24

Ruth 1:1 – Setting the Stage - Part 1

6. Think about what it would feel like to be in a time of famine. What kind of distress might you consider a "famine", a sense of desolation?

7. Elimelech took his family to Moab because of the famine. The text does not make it clear whether this was an act of wisdom and obedience, or a demonstration of a weak faith. How do you react to the "famines" you face in your life? Do you let them move you away from God? Do you let them strengthen your reliance on God?

8. Have you faced what you might consider a spiritual famine, when you felt far away from God? Why do you think God allows us to go through these low times?

9. Lookup the following verses, and describe how they relate to God's care for His people during famine. **What do they tell you about God?** How can you apply them to your times of "famine"?
 - Rom. 8:35-39

 - Ps. 33:18-22

 - Ps. 37:18-19

 - 1 Kings 17:1-16

10. Look at Amos 8:11-12. What is your reaction to this famine?

11. We live in a time and place where we have easy access to God's word and good biblical teaching. But that may not always be the case. What measures can we take now, in our time of plenty, to prepare for a time of famine? Are you willing to do this, starting now?

Ruth 1:1 – Setting the Stage - Part 1

12. Looking at the map below, locate Bethlehem and Moab. Describe the distance and terrain that they would need to travel in their journey. Does this enhance your sense of their desolation and distress?



13. When God presents you with a new opportunity, are you willing to cross rugged terrain to obey His will, or are you willing to cross rugged terrain to "escape" His will?
14. Consider the story of Jonah. See Jonah 1:1-4; 2:7-10; 3:1-5, 10; 4:1, 9
In a sentence or two, describe Jonah's journey of obedience vs. disobedience. **What do you learn about God?** How can you apply that to your times of obedience and disobedience?
15. As we have said, it is not clearly stated whether Naomi and her family left Judah and travelled to Moab under God's direction or fled because of their own fears.
Can you think of any instances in your life when you had a choice – to follow God's leading confidently, or to react with fear (whether in obedience or disobedience)? We know what the correct choice is. What specific steps did you take, or should you have taken, to make the right choice then? What about the future?

Ruth 1:1 – Setting the Stage - Part 1

16. The ESV reads "went to *sojourn* in the country of Moab". Lookup the word *sojourn* in the dictionary. Keep this definition in mind when we examine their sojourn in more depth in verses 2-5.

17. Lookup the following verses and note what they describe about Moab and its relationship to Israel.

Gen. 19:36-37

Deut. 23:3-6

Neh. 13:1-3

18. Skim through the entire book of Ruth and, using a purple coloured pencil, circle all occurrences of the word *Moab* or any variation. Count how many times this word appears. Do you think the author had a reason for identifying Moab so many times? What impact, if any, would the references to Moab have on the original readers? Can we relate that impact to our current lives?
Does this tell us anything about God?

19. WRAP UP:

Based on your study of this verse, **what aspect of God's character has it shown you most clearly?**

"Knowing that God is _____ shows me that I am/must _____."

What one step can you take to better live in light of this truth?

Ruth 1:2-5 – Setting the Stage - Part 2

Read Ruth 1:1-5.

Reread Ruth 1:2-5.

1. Summarize these verses in a sentence or two.
2. Jen Wilkin suggests that looking for repeated words or phrases may bring something to our attention. Using a brown coloured pencil, underline the word *name* or *names* in verses 2-5. Do you see any significance to this repetition, or do you think it is the author's literary style?
3. Elimelech means "my God is king". Mahlon means "invalid" or "sickly". Chilion or Kilion means "pining" or "wasting". Orpah means "stubborn". Do you find that the meanings of those names add anything to our discussion? If so, what?
4. Verse 2 indicates "they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah". Do you think this information would have any special meaning to the people who would be reading the book of Ruth? (FYI: Bethlehem Ephrathah is mentioned in Micah 5:2, giving it special meaning to us.)
5. With a green coloured pencil, circle the word *sojourn* (or its equivalent) in verse 1. In verses 2-5, notice the references to how long they "sojourned" in Moab. Circle them in green. Is this consistent with the definition of sojourn from your study of Ruth 1:1? Give reasons for your answer.
6. Lookup Gen. 47:4 to read of another instance of sojourning. Note any comments you might have.
7. Do you have any examples of sojourning in your life? Read Hebrews 13:14 and 1 Peter 2:11-12. How do these verses speak to our sojourning as believers?

Ruth 1:2-5 – Setting the Stage - Part 2

8. Do you have a tendency to become comfortable and content with something that you originally believed should be only temporary? Do you rely on that comfort instead of on God's leading? How might you fight that tendency? **What is there in the character of God that might help?**

9. Do you think the events in verses 3 and 4 are in chronological order? Based on your answer, what does that mean in terms of Elimelech and Naomi's spiritual leadership or example? What can we learn from them?

10. The sons took Moabite wives (verse 4). The scripture is clear that the Israelites were not to intermarry with the pagans around them. Look up the following verses and summarize God's reasons for these instructions. **What do these reasons tell you about God?**
 - 1 Kings 11:1-2

 - Ezra 9:1-2, 10-12

 - Neh. 13:23-24, 26

11. God's command regarding intermarriage speaks of separation. Lookup 2 Cor. 6:14-15. In what general ways should we be separate from the world? In what specific ways should you be separate from the world? From what sin or situation do you need to separate yourself?

12. Naomi's husband and sons died in the land of Moab (verses 3 & 5). We see Naomi's true reaction in Ruth 1:20-21. But there are hints of that feeling in the words in this section. With a blue pencil, underline any of those words or phrases in 1:2-5. Describe the idea that they convey.

13. List some steps you can take when faced with such loss.

Ruth 1:2-5 – Setting the Stage - Part 2

14. Now let's use our imaginations and examine some hypotheticals, to see if they might make a difference in the way we view the unfolding of the story.

- How do you think Naomi and her family travelled to Moab? By themselves? In a group? What are the implications either way?
- Do you think Naomi and her family lived in an area of Moab by themselves or where there were other Israelites? What are the implications either way?
- Imagine what it must have been like for Naomi and her daughters-in-law, women alone. Imagine what it must have been like for Naomi to be a woman alone in a foreign country.

15. WRAP UP:

What aspect of God's character have these verses shown you most clearly?

"Knowing that God is _____ shows me that I am/must _____."

What one step can you take to better live in light of this truth?

Ruth 1:6-18 – Ruth's Loyalty to Naomi

Read Ruth 1:6-18.

1. Summarize this section in a sentence or two (or three).

Reread Ruth 1:6.

2. Naomi set out on a journey to return home because of the Lord's provision in Judah. **What does this tell you about God?** Do you have any thoughts about how Naomi would have heard about the food in Judah?

