



MORIAH WOMEN'S MINISTRY

RUTH

GOD'S REDEEMING GRACE

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
The rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me!
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.
Psalm 19:7–14 (ESV)

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RUTH

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BEFORE YOU DIVE IN

We are so excited about the journey you are about to embark upon.

God's Word is so rich! There is much He wants us to learn and discover.

If you are new to the inductive-type Bible study, let us encourage you to stick with it! You may struggle a bit at first as you get accustomed to the format. But, in time, you will find your rhythm and discover the rewards of regularly engaging with God's Word.

TO COMPLETE THIS STUDY, YOU WILL NEED JUST 4 THINGS:

1. **A Bible** - We suggest a word-for-word translation (i.e. English Standard Version, New American Standard Bible, Amplified Bible, King James Version, Christian Standard Bible; the New International Version is a balance between word-for-word and thought-for-thought). A study Bible can be helpful, but it is not necessary.
2. **Access to a commentary** - If you have a study Bible, the notes at the bottom are a commentary. You can also find many free online commentaries at biblestudytools.com, biblegateway.com, blueletterbible.org, netbible.org, and studylight.org. Most of these commentary sites also offer a free app you can download onto your phone. You may decide to invest in a printed commentary.
3. **Access to another translation of the Bible** – We suggest using a thought-for-thought translation (i.e., New Living Translation, New International Reader's Version, Contemporary English Version), as it will add depth to your study time. Most of the websites mentioned above also offer a variety of translations online and in their apps.
4. **Weekly Worksheets** – In order to take time to savor and thoroughly unpack God's Word, we strongly recommend reading only one chapter each week. You will be blessed as you slow down, dig deep, and really digest each chapter of Scripture.

As with any Bible study, the more you put into your study time, the more you'll get out of it! Check out the Suggested Bible Study Plans on page 7 to pace yourself.

We are praying that you will grow in your ability and confidence to study God's Word and that God will open your eyes so you may see wonderful things in His law (Psalm 119:18).

DISCUSSION GROUP GUIDELINES

Your discussion group time is where you'll have the opportunity at each class to share what the Holy Spirit has revealed to you during your study time. It's a time for giving and receiving encouragement from other believers. It's a safe place to seek answers in God's Word.

To get the most out of your time in this study:

1. Be on time.
2. Come prepared to learn and to share.
3. Be a good listener. Be patient and give others time to process and respond.
4. Be welcoming and encouraging to the other members in your group.
5. Respect different perspectives and opinions. Your group members likely come from many different churches and backgrounds, but we are all sisters in Christ. Please refrain from discussing topics (like politics) or other controversial issues that divide us.
6. Pray for and keep confident the prayer requests shared in your group.
7. Be willing to be transparent – with struggles in life and with the study. While at the same time, protect yourself and others by not over-sharing and by limiting details.
8. Stay on topic. Keep your discussion focused on the passage being studied. Your facilitator is happy to answer other questions you may have outside of class.
9. Keep the focus on God and His Word by not bringing in outside material. Use scripture or commentaries in your study time and discussion – not books, authors, or pastors to support your answers. The goal is to learn more about God and learn to hear Him speak to you through the Bible.

"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:5-6

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

1. PRAYER

Prayer is a crucial part of studying God's Word, as we cannot understand without the help of the Holy Spirit (see John 14:26). Start with prayer - ask God to open your eyes as you read His Word.

2. RECORD/RECALL THE BOOK'S CONTEXT – Answer these questions:

- Who wrote it?
- When was it written?
- In what genre was it written?
- To whom was it written?
- From where was it written?
- Why was it written?

3. OBSERVATION – What does it say? *(These notes are just for you to help you capture the content.)*

- Read the passage/chapter repetitively
- Look for main thoughts and circumstances
- Pay attention to transition words (if, then, therefore, likewise, but, because, in the same way - look for what they connect to)
- Write down questions and things you find confusing in the margins.

4. OBSERVATION – What are the key and repeated words?

Look up any unfamiliar words in the dictionary.

5. OBSERVATION – What is the main idea for this passage?

Write one sentence for the whole chapter or one sentence per section.

6. INTERPRETATION – Read the passage in at least one other translation.

Note new insights and the translation used.

7. INTERPRETATION – Make note of other places in Scripture that communicate a similar message.

- How does the passage connect to the passages before and after?
- How does the passage fit into the greater story of the Bible – creation, fall, redemption, restoration?
- Hint: Follow the cross-references in your Bible.

