

Book of Ruth

Lesson 2

The story begins during the time of the judges with a man named Elimelech, who along with his wife Naomi and their sons Mahlon and Kilion, move to the land of Moab from Bethlehem in Judah because of a famine there. Naomi's husband dies in Moab. Her sons marry Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After about ten years, Naomi's sons also die, leaving her alone with her daughters-in-law.

Hearing that the famine in the land of Judah has finally ended, Naomi decides to return home alone and urges Orpah and Ruth to remain in their own land, but the young women refuse to desert her and say they will go back with her. As Naomi tearfully entreats them again, Orpah decides to return to her people and gods, but Ruth steadfastly refuses. She pleads, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. 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).

So begins the opening chapter of this marvelous story of a family beset with hardship and loss, yet comforted by personal devotion, loyalty and even a glimmer of hope that the God of Naomi and her forefathers will ultimately meet their needs.

As you prepare to begin this lesson, take a moment to pray and ask God for insight into this beautiful story of redemption.

Ruth Meets Boaz

1. Read Ruth 2:1.
 - A. What is the name of Elimelech's relative?
 - B. Describe his character.
 - C. What is his relationship to Naomi?
 - D. What is his relationship to Ruth?

2. Read Ruth 2:2-4.
 - A. Refer to Genesis 19:30-38 and Deuteronomy 23:3-6. Why do you think the author emphasizes again that Ruth is a Moabitess, since she has already confessed to Naomi that "your people will be my people and your God my God"?

- B. Ruth, a gentile, is now in Israel (a metaphor for the land of promise for God's people) by the providence of God. Do you think she is there by merit, by good works or by grace? Please explain.
- C. From Ruth 2:2, how does Ruth exhibit faith in God and initiative as she seeks to provide for Naomi and herself?
- D. How does Naomi encourage Ruth? How does her response indicate faith in God's providence?
- E. Neither Naomi nor Ruth are yet aware of God's providential care, but He has been arranging circumstances in their favor. What has God done? How does this encourage you?

- F. From verse four, how do Boaz and the harvesters greet one another? What do these greetings reveal about their relationship with God and one another?

Boaz Notices Ruth

- 3. Read Ruth 2:5-17.
 - A. What does Boaz ask the foreman of the harvesters?

 - B. How does the foreman answer Boaz? What does this answer reveal about Ruth's character?

 - C. In verses 8 and 9, Boaz speaks directly to Ruth. How does he show respect and concern for her? What instructions does he give to protect and provide for her?

- D. From verse 10, how does Ruth respond to Boaz's kindness?
What does Ruth say about herself?
- E. From verses 11 and 12, what does Boaz say to encourage Ruth
and to assure her that she is no longer a foreigner?
- F. Read Genesis 12:1-4, Ruth 1:16, Galatians 3:6-9 and James
2:14-26.
- (1) How do Abraham and Ruth respond similarly to God's
call?
- (2) What evidence of belief and action (deed) do you observe
in Abraham and Ruth?

- (3) Abraham, Ruth and Rahab are examples of faith. Cite some specific ways you can apply their example in your own life.

- G. From Ruth 2:13, how does Ruth exhibit a humble spirit in thanking Boaz for his concern and provision?

Boaz Provides Further Encouragement

4. Read Ruth 2:14-16.

- A. How is Ruth further encouraged by Boaz at mealtime?

- B. What instructions does Boaz give his men as Ruth begins to glean again? How do his instructions reveal his understanding of Ruth?

C. How can you specifically use Boaz's example in your relationships?

5. Read Ruth 2:17. How late in the day does Ruth continue to glean?

6. Read Ruth 2:18 and 19.

A. When Ruth returns from the fields to Naomi, what does Naomi see first? What does Ruth show and give to Naomi?

B. Sensing a flicker of hope, Naomi questions Ruth. What does she ask?

C. How do these questions reveal Naomi's awakening awareness that the Lord has not abandoned them?

D. From Ruth 2:19, how does Naomi express this hope?

E. How does Ruth answer Naomi?

Boaz
A Temporary-Earthly
Kinsman-Redeemer

7. Read Ruth 2:20-23.

A. From verse 20, describe how Naomi responds to Ruth's report. What emotions do you think she feels? What words conclude her praise? What is significant about them?

B. Using a dictionary (Bible or secular), define the following words:

(1) kinsman

(2) redeemer

- C. Naomi makes two interesting statements: (1) God has not stopped showing kindness to the living and the dead, and (2) Boaz is a close relative, one of our kinsman redeemers. What do you think she has in mind? Refer to Leviticus 25:25, Deuteronomy 25:5-10, and Jeremiah 32:6-7 for additional insight.
- D. What else does Ruth tell Naomi that Boaz has said? How does Naomi respond?

**Jesus of Nazareth
The Eternal-Heavenly
Kinsman-Redeemer**

8. Read Hebrews 2:5-18. How is Jesus our kinsman?

9. Read Job 19:25-27, John 17:1-5, Romans 5:8-11, Galatians 1:3-5, Hebrews 9:27–10:22, 1 Peter 1:18-19, and Revelation 1:4-6 and 1:17-18. How is Jesus our eternal heavenly Redeemer?