3. In the ESV, verse 6 indicates that Naomi heard this news in the fields of Moab? (The NIV says country.) Do you think the use of the word *fields* indicates any useful information or not? (The Hebrew-Greek Word Study Bible was no help here.)

4. Verse 6 in the ESV states that *the LORD had visited His people*. Read this same phrase in the NIV to amplify your understanding. The Hebrew-Greek Word Study Bible defines the word *visited* as "an action on the part of God which produces a beneficial result".

Lookup the following verses and describe each instance of God's visitation.

Gen. 50:24

Ex. 4:31

1 Sam. 2:21

Jer. 29:10-11

Luke 1:67-69

5. Verse 6 ends with the statement that God "had given them food". The supplying of food is very important in this part of the story of Naomi. Lookup the following verses to see other places in scripture where God supplies food. **What attributes of God do these instances (and others) bring to mind?**

1 Kings 17:4-6

Neh. 9:15

Mark 6:41-44

Ruth 1:6-18 – Ruth's Loyalty to Naomi

6. We have examined some scriptures showing God's provision for our physical need of food and water. Read Ps. 107:9. Now read Matt. 5:6.
Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness? Do you think this is a good kind of hunger and thirst? If yes, how can you continue to hunger and thirst after righteousness? What specific steps can you take? Can you think of any other verses that might help?

Read Ruth 1:7-10

7. In verse 7, Naomi starts her journey back home with her two Moabite daughters-in-law. Why do you think her daughters-in-law decide to go to Judah with her? What does this say about Naomi's character and her relationship with Orpah and Ruth? **Does this tell you anything about God?**

8. In verse 8, Naomi speaks of the kindness that Orpah and Ruth have shown her and her family. Lookup the following verses to see some other instances where similar phrases have been used. Identify the people involved. You may need to read a few of the previous verses to gain the context.

Josh. 2:12-14

2 Tim. 1:16 (*refreshed me* is translated *showed me kindness and ministered to my needs* in the Amplified bible)

Ruth 2:20

9. Read Gal. 6:10 and Eph. 4:32. What is our mandate as a believer?

Read Gen. 4:9. Let's consider an application point from Jen Wilkin's bible study, "God of Creation"

(Nashville, TN: LifeWay Press, 2017, page 99) . She asks:

What does it mean to affirm that we are "our brother's keeper"? Who should the modern-day believer view as a brother or sister? What person in your sphere of influence are you resistant to treat with preferential love, as a brother or a sister? What fear, justification, or sinful attitude holds you back? What steps can you take to master your resistance, by the grace of God?

10. Then Naomi tells her daughters-in-law to go back to Moab (verse 8). Do you find it interesting that she told them to return to their mother's house instead of their father's house?

Ruth 1:6-18 – Ruth's Loyalty to Naomi

11. Do you have any more thoughts about verses 9 and 10?

Read **Ruth 1:11-13**.

12. Naomi urges Orpah and Ruth to return to their homes. She cites a Hebrew law, called the Levirate law. Read Deut. 25:5. Note: "Her husband's brother" could also mean "next kinsman". Continue reading Deut. 25:6-10. We will refer to this again when we come to Ruth chapter 4. Do you have any comments or thoughts at this point?

13. Naomi ends verse 13 with a very sad comment – "the hand of the Lord has gone out against me". Read Judges 2:11-15. Why was the Lord's hand against the Israelites? Do you think this is the case for Naomi? Explain your answer.

14. Have you ever felt that the Lord's hand was against you? **For a believer, what attributes of God does this feeling contradict?** What scriptures help you turn around (return) to a proper view of God? Are there times when the hand of God might be heavy upon you? Read Ps. 32:1-5.

Read **Ruth 1:14-15**.

15. What was Naomi thinking to want to send her daughters-in-law back to a godless nation?

16. The words *return*, *turn back*, or *go back* occur a number of times. In looking in the Hebrew-Greek Word Study Bible, all of these are translated from the same Hebrew word meaning turn around. But, for our study, they can have two different contexts. Examine Ruth 1:6-18 and, with an orange pencil, put a box around those words where they indicate a returning to God's people. Underline those words in orange, where they indicate a returning to a pagan people.

Ruth 1:6-18 – Ruth's Loyalty to Naomi

17. Orpah turned back to her pagan home. But Ruth continued to cling to Naomi as she returned to God's chosen people. Orpah started the journey, but only went part of the way. How often do you only go part of the way? Are there situations you can think of right now where God is leading you, perhaps into unfamiliar territory? Are you willing to obey, or will you turn back to the familiar and comfortable? **What is there about God that should encourage you to obey?** Confirm your answer with scriptures.

Read **Ruth 1:16-18**.

18. Verses 16-17 form a very famous passage, often used at weddings. It presents a description of great loyalty and allegiance. Do you think Ruth's allegiance was to God or to Naomi? What about your allegiances? Luke 9:23-24 speaks of the unflinching allegiance that Christ demands for all who would be His followers.

19. Ruth begins with this assertion, "Where you go, I will go, and where you lodge (stay), I will lodge (stay)", showing her loyalty on a human level. Lookup 2 Kings 2:2, 4, 6 to see another example of human loyalty to a man of God. But isn't this what God promises of Himself to all who are believers? **List verses that confirm God's loyalty to you.**

20. She continues with "Your people shall be my people, and your God my God". And she pledges that only death will separate them. Read Josh. 24:14-24. Now read Judges 2:8-12. It took only one generation before the Israelites forgot their God. Do you think this happened suddenly or little by little. How can you guard against the subtleties that can erode your loyalty to God? **What comfort is there for believers in the character of God?**

21. In view of what we have seen in the book of Ruth so far, what are your ideas as to where Ruth learned about the true God and trusted Him? At least at this point, does her faith seem stronger than Naomi's? **What does that tell you about God,** about Naomi and about Ruth?

Ruth 1:6-18 – Ruth's Loyalty to Naomi

22. Verse 18 reiterates Ruth's determination . The word "determined" has the sense of "steadfastly minded", and that she "strengthened herself". Read Acts 21:12-14 and note Paul's determination, and the Ephesian elders' response. In Naomi's state of mind, do you think her decision to let Ruth continue with her was based on a sense of the Lord's will? **Does this remind you of God's faithfulness,** even when we are not faithful? Find that scripture reference.

23. WRAP UP:

What aspect of God's character have these verses shown you most clearly?

"Knowing that God is _____ shows me that I am/must _____."

What one step can you take to better live in light of this truth?

Ruth 1:19-22 – Naomi and Ruth Return

Read Ruth 1:19-22.