8. INTERPRETATION – Dig deeper using at least one commentary.

Examine the cultural and history context.

9. APPLICATION – What does the passage say about God?

10. APPLICATION – What does the passage say about God's children?

Our responsibilities, our sin

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

11. APPLICATION – What does God want you to do today or this week to develop Christ-like character and habits?

- Is there something you need to pray about or confess?
- Whom do you need to forgive, encourage, or serve?)

12. REMEMBER – Use this space to make note of something you want to remember from your time in God's Word this week.

- What Bible verse was most significant to you during your time of study?
- What one thing do you want to be sure to remember?

13. PRAYER

End with prayer, thanking God for any fresh insight you gained from your time in the Word.

Savor the slower pace of studying God's Word. You'll find your retention and knowledge greatly increased when the Scriptures are allowed to marinate in your mind.

SUGGESTED BIBLE STUDY PLANS

EVERY DAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start with prayer – ask God to open your eyes as you read His Word. • Read (or re-read) the chapter(s) for the week. • Complete the daily activity listed below. • Close with prayer – thank God for any fresh insight you gained from your time in the Word. 		
4-DAY PLAN	5-DAY PLAN	6-DAY PLAN	
<u>Day 1 - Context + Observation</u> 1. Record or reflect on the 6 W's (who, to whom, when, where, what genre, and why the passage was written). 2. Read the passage through a second time. 3. Record what the passage was about. 4. Note key and repeated words. 5. Record the main idea for the passage.	<u>Day 1 - Context + Observation</u> 1. Record or reflect on the 6 W's (who, to whom, when, where, what genre, and why the passage was written). 2. Read the passage through a second time. 3. Record what the passage was about. 4. Note key and repeated words.	<u>Day 1 - Context + Observation</u> 1. Record or reflect on the 6 W's (who, to whom, when, where, what genre, and why the passage was written). 2. Read the passage through a second time. 3. Record what the passage was about. 4. Note key and repeated words.	
<u>Day 2 - Interpretation</u> 1. Read the passage in a different Bible translation. 2. Write down anything of significance the Holy Spirit draws your attention to. 3. Follow the cross-references and make notes of other places in Scripture that communicate a similar message.	<u>Day 2 - Observation</u> 1. Record the main idea for the passage. 2. Read the passage in a different Bible translation. 3. Write down anything of significance the Holy Spirit draws your attention to.	<u>Day 2 - Observation</u> 1. Record the main idea for the passage. 2. Read the passage in a different Bible translation. 3. Write down anything of significance the Holy Spirit draws your attention to.	
<u>Day 3 - Interpretation</u> 1. Select and read at least one commentary on the passage. Take note of any new insights.	<u>Day 3 - Interpretation</u> 1. Follow the cross-references and make note of other places in Scripture that communicate a similar message.	<u>Day 3 - Interpretation</u> 1. Follow the cross-references and make note of other places in Scripture that communicate a similar message.	
<u>Day 4 - Application</u> 1. Make notes on what the passage tells you about God. 2. Write down what the passage says about God's children. 3. Document the action God is prompting you to take. 4. Write down what you want to remember.	<u>Day 4 - Interpretation</u> 1. Select and read at least one commentary on the passage. Take note of any new insights.	<u>Day 4 - Interpretation</u> 1. Select and read at least one commentary on the passage. Take note of any new insights.	
	<u>Day 5 - Application</u> 1. Make notes on what the passage tells you about God. 2. Write down what the passage says about God's children. 3. Document the action God is prompting you to take. 4. Write down what you want to remember.	<u>Day 5 - Application</u> 1. Make notes on what the passage tells you about God. 2. Write down what the passage says about God's children.	
		<u>Day 6 - Application</u> 1. Document the action God is prompting you to take. 2. Write down what you want to remember.	

PRAYER GUIDE

	<u>Before</u>	<u>During</u>	<u>After</u>
<u>Praise</u>	giving His word; revelation of self; specific attributes	when you make a connection; you are starting to ask the right questions, you are starting to enjoy it	the aspect of God's character you saw; read aloud the passage to God
<u>Admit</u>	insecurities; weaknesses; sin	frustration; boredom; don't like what it says	sin brought to light; rushing; thinking of something else
<u>Request</u>	ears to hear; eyes to see; clear your mind; reveal Himself; know Him better; see your need	understanding of hard passages; focus; patience	help to apply; act on what you learned; give fruit
<u>Thank</u>	time for study; ability to study; gift of Jesus	when other passages come to mind; learning; you see the gospel	what He is teaching you; men and women who wrote good books; for a truth you were shown

**From Women of the Word by Jen Wilkin*

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Attentive: God hears and responds to the needs of His children

Compassionate: God cares for His children and acts on their behalf.