1. Summarize these verses in a sentence or two.
2. In verse 19, we read that Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem, where Naomi lived 10 years ago, and the whole town is stirred because of them.
Read Matt. 21:9-11. In the case of Jesus' triumphal entry, the crowds were excited because they thought their king was coming. The Hebrew-Greek Word Study bible does not have any information about the word "stirred" used in Matthew.
However, the word "stirred" used in Ruth 1:19 apparently denotes disturbance; to sigh, to moan, to be noisy. The women of Bethlehem seemed to have recognized Naomi, but her countenance and demeanour made them ask "Is this Naomi?" What might that say about the effect that her stay in Moab and her losses have had on her?
3. Naomi replies by asking to be called Mara (verse 20). Naomi means "Pleasant". Mara means "Bitter". Lookup Ex. 15:22-24. Do you think that Naomi might have considered this incident when she chose the name? The original readers of this book would have known of this incident from their history, and perhaps they saw the significance to her name choice.
4. Do you think, when Naomi chose "Bitter" for her name, she was describing her circumstances, or she was also describing her attitude and her outlook towards God?
5. Now continue reading in Exodus – Ex. 15:25-27. If her attitude towards God was bitter, **what might Naomi have forgotten about the attributes and character of God?**
6. Lookup the following verses and note what God says about bitterness.
Eph. 4:30-32

Heb. 12:14-15

James 3:13-15

Ruth 1:19-22 – Naomi and Ruth Return

7. Are you prone to the sin of bitterness? Is holding a grudge the same thing? What steps can you take to master your bitterness, by the grace of God?

8. In Ruth 1:20-21, Naomi says that the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with her; that the Lord has testified against (or afflicted) her; that the Almighty has brought calamity upon her. Her words are strong. Do you think she is blaming God? Are you tempted to blame God when you are in difficult situations? Perhaps your words are not as strong as Naomi's, but **what wrong belief about God might cause you to cast blame?**

9. Naomi refers to God as the Almighty in verses 20 and 21 – that is, El-Shaddai. The Hebrew-Greek Word Study Bible indicates that the earliest appearance of this name for God is in Gen. 17:1. It is His covenant name to the Patriarchs – read Gen. 17:1-2. How is the name of God that Naomi uses inconsistent with casting blame on Him?

10. Read Ps. 91:1-4. This is another reference where God is called the Almighty. Meditate on this passage for a few moments. The Israelites had a relationship with the Almighty through God's covenant with Abraham. We, as believers, have a relationship with the Almighty, a better covenant, through Jesus Christ our Lord (Heb. 7:22, 8:6). Reread Ps. 91:1-4 and list the wonderful things that are yours because of the Almighty!

11. Read Ruth 1:21 again. Naomi says that she went away full. In what sense is she correct? Do you see an inconsistency with the fact that she left because of a famine? She says that she has come back empty. In what sense is she correct? Do you see an inconsistency?

12. How often do you dwell on the sad aspects of a situation? How often do you miss seeing the benefits of God? Consider the following and make a note of some of those benefits. Which stand out the most to you at this time in your life?
Ps. 103:1-5

Eph. 1:3-8

Ruth 1:19-22 – Naomi and Ruth Return

13. Look at Job 1:13-22. What had Job lost at this point in his story? How did he respond to such devastating loss? What can we learn from his reaction?
14. Read Ps. 13 and Ps. 57. Do they give some guidance, some steps to follow, in your times of distress? Explain your answer.
15. If Naomi has responded with bitterness, she has lost sight of God's purposes. Read the following verses. Remind yourself of the purpose of difficult situations, loss and suffering from God's point of view. List anything that stands out to you.
- James 1:2-5
- 1 Peter 1:7
- Romans 5:3-5

What character or attributes of God encourage you in such situations?

16. Verse 22 restates that Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem. Bethlehem means "house of bread". Consider other references to bread in scripture. What do these verses teach you?
- Exodus 16:4; Ps. 78:24
- John 6:32-35, 48-51
17. The author adds that their return was at the beginning of barley harvest. Why is this significant?
18. Review chapter 1. What elements of hope does Naomi seem to be ignoring throughout the chapter, expressed by her statement that she returned empty?
19. Naomi's emotional state could be described as one of depression. What could she have done differently? In what ways can you apply this to your life if you have times of depression, whether small or great?

Ruth 1:19-22 – Naomi and Ruth Return

20. Can you imagine what it was like for Ruth to travel such a distance with a woman who was so depressed. What does this say about Ruth's character? How can you learn from this, particularly if you have friends or acquaintances who are suffering from depression? What can you do to help them?

21. Describe the sacrifice Ruth made in choosing to accompany her mother-in-law and leave Moab. How can you imitate Ruth's love and selflessness in your own relationships – with your in-laws, with other family members, with your friends?

22. WRAP UP:

What aspect of God's character have these verses shown you most clearly?

"Knowing that God is _____ shows me that I am/must _____."

What one step can you take to better live in light of this truth?

Chapter 1 Wrap-up

1. In a paragraph or so, summarize Ruth 1, to remind yourself of the overall story and context.
2. From our study together and from your own personal study, list the truths about God and the attributes of God that you saw. Identify which ones stand out the most to you.
3. Make a list of specific applications that God has brought to your attention from our/your study of this chapter, if any. If none come to mind, that's ok - God may be using this time in His word to store up treasure for something in the future.
4. List scripture references (from anywhere in the bible) that were particularly memorable to you in our/your study of Ruth 1, if any.

Ruth 2:1-4 – Boaz Introduced

Read Ruth 2:1-13 to get the overall context.

1. Summarize these verses in a sentence or two.

Now we will concentrate on Ruth 2:1-4.

Reread Ruth 2:1.

2. We are immediately introduced to Boaz. List what you learn about him from this verse. Read the verse in the NIV and in the NKJV to add to your understanding.

Note: Boaz is described as a worthy man, a man of standing, a man of wealth. The Hebrew word has the sense of strength, might, wealth and power. The name, Boaz, means "in him is strength".

3. Read Matt. 1:5 and investigate Boaz' genealogy. List the bloodline of Boaz from that verse. Read Hebrews 11:31. Do you think his lineage is important to the story of Ruth? Explain your answer.
4. Why do you think the author decided to introduce Boaz before continuing with the story of Ruth? (Hint: Read verse 3). Looking at what you know about Boaz so far, why do you think God chose him?

Read **Ruth 2:2-4.**

5. Verse 1 starts with the word "Now", and verse 2 starts with the word "And". Does this imply that these two thoughts are connected? If yes, can you explain the connection?
6. Does the way in which Ruth worded her request to Naomi in verse 2 suggest anything about her character? Explain your answer.

Ruth 2:1-4 – Boaz Introduced

7. Let's investigate the concept of gleaning among the ears of grain. Lookup the following verses. **Do these verses suggest anything to you about the character of God?**

Lev. 19:9-10; 23:22

Deut. 24:19

8. Consider a few more verses to add to what you have seen about God's care for widows and strangers. Make a note of anything that stands out to you.

Ex. 22:21-23

Deut. 10:17-19

Ps. 68:4-6

9. In the previous question, you looked at God's care for widows and strangers. Lookup the following verses, and note what your responsibility is, as a believer. How can you apply this in your life?

James 1:27

1 Tim. 5:4

1 Tim. 5:16

10. Continuing with verse 2, Ruth uses the phrase "in whose sight I shall find favor". Using a dictionary or thesaurus, look up the definitions of *favour* (or *favor*). Write down the various definitions.

11. Read the following passages to see where the phrase is used elsewhere in scripture.

Gen. 6:8

Gen. 18:1-3

Ps. 84:11

Luke 1:30

Luke 2:52

12. Which definition of *favour*, from question 10, best fits Ruth's use of the word in verse 2?

Ruth 2:1-4 – Boaz Introduced

13. To get a sense of the context, what do you think is true of Naomi and Ruth's financial status; of their independence? Describe how they must have felt?

14. At this point, Ruth knows nothing about Boaz and his reapers. What risks or dangers might she be facing by gleaning in the fields of strangers?

15. Reading verse 3, what stands out most to you? **What attribute of God is evident to you?** List some of your favourite verses of scripture that relate to this attribute. As a means of encouraging our faith, we will plan to share these together.

16. Also in this verse, the author repeats some information about Boaz. What information is repeated? Can you think of any reason as to why that was done?

17. At the beginning of verse 4, we learn that Boaz is from Bethlehem. Do you think that fact is important, or not? If yes, explain your answer.

18. At the time when Naomi and Ruth returned to Bethlehem, it is speculated that the judge in Israel was Gideon. Read Judges 8:28, and then read Judges 8:33-34. When judges ruled, the people had some inclination toward God. The rapid return to idolatry indicated that, in general, this was not a heartfelt inclination toward God. In light of that fact, how significant do you see the interaction between Boaz and his workers in verse 4? **Does this tell you anything about God?**

19. Boaz says "The Lord be with you!" Read Judges 6:12, Luke 1:28 and 2 Thess. 3:16 for a few other examples. **What attribute(s) of God do you associate with this phrase?**

Ruth 2:1-4 – Boaz Introduced

20. The workers reply, "The Lord bless you." The word "bless" in the Hebrew-Greek Word Study bible means "to bend the knee" or "to praise". What does this tell us about the reapers, and about Boaz as their employer?

21. Ruth and Naomi were in a place of great vulnerability and need. Reread Ruth 2:1-4, and observe how Ruth stepped out in faith, however large or small that faith must have been, and God guided her steps directly to Boaz, the man He chose to provide.
Are you going through a time right now where you need to be reminded that God will provide for you? Have you seen God's faithfulness in the past? Consider Gen. 22:8, 14 and Heb. 10:23. Do you have special verses that encourage you in times of need?

22. WRAP UP:

What aspect of God's character have these verses shown you most clearly?

"Knowing that God is _____ shows me that I am/must _____."

What one step can you take to better live in light of this truth?

Ruth 2:5-13 – Ruth Meets Boaz

Reread Ruth 2:1-13.

Read Ruth 2:5-7

1. Boaz notices Ruth immediately in verse 5. Why? Do you think this reflects his close attention to what went on around him? Do you think this was love at first sight? Any other possibilities?
2. Let's assume that Boaz kept a careful watch over what was happening around him. Consider God's watchful eyes. Lookup these verses and note what stands out to you. **What character or attributes of God do these verses bring to your mind?**
 - Ps. 33:18; 34:15
 - Ps. 121:3, 5-8 (NIV)
 - Ps. 139:15-16
 - Prov. 5:21
 - Prov. 15:3
 - Jer. 23:23-24
3. Is the fact that God is always watching a comforting thought or a frightening thought? If or when it is a frightening thought, how can you change it to a comforting thought?
4. Do you think Boaz' question "Whose young woman is this?" suggests anything about the role of women in Israel at that time in history? If yes, what might that be?
5. In verse 6, the author again repeats that Ruth is a Moabite and that she and Naomi returned from Moab. Do you think this was done to make a point to the original readers? Or has Moab simply become a point of reference, like a title or descriptive adjective?
6. Read verse 7 and comment on Ruth's integrity and work ethic.

Ruth 2:5-13 – Ruth Meets Boaz

7. In this verse (v. 7), we see that Ruth began her work in the early morning and, according to verse 17, she continued until evening. Glance at verses 9 and 14 to see what other activities she included in her day. What does this say about how Ruth was able to manage her time, and care for her body, in the midst of much work?

8. Do you make wise use of your time? Do you work too hard? If yes, what is your motivation? Do you rest too much? If yes, why do you think that is? Do you fill too much of your time, over and above your time to rest and relax, with inconsequential activities or pursuits? Do you take care of your body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit?

Read the following verses and summarize what they tell you about your time and activities.

1 Tim. 6:17b

Col. 3:17

Gal. 5:13

Gal. 6:9

1 Cor. 10:23, 31

Read Ruth 2:8-13

9. The conversation between Boaz and Ruth begins with Boaz. How would you characterize his words to her? Do you think that his background had an effect on his interaction with a young woman from Moab? How might Ruth have expected him to respond to her? **Can you relate this to how God responds to us?** Explain your answer.

10. From verses 8 and 9, note the specific ways in which Boaz took care of Ruth.

11. Remembering that she is from Moab, and all that that meant to the Israelites, how do you think the original readers might have viewed such kindness? Are there people groups that you find difficult? How do you respond to them, both internally and externally? How should you respond? Do you need to make any changes?

Ruth 2:5-13 – Ruth Meets Boaz

12. Looking at verse 10, we see that Ruth is overwhelmed, falling on her face and bowing to the ground. What does this tell you about Ruth's character?

13. In her first phrase in verse 10, she speaks again about finding favour. With a yellow pencil, circle the phrase *I found favor* in this verse. Circle the similar phrase in 2:2, and again in 2:13. Notice that her prayer has been answered. **What does this tell us about God?** Can you find some scriptures to back up your answer?

14. In KJV (not NKJV), "favour" has been translated *grace*, and "take notice of me" has been translated *take knowledge of me*. **How does that remind you of God?** Can you think of some scriptures to back up your answer? Are you beginning to see Boaz as a type of Christ?

15. In verse 11, we find out that Boaz knew much about Ruth's background and all that she had done for Naomi. How do you think he was made aware of this information? What does this say about Ruth's reputation?