Creator: God made everything. He is uncreated.*

Deliverer: God rescues and saves His children.

Eternal: God is not limited by and exists outside of time.

Faithful: God always keeps His promises.

Generous: God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

Glorious: God displays His greatness and worth.*

Good: God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

Holy: God is perfect, pure and without sin.*

Incomprehensible: God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

Infinite: God has no limits in His person or on His power.

Immutable/Unchanging: God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Jealous: God will not share His glory with another. All glory rightfully belongs to Him.

Just: God is fair in all His actions and judgments. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

Loving: God feels and displays infinite unconditional affection toward His children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response or merit.

Merciful: God does not give His children the punishment they deserve.

Omnipotent/Almighty: God holds all power. Nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

Omnipresent: God is fully present everywhere.

Omniscient: God knows everything, past, present and future, all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

Patient/Long-suffering: God is untiring and bears with His children.

Provider: God meets the needs of His children.

Refuge: God is a place of safety and protection for His children.*

Righteous: God is always good and right.

Self-existent: God depends on nothing and no one to give Him life or existence.

Self-sufficient: God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

Sovereign: God does everything according to His plan and pleasure. He controls all things.

Transcendent: God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

Truthful: Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

Wrathful: God hates all unrighteousness.

Wise: God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

Worthy: God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

R U T H

RESOURCES

SCRIPTURE JOURNALS

- Scan the QR code for a free double-spaced PDF of Ruth (ESV)
- Search for “Ruth Scripture Journal” for other Bible translations

Ruth (ESV)



COMMENTARIES

- *ESV Study Bible*
- *ESV Expository Commentary: Deuteronomy - Ruth (Volume 2)* by Iain M. Duguid and others
- *Exalting Jesus in Judges and Ruth (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary)* by Eric Redmond
- *Judges & Ruth: New American Commentary* by Daniel Block
- Search for “Ruth” on wtsbooks.com for other commentaries and Bible study resources

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

- *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* by Robert L. Plummer
- *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart
- *How to Understand and Apply the New Testament* by Andrew David Naselli
- *Inductive Bible Study* by Richard Alan Fuhr Jr. and Andreas J. Köstenberger
- *Transformed by Truth: Why and How to Study the Bible for Yourself as a Teen* by Katherine Forster
- *Women of the Word* by Jen Wilkin

RUTH

BEING GOD'S PEOPLE



Ruth in Boaz's Field by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld

Purpose

The book of Ruth is a beautiful story that happens in a difficult time. It was the time of the judges (Ruth 1:1), when "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit" (Judg. 21:25). Besides this lawlessness, the land was experiencing a severe famine. In these dire circumstances, it was difficult to be God's people. The book, then, has two main purposes:

- It presents a wonderful, concise, yet deep story of emptiness that turns into fullness, of despair into hope, of bitter sadness into joy and celebration. It shows how God turns around his people's fortunes.
- It presents the origins of King David's royal house.

Outline

1. Naomi's Emptiness: Famine, Migration, and Tragedy in Naomi's Family (1:1–5)
2. Naomi Back Home with a Moabite Daughter-in-Law (1:6–22)
3. Ruth Meets Boaz: Kindness and Generosity Meet Need (2:1–23)
4. Ruth and Boaz: Hope and Grace in Action (3:1–18)
5. Ruth and Boaz Married: Naomi's Fullness (4:1–22)

OVERVIEW OF RUTH

HISTORICAL BOOKS

In this book, the Hebrew names of the main characters are part of the story.

Name	Meaning	Significance
Naomi	"pleasant"	Early in the story, her life is quite unpleasant. So, Naomi changes her name to Mara, which means "bitter."
Elimelek	"God is my King"	Kings in the ancient world were supposed to provide for the needs of their people, including food and security. Yet, a great famine forces a family into exile.
Bethlehem	"house of bread"	Elimelek and his family leave Bethlehem during a famine to find bread in Moab, Israel's hated enemy.
Mahlon and Kilion	Something like, "weakly" and "sickly"	Their names suggest that the two brothers will have a tragic end.
Ruth	Related to the idea of "refreshment" or maybe "friendship"	Although a Moabitess, Ruth became a "friend" of God's people, and a "refreshment" to her mother-in-law, Naomi.
Boaz	Though difficult to determine, the most accepted meaning is "by strength, with strength."	Boaz surely demonstrated great strength of character and convictions to carry on another person's—Naomi's closer relative's—responsibility toward Naomi.