16. Boaz continues to reassure Ruth by asking God to bless her (verse 12). The word "repay" can also be translated "recompense". Using a dictionary, lookup either *repay* or *recompense* (or both) and write down the definition that makes the most sense in this context.

17. Then he prays that a "full reward" be given to her. The Hebrew-Greek Word Study bible indicates that "full" means complete, whole, just measure.

Who is ultimately the only one who has the power and wisdom to fully reward? Boaz calls Him the Lord, the God of Israel. How significant do you think this was to Ruth? How significant do you think this was to the original readers, knowing that Boaz is asking God to bless a Moabite woman?

Ruth 2:5-13 – Ruth Meets Boaz

18. Boaz further describes God as the One "under whose wings" Ruth has "come to take refuge." Lookup the following verses. Does the picture of God covering you with His wings give you comfort? Can you explain your answer?

Ps. 36:7

Ps. 57:1

Ps. 63:6-8

Ps. 91:1, 4

19. There are many scriptures that refer to God as our refuge. Write down the references to some of your favourites. We will look at these together to encourage one another.

20. Ruth repeats her gratitude for Boaz' favour, and calls him "my lord" (verse 13). How is this similar to her reaction in verse 10? She expands on her thoughts of favour. In the Hebrew-Greek Word Study bible, "you have comforted me" has the idea of compassion, consoling; and the phrase "spoken kindly to" literally means "spoken to the heart of". **How do these words reflect God's favour to us?**

21. Read Psalm 23. Does this speak to you of God's compassion and comfort? What parts of this psalm stand out to you most at this time in your life?

22. WRAP UP:

What aspect of God's character have these verses shown you most clearly?

"Knowing that God is _____ shows me that I am/must _____."

What one step can you take to better live in light of this truth?

Ruth 2:14-23 – Naomi Learns About Boaz

Read [Ruth 2:14-23](#).

1. Summarize these verses in a sentence or two.

Reread Ruth 2:14-17.

2. Boaz continues his interaction with Ruth. Note his words and actions in verse 14. What do his actions, both towards Ruth and his workers, show about his character?
3. He offers or passes her roasted (parched) grain. As a point of context, look up Lev. 23:9, 10 and 14. What does the fact that they are eating roasted grain tell you about the time of this incident during the harvest season?
4. With this meal, Ruth is satisfied and has some food left over. Look at Matt. 14:20 and Matt. 15:37 to see examples of Jesus satisfying physical hunger. Do you think Ruth has been satisfied to overflowing in more ways than her hunger? Support your answer.
5. Who is the ultimate source of satisfaction? Look up the following verses and note who God satisfies.
Matt. 5:6

John 15:10-11

Ps. 63:1, 5-6

Psalm 145:14-17

Prov. 19:23
6. Where or to whom do you look for your satisfaction? Is your heart satisfied in God? Psalm 90:14 teaches us to pray, "O satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days." (NIV). Will you make this your prayer this week?

Ruth 2:14-23 – Naomi Learns About Boaz

7. Ruth has been refreshed and she returns to glean in the field. Read Lev. 23:22, and identify what part of the fields were to be left for the poor and foreigners. Now look at what Boaz says to his workers in verses 15-16. Is he following the law? Explain your answer.

8. Boaz is allowing Ruth to gather much more than the law requires. And he instructs his workers not to embarrass or scold her. What does this show us about Boaz' character? What might this demonstrate to his workers?

9. Are you someone who is guided by the letter of the law? Are you willing to look at the spirit of the law? Are you prepared to go above and beyond what the law requires, as led by the Holy Spirit, for those in your circle of influence? What impact will that have?

10. In verse 17, Ruth threshes what she has gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley (i.e. about 22 litres). Read Judges 6:11. What might the original readers have remembered? What should it have told them about God?

Read **Ruth 2:18-23**.

11. Ruth continues to show her kindness to Naomi, bringing home the grain she has threshed and the leftover food from her meal (verses 18-19). Do you think, when they arrived in Bethlehem, they had any idea of what God had in store for them? And they have no idea of what is yet to come. How has God blessed you in unexpected ways? Should you expect Him to do so again? Find scriptures to back up your answer.

12. Ruth recounts to Naomi what has happened that day (verse 20). What is Naomi's reaction? How different is that from when she arrived in Bethlehem! Naomi expresses great encouragement. Is your encouragement, is your trust in God, based on your circumstances, or on who God is?

Ruth 2:14-23 – Naomi Learns About Boaz

13. In Naomi's response, we are introduced to the concept of a redeemer. (NKJV says "close relative". The Hebrew-Greek Word Study bible indicates the root of that word is "redeem".) With a red pencil, underline the word *redeemers* at the end of verse 20. Skim through chapters 3 and 4 of Ruth, and underline in red other references to *redeemer* and circle in red all references to *redeem*.
14. Naomi states that Boaz is one of their redeemers. Lookup the following passages and identify the conditions under Jewish law where redemption by a close relative applies. Which passage (or passages) applies to Naomi and Ruth?
Lev. 25:47-49

Lev. 25:23-28

Deut. 25:5-10
15. Ruth repeats to Naomi Boaz' instructions to stay close to his workers. However, in verse 21, Ruth changes it to "men" instead of "women". Do you have any idea of what the author meant to convey by this change?
16. How does Naomi's response in verse 22 reiterate Boaz' suggestion in verses 8 and 9? Ruth was asked to stay within Boaz' protective boundaries, and she obeyed. Read the following verses and consider some of the good boundaries that God has set for us.
2 Tim. 2:22-23

James 4:7

Phil. 4:8

Prov. 3:5-7

Rom. 12:2
17. The chapter ends with Ruth working through the barley and wheat harvests (verse 23). Barley harvest is typically in April and May; wheat harvest is a few weeks later. So Ruth worked very hard for many months to look after her mother-in-law. How long and how hard has God asked you to work to help someone? Do you have the same attitude that Ruth showed? Read 1 Cor. 15:58 and 2 Cor. 9:8.

Ruth 2:14-23 – Naomi Learns About Boaz

18. Do you have any idea why verse 23 ends with "And she lived with her mother-in-law"?

19. As a short character study, read Gal. 5:22-23, and identify the fruit of the Spirit that you see in Ruth, and in Boaz, and in Naomi. Are there things in what you have seen so far in the book of Ruth that might help you in developing your fruit of the Spirit?

Ruth:

Boaz:

Naomi (in chapter 1):

Naomi (now):

20. To conclude this chapter, let's examine Boaz as a type or picture of Christ. Look back over chapter 2, and list the actions and/or words of Boaz that picture Christ. The information about Boaz is recorded here in Ruth. Can you support your answers by finding corresponding references about our Lord Jesus Christ (either in the Old or New Testament)?

21. WRAP UP:

What aspect of God's character have these verses shown you most clearly?

"Knowing that God is _____ shows me that I am/must _____."

What one step can you take to better live in light of this truth?

Chapter 2 Wrap-up

1. In a paragraph or so, summarize Ruth 2, to remind yourself of the overall story and context.
2. From our study together and from your own personal study, list the truths about God and the attributes of God that you saw. Identify which ones stand out the most to you.
3. Make a list of specific applications that God has brought to your attention from our/your study of this chapter, if any. If none come to mind, that's ok - God may be using this time in His word to store up treasure for something in the future.
4. List scripture references (from anywhere in the bible) that were particularly memorable to you in our/your study of Ruth 2, if any.

Ruth 3:1-18 – Ruth's Redemption Assured

Read [Ruth 3:1-18](#).

1. Summarize these verses in a sentence or two.

Reread Ruth 3:1-6.

2. In the previous chapter, Naomi has discovered that Ruth was gleaning in the field of Boaz, a kinsman redeemer. Read Ruth 1:9 and Ruth 3:1 and note the similarity. What does Naomi want for Ruth? But what is the major difference in these two incidents?
3. Lookup 1 Tim. 5:8. In many translations, this verse is used as a cross-reference for Naomi's statement "should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you?" Do you see a connection? Explain your answer.
4. The "rest" that Naomi is seeking for Ruth is the rest and security of having a husband and a home. Let's look at some other kinds of rest that we encounter in Scripture. Read Gen. 2:2-3, Ex. 20:8-11 and Mark 2:23-27. Borrowing from Jen Wilkin's "God of Creation" (Nashville, TN: LifeWay Press, 2017, page 44) :
Practically, how should we live out obedience to the fourth of the Ten Commandments in our daily living? Give some specific ways. As with all of God's commands, Sabbath is for our benefit. What benefits come from observing Sabbath in our lives?
5. We have looked at Sabbath rest – a rest from our normal labour, to worship God. Now let's look at the rest that Jesus speaks of in Matthew 11:28-30. What kind of rest is He offering? Why might you be weary and need soul rest? How can you avail yourself of this rest? **Does this tell you anything about the character of God?**
6. Read Psalm 62:5-7 in both ESV and NIV and note what stands out to you.

Ruth 3:1-18 – Ruth's Redemption Assured

7. What do you think Naomi meant when she said "may it be well with you" (verse 1)? Does Deut. 6:3 give you any ideas? What do we know about this time in history that gives us some understanding of how important this must have been to Naomi?

8. In verse 2, we see the concept of winnowing in terms of the barley harvest. Lookup Ps. 1:4 and Luke 3:16-18 to see a spiritual significance to the word. Does that have any meaning for your own life?

9. Verse 3 begins with Naomi asking Ruth to wash herself. Lookup the following verses and comment on how you can apply the idea of washing or cleansing.
 - 2 Cor. 7:1

 - Is. 1:16-17

 - 1 John 1:9

 - James 4:7-8

10. She asks Ruth to anoint herself. Lookup the following and comment on the significance of anointing in these verses. Can you formulate a definition of *anoint* from these verses?
 - 1 John 2:20, 27

 - 2 Cor. 1:21-22

 - Ex. 29:36

 - 2 Sam. 12:19-23

 - Why do you think this is used as a cross-reference for the word "anoint"?

11. She asks Ruth to put on her cloak ("her best clothes" in the Amplified Bible). Look at the following verses and note what stands out to you. In what specific ways can you put on your best clothes for God?
 - Is. 61:10

 - Rom. 13:14

 - Col. 3:12-17; 1 Peter 5:5b

 - 1 Peter 3:3-4

Ruth 3:1-18 – Ruth's Redemption Assured

12. Then, continuing with verses 3 and 4, Naomi advises Ruth to go to the threshing floor, wait until Boaz has fallen asleep, uncover his feet and lie down. What reasons might Ruth have given for not following Naomi's strange advice?

13. Instead, in verse 5 Ruth says that she will obey, and in verse 6 we see that she keeps her word. How often do you break your word to others? How often do you break your word to yourself? How often do you break your word to God? What prevents you from keeping your word?

14. Although we fail to keep our word, God always keeps His word. What scriptures can you find that support that statement?

Read Ruth 3:6-13.

15. These verses form the part of the narrative in which Ruth follows Naomi's advice. She goes to the threshing floor, waits until Boaz has fallen asleep, uncovers his feet and lies down. What do you know about this practice? Do you have any questions or comments that you would like to discuss from this section?

16. In verse 9, when Boaz asks who Ruth is, she responds by identifying herself as his servant (or maid-servant) instead of as a Moabite. What do you think the significance of this might be?

17. Ruth asks Boaz to spread his wings (of protection) over her because he is a redeemer. In effect, this is a marriage proposal. Why didn't Ruth wait for Boaz to propose? Or why didn't Boaz propose first? Does verse 10 help with your answer?

Ruth 3:1-18 – Ruth's Redemption Assured

18. In verse 10, Boaz responds positively, and refers to Ruth's first kindness and her last kindness. What do you think each kindness was?
19. Verse 11 begins with a comforting word from Boaz to Ruth. He says "do not fear". Has God brought people alongside you to encourage you to be unafraid? Have you done that for others? What might you use as an encouragement? **What is there about God that should quiet our fears?**
20. Boaz describes Ruth as a worthy woman (verse 11). This is the same word that is used in Prov. 31:10. The Amplified bible translates worthy woman as a woman of strength, worth, bravery and capability. Ruth had built a godly reputation. Are you building a godly reputation? What practical ways might you start or continue to do so?
21. In verses 12 and 13, Boaz outlines his plan. List what he plans to do. When we get to chapter 4, we will see that he keeps his word.
22. Boaz guarantees Ruth's redemption with an oath – "as the Lord lives". This oath is also used in 2 Kings 2:2, 4 and 6. Think about that oath for a moment and its strength. **What attributes or characteristics of God are seen in that oath?**

Read Ruth 3:14-18.

23. Ruth stays at Boaz' feet until morning, but leaves before she could be seen (verse 14). Based on what you have seen of their characters so far, do you think they were trying to hide something? What was their motivation? Lookup the following verses.