Background

Author: The author of this book is unknown. Jewish tradition attributes it to the prophet Samuel, though nothing in the text indicates this.

Date: The events in the book took place during the time of the judges (Ruth 1:1), sometime between the death of Joshua (around 1350 BC) and David's ascension to the throne of Israel (around 1000 BC).

Setting: The story happened when a severe famine struck the land of Israel. Naomi and her family left Bethlehem and traveled to Moab to escape the famine. Moab was one of Israel's fiercest enemies.

Themes

- God's care and providence in the life of his people is evident in the life of Naomi and Ruth.
- Loyalty, obedience, and trust in God is not limited to Israel. Ruth is an example of this point.
- Redemption. The story shows the ancient practice of "levirate marriage"—a word that refers to the "husband's brother"—and the redemption of property by a near relative. Boaz, although not Naomi's brother-in-law, redeemed Ruth and, indirectly, Naomi herself. Through the famine, the death of Naomi's husband and children, the loyalty of a Moabite woman, and Boaz's kindness, God brought about an unexpected redemption. Through it all, God gives as a gift David, the future king of Israel.

Key People

Naomi – Wife of Elimelek, she went to Moab escaping the famine in Bethlehem. After the death of her husband and sons, Naomi returned to Bethlehem with her daughter-in-law Ruth. Naomi's sadness was such that she changed her name to Mara, which means "bitterness" (1:20).

Ruth – A Moabitess, she married one of Naomi's sons. After the death of her husband, she remained faithful to her mother-in-law and showed great faith in God. She married Boaz and gave birth to sons. King David was her descendant and, eventually, Jesus as well.

Boaz – A compassionate and wealthy relative of Naomi, he fulfilled the levirate marriage and became Ruth's kinsman redeemer.

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

"May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wing you have come to take refuge."—Ruth 2:12



Ruth in the Fields
by Hughes Merle

Being God's People

Then: In the dark times of the judges, even in dire conditions of famine and suffering, God showed his presence in powerful and providential ways. God promised to give Israel the land as a sign of his fulfillment of the covenant. Through the story of Ruth, God arranged things so David would be born and become the seed of a new hope for his people. Through him, God's ultimate solution to the problem of sin and evil was born: Jesus, son of David, Son of God, and redeemer of humanity.

Now: The story of Ruth warns against placing people in definite boxes. In ancient Israel, the Moabites were pagans and enemies of God and God's people. Surely, God wouldn't use a Moabitess as an ancestor of the great King David. Yet, God reminds us that "my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways" (Isa. 55:8). Today we must be careful to not place people in boxes—making assumptions about what people believe and how dedicated they are to God. Neither must we place God in a box, thinking that God only acts in one way.

Jesus in Ruth

The idea of redeemer is important when we think of Jesus. Jesus redeems us from our fallen, low state. However, more directly, the genealogy that connects Ruth with King David, also connects her with Jesus (Matt. 1:5).