2 Cor. 8:21

Rom. 14:16, 19

Ruth 3:1-18 – Ruth's Redemption Assured

24. Do you have any examples from your own life of avoiding the appearance of evil, even though there was nothing wrong with what you were doing?
25. Before Ruth left, Boaz again shows his care and kindness by generously giving her six measures of barley to take to Naomi (verses 15-17). What are some scriptures that show God's bountiful provision for us? Note anything that stands out as important to you at this time in your life. Let me start with Eph. 3:20-21. And reread Ps. 13, noting how David ends with vv. 5-6.
26. Knowing their need, Boaz gave generously to Ruth and Naomi. Are you willing to give of your bounty to help those in need? Are there reasons that make you hesitant? How do you react when someone perceives that you have a need and offers to help you?
27. In verse 18, Naomi's final advice to Ruth is to wait until the matter is resolved. The Amplified bible says "Sit and wait", and the NKJV says "Sit still". Do you have trouble being still while you are waiting for God to act? Read the following verses and expand on what they might mean to you?
Ps. 46:10

Ex. 14:13
28. Lookup the following verses. Note the command to wait for the Lord. Note the benefits of waiting for the Lord. **Are any attributes of God evident to you in these verses?**
Ps. 27:14

Is. 40:30-31

Is. 64:4

Lam 3:22-26
29. I think we all have trouble waiting. Why is it difficult for you to wait? What characteristics of God are you forgetting? What verses could or should you remember (memorize) to help you when you struggle in waiting for the Lord?

Ruth 3:1-18 – Ruth's Redemption Assured

30. As we close this chapter, let's compare Ruth's character to that of the woman in Prov. 31:10-31. List the characteristics from Prov. 31. See if you can find a correspondence in Ruth's character or actions. Identify the references.

31. WRAP UP:

What aspect of God's character have these verses shown you most clearly?

"Knowing that God is _____ shows me that I am/must _____."

What one step can you take to better live in light of this truth?

Chapter 3 Wrap-up

1. In a paragraph or so, summarize Ruth 3, to remind yourself of the overall story and context.
2. From our study together and from your own personal study, list the truths about God and the attributes of God that you saw. Identify which ones stand out the most to you.
3. Make a list of specific applications that God has brought to your attention from our/your study of this chapter, if any. If none come to mind, that's ok - God may be using this time in His word to store up treasure for something in the future.
4. List scripture references (from anywhere in the bible) that were particularly memorable to you in our/your study of Ruth 3, if any.

Ruth 4:1-12 – Boaz Redeems Ruth

Read Ruth 4:1-12.

1. Summarize these verses in a sentence or two.

Reread Ruth 4:1-6.

2. Boaz sets out immediately to keep his promise – see Ruth 3:13.
To better understand the historical context, lookup the following passages and explain briefly the importance of the gate of the city.
 - 2 Sam. 15:2
 - 2 Sam. 19:8
 - Prov. 31:23
3. Comment on the sentence in verse 1 – "*And behold, the redeemer, of whom Boaz had spoken, came by.*" In particular, **what characteristics of God does "And behold" bring to your mind?**
4. Boaz gathers ten elders of the city (verse 2). The following verses contain other instances of elders of the city. Describe their importance. Does this add to your understanding of what Boaz is doing?
 - Ex. 3:16, 18
 - Deut. 21:19-21
 - Josh. 20:4
5. In verses 1 and 2, we see a repetition of the word *sit* or *sat*. Underline each occurrence of those words in brown. Since repetition is often important, we should consider it. Do you think there is any significance in this repetition, or is it simply the custom, or is it a literary style?
6. A possible reason, that everyone involved in the transaction sat down, was to ensure that the transaction was not done in haste. Are you willing to take time to sit with a friend or neighbour when they ask you to "Turn aside"? Are you able to give them your undivided attention, without wanting to leave in haste?

Ruth 4:1-12 – Boaz Redeems Ruth

7. Now that he has the proper witnesses for the transaction, Boaz presents the situation to the closer redeemer in verses 3 and 4. From the Hebrew-Greek Word Study bible, the phrase "*I thought I would tell you of it*" has the sense of declaration or disclosure. Does that seem in line with your evaluation of Boaz' character?

8. In verse 3, do you think there is any significance to the fact that Boaz describes Naomi as one "who has come back from the country of Moab"?

9. Reread the following passages to remind yourself of the conditions under Jewish law where redemption by a close relative applies. Which passage (or passages) applies to Naomi and Ruth?
Lev. 25:47-49

Lev. 25:23-28

Deut. 25:5-10

10. Lookup the words *redeem* and *redemption* in the dictionary. Which definitions most closely fit with what is happening in the book of Ruth?

11. Is there a correlation between the definitions you have chosen for redeem and redemption, and the redemption that we have in Christ? Explain your answer.

12. For those of us who are believers, redemption is a term that is very familiar. In your own words, in a sentence or two, write out your definition of the redemption that is in Christ. The following verses may help in your answer, but there are many more that you can choose from.
Rom. 3:23-26
Eph. 1:7-10
Col. 1:13-14
Gal. 3:13-14
Gal. 4:4-6
Col. 2:13-14

Ruth 4:1-12 – Boaz Redeems Ruth

13. How might you internalize the truth of your redemption in Christ, and live it?
14. Initially Naomi's closer redeemer is willing to fulfil his responsibility. Then, in verse 5, Boaz adds the final condition in order for this transaction to take place. Read Matt. 22:24 and Deut. 25:5-6 to try and understand what is involved. Can you explain what is meant by "*to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance*" in verse 5? (See also Ruth 4:10.)
15. The closer relative now declines to redeem Naomi's property (verse 6), because he would also be required to take Ruth as his wife. Does this indicate selfishness on his part? Is he doing the right thing? Explain your answer.
16. If the nearer relative was in violation of the Levirate law, it constitutes disobedience to God, which is sin. The text is not specific, but it appears to have been a quick decision. How often do our thoughtless or quick decisions lead us into sin, whether of thought or deed? What should we do? Does Nehemiah 2:1-5 give you any ideas?
17. The closer relative passes the right of redemption to Boaz. Considering Boaz as a type of Christ, does the fact that the closer relative was not a suitable redeemer and that the right was passed to Boaz, suggest anything to you? Lookup the following verses to see if they will help with your answer.
Matt. 26:39
Acts 4:12
John 14:6

Read Ruth 4:7-10.

18. In this section, we learn of a strange custom to confirm a binding transaction in front of witnesses. What does the initial phrase "*in former times*" indicate to you about the original audience and this custom? In a sentence, write a brief description of the custom.

Ruth 4:1-12 – Boaz Redeems Ruth

19. Reread Deut. 25:7-10. Note the similarities and the differences in this passage compared to our passage in Ruth. Why might there be these differences? Do you see any helpful meaning to this custom?
20. In verse 10 in the ESV, Boaz says that he bought Ruth as his wife. How do you react to that phrase? What do you think it might have meant to the original audience?
21. Although purchasing a wife is very foreign to us in our culture, think about the spiritual significance. As believers, we are the bride of Christ, having been purchased by His blood. What verses can you find that confirm this, and give you a better understanding of the example of this story.

Read Ruth 4:11-12.

22. The transaction has been completed and confirmed. The witnesses' first blessing is that Boaz and Ruth have great prosperity in their family. Read Ps. 127:3. And consider Rachel and Leah. What is significant about these two women in the building of the house of Israel?
Gen. 29:31 – 30:24, Gen. 35:16-18
Gen. 49:28
23. The witnesses' next blessing is for wealth or power. The Hebrew-Greek Word Study bible indicates that "act worthily" in verse 11 is speaking of wealth and power. Can you see any connection between the two concepts of acting worthily and wealth/power? Explain your answer.
24. This is followed by another blessing for offspring. Do you have any ideas about the significance of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah? See Gen. 38 and Matt. 1:1-6. Perhaps we will learn more when we investigate our commentaries.

Ruth 4:1-12 – Boaz Redeems Ruth

25. WRAP UP:

What aspect of God's character have these verses shown you most clearly?

"Knowing that God is _____ shows me that I am/must _____."

What one step can you take to better live in light of this truth?

Ruth 4:13-22 – Ruth's Reward and the Lineage of Jesus

Read [Ruth 4:13-22](#).

1. Summarize these verses in a sentence or two.

Reread Ruth 4:13-17.

2. Boaz marries Ruth, and the Lord gives them a son (verse 13). **What attributes or character traits of God does this reveal to you?**
3. In verse 14, the women are now rejoicing with Naomi. They are referred to as the women of the neighbourhood in verse 17. Read [Luke 1:57-58](#), to see another example of rejoicing neighbours. Now look back at [Ruth 1:19](#). Describe the difference. What does this tell us about who Naomi has become in her neighbourhood? How can we impact our neighbourhoods?
4. Read [Rom. 12:15](#). We can see that the women are rejoicing with Naomi as she rejoiced. We can imagine they might have mourned with Naomi as she mourned. Do you find it easy or difficult to do this with sincerity? Are there times when you find it hard to rejoice with someone who is rejoicing, or hard to mourn with someone who is mourning? Under what circumstances? What does this tell you about yourself?
5. Look up [Rom. 12:12](#). How might you better follow God's command? Are there other verses that come to mind that can guide you? Are there events from Jesus' life that you can use as a pattern?
6. The blessing that the women give to Naomi in verse 14 uses the phrase "the Lord, who has not left you". Look back at chapter 1 and comment on the difference. Is there a difference from the Lord's point of view? Explain your answer. Do you have scripture to back-up your answer?

Ruth 4:13-22 – Ruth's Reward and the Lineage of Jesus

7. In verse 15, the women speak of Ruth's son as a "restorer of life" to Naomi. How might this be true? Note that in the Hebrew-Greek Word Study bible, the root of that phrase carries the idea of turning back, turning around, or returning. Do you find that interesting? Why?

8. On a human level, Naomi is looking to her grandson as a restorer and as a nourisher (or sustainer in NIV). Lookup the following verses and note how God is our restorer, nourisher and sustainer.
Ps. 23:2-4

Ps. 55:22

1 Cor. 1:4-9

Col. 2:18-19

9. Ruth is praised as being better than seven sons (verse 15). What is significant about the number seven? How does that contribute to your understanding of what the women are communicating? Compare this to Ruth 1:21.

10. Naomi cares for this little boy as his nurse, and he becomes like a son to her (verses 16-17). He is named Obed, which means servant or workman or worshipper in Hebrew. Do you have any thoughts about what these verses mean?

11. How is the view of God expressed in this section both similar to and different from the view expressed by Naomi in chapter 1?

Read Ruth 4:18-22.

12. The final section of the book of Ruth is a genealogy that starts with Perez and ends with David. Perez has already been mentioned previously. It is proposed that David was king, or was about to be king when Ruth was written. What do you think this genealogy would mean to the original readers?

Ruth 4:13-22 – Ruth's Reward and the Lineage of Jesus

13. Verse 22 and the end of verse 17 are almost identical. What do you think the author accomplished, if anything, by this repetition?

14. Similar genealogy records are found in 1 Chron. 2:4-15 and Matt. 1:3-6. Genealogies can be somewhat tedious to us, but all scripture is profitable (2 Tim. 3:16-17). **Do genealogies tell you anything about the character of God?**

15. We have the great advantage of knowing what is future to this story – particularly that this genealogy leads us to Jesus. We have looked at Matt. 1:5-6 a few times. But I think it is worth noting again that Jesus lineage includes Rahab, a Gentile prostitute whose pagan life was transformed by God. It includes Ruth, a woman who began her journey with the God of Israel in the land of Moab. It includes Boaz, a righteous Jewish man. It includes David, a king who was called a man after God's own heart. And according to Luke 3:36-38, it includes Noah and Enoch who walked with God. **What does this tell you about God?**

16. WRAP UP:

What aspect of God's character have these verses shown you most clearly?

"Knowing that God is _____ shows me that I am/must _____."

What one step can you take to better live in light of this truth?

Chapter 4 Wrap-up

1. In a paragraph or so, summarize Ruth 4, to remind yourself of the overall story and context.
2. From our study together and from your own personal study, list the truths about God and the attributes of God that you saw. Identify which ones stand out the most to you.
3. Make a list of specific applications that God has brought to your attention from our/your study of this chapter, if any. If none come to mind, that's ok - God may be using this time in His word to store up treasure for something in the future.
4. List scripture references (from anywhere in the bible) that were particularly memorable to you in our/your study of Ruth 4, if any.

Attributes and Aspects of God's Character

Here are some suggestions for the attributes or characteristics of God.

A – Able, Awesome, Attentive, Almighty

B – Beautiful, Banner, Bountiful, Beneficent

C – Creator, Comforter, Counsellor, Compassionate

D – Divine, Deliverer, Dwelling Place

E – Eternal / Everlasting, Encourager

F – Faithful, Forgiving

G – Gracious, Generous, Good, Glorious, Gentle, Guide

H – Holy, Healer

I – Infinite, Immortal, Invisible, Incomprehensible, Immutable, I AM

J – Jealous, Just, Justifier

K – Kind, King

L – Love, Light, Long-suffering

M – Merciful, Magnificent, Mighty, Most High

N – Noble, Never-tiring, Name above all names

O – Omnipresent, Omniscient

P – Powerful, Perfect, Provider, Patient, Pure

Q – Quickening, Quintessential

R – Redeemer, Righteous, Refuge, Rock

S – Sovereign, Self-existent, Self-sufficient, Shield, Saviour, Strong, Sustainer

T – Transcendent, True, Trinity

U – Unchanging, Undeified, Understanding

V – Victorious, Very present help

W – Wrath, Wondrous, Wise, Worthy, Wonderful

X - eXalted, eXcellent

Y - Yahweh

Z – Zealous