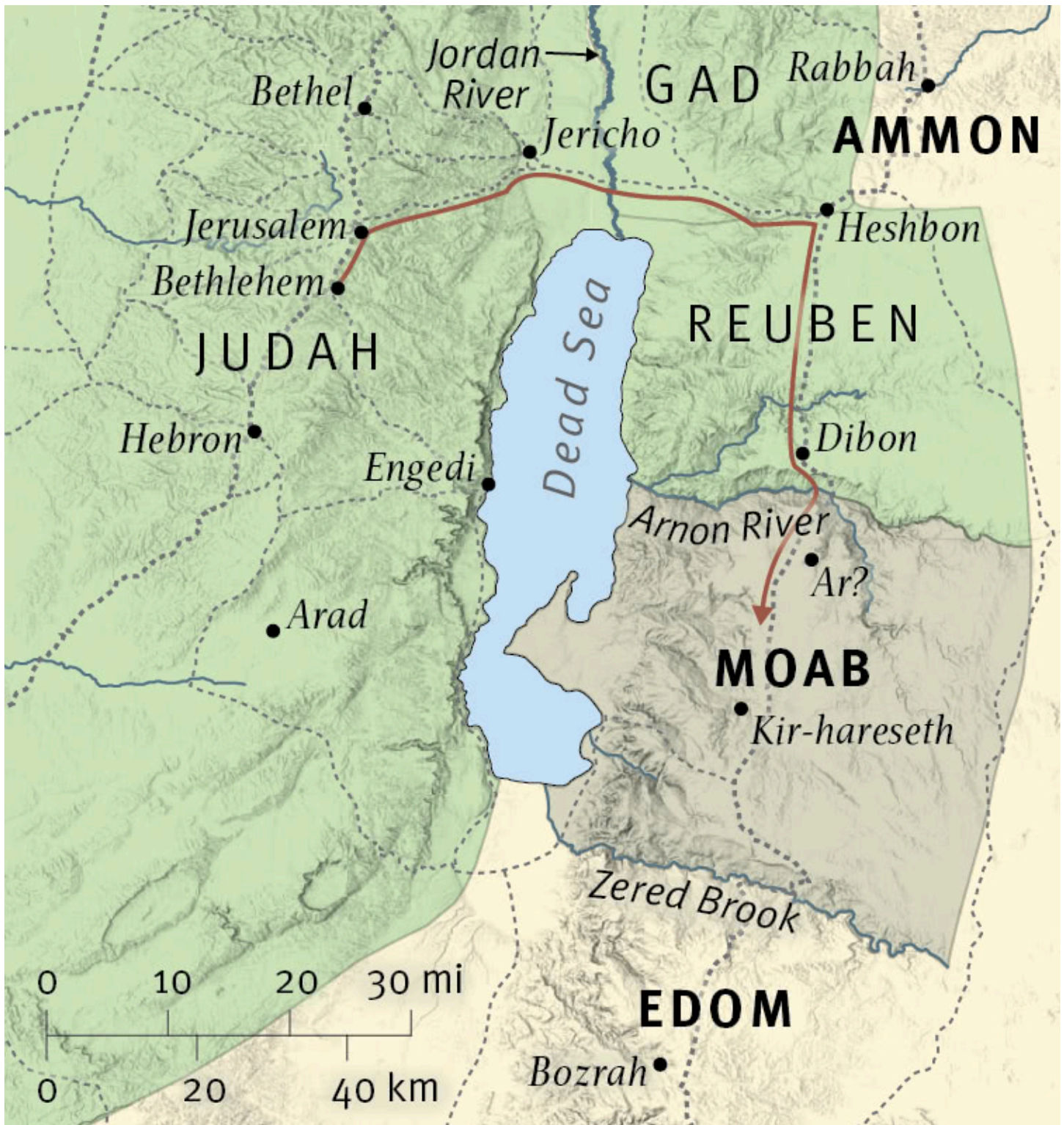
NOTES

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THE TRIBAL ALLOTMENTS OF ISRAEL



THE SETTING OF RUTH



WEEKLY WORKSHEETS

PASSAGE: RUTH 1

CONTEXT – What is the context of the book you are studying?

Who?

To whom?

When?

Where?

What genre?

Why?

OBSERVATION – What does it say? *(These notes are just for you to help you capture the content.)*

OBSERVATION – What are the key and repeated words? Look up any unfamiliar words in the dictionary)

OBSERVATION – What is the main idea for this passage? Write one sentence or one sentence per section.

INTERPRETATION – Read the passage in at least one other translation. *(Note new insights and translation used.)*

INTERPRETATION – Make note of other places in Scripture that communicate a similar message. *(How does the passage connect to the passages before and after? How does the passage fit into the greater story of the Bible – creation, fall, redemption, restoration? Hint: Follow the cross-references in your Bible.)*

INTERPRETATION – Dig deeper using at least one commentary. *(Examine the culture and historical context.)*

APPLICATION – What does the passage say about God?

APPLICATION – What does the passage say about God's children? *(Our responsibilities, our sin)*

APPLICATION – What does God want you to do today or this week to develop Christ-like character and habits? *(Is there something you need to pray about or confess? Whom do you need to forgive, encourage, or serve?)*

REMEMBER – Use this space to make note of something you want to remember from your time in God's Word this week. *(What Bible verse was most significant to you during your time of study? What one thing do you want to be sure to remember?)*

NOTES

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PASSAGE: RUTH 2

CONTEXT – What is the context of the book you are studying?

Who?

To whom?

When?

Where?

What genre?

Why?

OBSERVATION – What does it say? *(These notes are just for you to help you capture the content.)*

OBSERVATION – What are the key and repeated words? Look up any unfamiliar words in the dictionary)

OBSERVATION – What is the main idea for this passage? Write one sentence or one sentence per section.

INTERPRETATION – Read the passage in at least one other translation. *(Note new insights and translation used.)*

INTERPRETATION – Make note of other places in Scripture that communicate a similar message. *(How does the passage connect to the passages before and after? How does the passage fit into the greater story of the Bible – creation, fall, redemption, restoration? Hint: Follow the cross-references in your Bible.)*

INTERPRETATION – Dig deeper using at least one commentary. *(Examine the culture and historical context.)*

APPLICATION – What does the passage say about God?

APPLICATION – What does the passage say about God's children? *(Our responsibilities, our sin)*

APPLICATION – What does God want you to do today or this week to develop Christ-like character and habits? *(Is there something you need to pray about or confess? Whom do you need to forgive, encourage, or serve?)*

REMEMBER – Use this space to make note of something you want to remember from your time in God's Word this week. *(What Bible verse was most significant to you during your time of study? What one thing do you want to be sure to remember?)*

NOTES

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PASSAGE: RUTH 3

CONTEXT – What is the context of the book you are studying?

Who?

To whom?

When?

Where?

What genre?

Why?

OBSERVATION – What does it say? *(These notes are just for you to help you capture the content.)*

OBSERVATION – What are the key and repeated words? Look up any unfamiliar words in the dictionary)

OBSERVATION – What is the main idea for this passage? Write one sentence or one sentence per section.

INTERPRETATION – Read the passage in at least one other translation. *(Note new insights and translation used.)*

INTERPRETATION – Make note of other places in Scripture that communicate a similar message. *(How does the passage connect to the passages before and after? How does the passage fit into the greater story of the Bible – creation, fall, redemption, restoration? Hint: Follow the cross-references in your Bible.)*

INTERPRETATION – Dig deeper using at least one commentary. *(Examine the culture and historical context.)*

APPLICATION – What does the passage say about God?

APPLICATION – What does the passage say about God's children? *(Our responsibilities, our sin)*

APPLICATION – What does God want you to do today or this week to develop Christ-like character and habits? *(Is there something you need to pray about or confess? Whom do you need to forgive, encourage, or serve?)*

REMEMBER – Use this space to make note of something you want to remember from your time in God's Word this week. *(What Bible verse was most significant to you during your time of study? What one thing do you want to be sure to remember?)*

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PASSAGE: RUTH 4

CONTEXT – What is the context of the book you are studying?

Who?

To whom?

When?

Where?

What genre?

Why?

OBSERVATION – What does it say? *(These notes are just for you to help you capture the content.)*

OBSERVATION – What are the key and repeated words? Look up any unfamiliar words in the dictionary)

OBSERVATION – What is the main idea for this passage? Write one sentence or one sentence per section.

INTERPRETATION – Read the passage in at least one other translation. *(Note new insights and translation used.)*

INTERPRETATION – Make note of other places in Scripture that communicate a similar message. *(How does the passage connect to the passages before and after? How does the passage fit into the greater story of the Bible – creation, fall, redemption, restoration? Hint: Follow the cross-references in your Bible.)*

INTERPRETATION – Dig deeper using at least one commentary. *(Examine the culture and historical context.)*

APPLICATION – What does the passage say about God?

APPLICATION – What does the passage say about God's children? *(Our responsibilities, our sin)*

APPLICATION – What does God want you to do today or this week to develop Christ-like character and habits? *(Is there something you need to pray about or confess? Whom do you need to forgive, encourage, or serve?)*

REMEMBER – Use this space to make note of something you want to remember from your time in God's Word this week. *(What Bible verse was most significant to you during your time of study? What one thing do you want to be sure to remember?)*

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REFLECTIONS ON RUTH

Before completing this worksheet, pray and take a fresh look at the book in its entirety by reading it from start to finish.

What were the repeated words and ideas in the book of Ruth?

Summarize the book of Ruth in one sentence.

If you had to choose just one word, what word would you use to describe the book of Ruth?

What do you want others to know about the book of Ruth?

Flip back through your notes and your Bible in search of verses you recorded or highlighted.

Which verse(s) did God specifically and personally draw to your attention during your study? Choose at least two and write them below. Challenge yourself to memorize one of the verses you've noted.

What is something you may not have understood without the help of a commentary or cross-reference?

What new things have you learned about God? Perhaps an attribute of His character, a new fact you discovered, or something you knew but appreciate more now.

What new things have you learned about God's children during your study of Ruth?

Describe an action, step of faith, or act of obedience you have taken, or God is prompting you to take, as a result of this study.

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