



WOMEN'S CONNECTION

THE BOOK OF
RUTH

FOUR WEEK
BIBLE STUDY



GREATER GRACE
WORLD OUTREACH

Greater Grace World Outreach

Women's Connection Bible Study



We are so blessed that you decided to study the Bible. This four week study can be used for your personal devotional time or you may invite other women to join you on this journey through the book of Ruth. Suggestions for a group study are included on the final page.

Just like Mary did in Luke 10:42, you have chosen something worthwhile to spend your time on. As you connect with God and with your Bible, may you learn how to “Approve things that are excellent.” Philippians 1:10

Elizabeth George captured it well in her book, *A Woman After God's Own Heart*: “Before you launch into this Bible study, take a moment to think about these aspects of a root system produced by the regular, faithful study of God's words:

- *Roots are unseen:* You'll want to set aside time in solitude - “underground” if you will - to immerse yourself in God's Word and grow in him.
- *Roots are for taking in:* Alone and with your Bible in hand, you'll want to take in and feed upon the truths of the Word of God and ensure your spiritual growth.
- *Roots are for storage:* As you form a habit of looking into God's Word, you'll find a vast, deep reservoir of divine hope and strength forming for the tough times.
- *Roots are for support:* Do you want to stand strong in the Lord? To stand firm against the pressures of Life? The routine care of your roots through exposure to God's word will cultivate you into a remarkable woman of endurance.”

GGWO Women's Connection Bible Study

Ruth



Lesson 1 Return to Bethlehem

Read Ruth 1

1. The events in Ruth happen during the time of the judges. What was everyone doing (Judges 21:25)?
2. What are the results of this type of lifestyle?

Just Another Day in Paradise

3. The word "sojourn" in Ruth 1:1, means: "to stay somewhere temporarily." Describe something positive in your life that was supposed to be temporary but became permanent.

4. Circle the 6 vows Ruth makes to Naomi in these two verses:

"But Ruth replied, "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. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." Ruth 1:16-17

5. What impresses you about Ruth? Do you have a friend like Ruth?

6. Can you relate to Ruth's tenacity? Fill in the blank:

I'm so glad I didn't give up on _____.

There's No Place Like Home

7. On Naomi's return "the whole town was stirred." (Ruth 1:19) What does this reaction say about Naomi's character and her history with the people of Bethlehem?

8. In Ruth 1:20-21, Naomi made four statements to explain the reason for her new name. Fill in the blanks below:

The _____ has made my life very bitter.

I went away full, but the _____ has brought me back empty.

The _____ has afflicted me.

The _____ has brought misfortune upon me.

9. Have you ever experienced something bitter that enables you to relate to Naomi?

10. If you were to give yourself a name reflecting your current set of circumstances, what would it be?

11. Significantly, Ruth and Naomi's arrival in Bethlehem was at the start of a promising harvest season. What good things are on your horizon?

12. Is there an area in your life where you need deliverance from a seemingly permanent habit? Don't feel compelled to name the details of your struggle, but ask the women at your table to pray for you.



Private Time: In 1 Samuel 1, Hannah was barren, heartsick, misunderstood, and aggravated by her adversary. Read her prayer in 1 Samuel 1:10-15:

10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore. 11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. 12 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the Lord,

that Eli marked her mouth. 13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. 14 And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. 15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.

Are you in a place where you can identify with the bitterness of Naomi and Hannah? Has God allowed something special or someone you cherished to be taken from you? Does He seem to be withholding your heart's desire? Please take a moment, to be honest with yourself and with God. Let Him sort out your thoughts and turn bitter wounds into painless scars that testify to His healing power.

If you happen to be in a peaceful place today, stop and thank him for the gift of this resting place.

GGWO Women's Connection Bible Study

Ruth



Lesson 2 Ruth Gleans in Boaz's Field

Read Ruth 2

It's Off to Work I Go...

1. After Ruth and Naomi were settled, Ruth went out to look for a job. What does it mean to “glean” in a field?

2. What is Ruth hoping to find in the character of the owner of the field she will glean in (Ruth 2:2)?

3. Different scripture versions translate Ruth 2:3 “as it turned out”, “it was her lot”, and “she happened by chance” when Ruth began to glean in the field of Boaz. How would you describe this turn of events?

Who's the Boss?

4. What does Boaz's greeting to his men reveal about the way he leads (Ruth 2:4)?

5. What is the name Boaz uses in first addressing Ruth (Ruth 2:8)? What does it signify to you?

6. Read the instructions Boaz gives in Ruth 2:9. How do they apply to us today?

7. Pastor Ben Turkia has said when you study the nation of Israel, “Follow the water.” It is a precious commodity in the Middle East and Boaz’s offer to share it with Ruth is not to be taken lightly. Read about Bethlehem’s famous water in 1 Chronicles 11:16-19 and share your thoughts.

8. Boaz was impressed with Ruth. (Ruth 2:11) Circle and discuss the qualities she possessed:

beauty humility wealth possessions character social status

youth faith kindness loyalty intelligence courage culture

9. The phrase “spoken friendly” in Ruth 2:13 means “spoken to the heart.” What scriptures has God used to comfort your heart?

10. In what areas has God let “handfuls of purpose” (Ruth 2:16) fall into your path?

A Change of Heart

11. What does Naomi say about God in Ruth 2:20?

12. How is this different from her confession on the day she arrived in Bethlehem (Ruth 1:20-21)?

13. Ruth was faithful to Naomi, a bitter woman who was in the position of leadership over her. When we are serving under difficult people, what lessons can God teach us?

 **Private Time:** Is there a time in your life that you prematurely decided that God had abandoned you? Read the following verses and circle the four things that we are “**not**” as we walk through difficult situations:

2 Corinthians 4:6-10

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed;
we are perplexed, but not in despair;

9 Persecuted, but not forsaken;
cast down, but not destroyed;

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

Let life be manifested in you and take hope, Dear Sister!

GGWO Women's Connection Bible Study

Esther and Ruth



Lesson 3 Meeting at Midnight

Read Ruth 3

Time for a Change

1. Describe the spiritual significance of Naomi's instructions to Ruth (Ruth 3:3)

Wash: _____

Anoint: _____

Change clothes: _____

2. Was Naomi's plan wise or risque? Compare it with Ezekiel 16:9-10.

3. What can a change of clothing signify in a woman's life (Isaiah 61:10)?

4. Naomi's instructions could be interpreted as advising Ruth to end her mourning period and begin to get on with normal life. Why would Ruth have waited for Naomi's permission to do so?

5. Has God ever asked you to close the door on the past and begin to move forward? What did you learn from that experience?

Risky Business

6. Think about the uncertainty involved in Ruth's visiting the threshing floor in the dead of night. Share about a time when your obedience to God felt risky.

7. Proclaiming love for another person can be tricky. Ruth asking Boaz to marry her reveals another whole level of anxiety. What expectation did Boaz have that explains why he hadn't initiated a relationship with Ruth (Ruth 3:10)?

8. The word translated "skirt" in Ruth 3:9 also means "wing" in Ruth 2:12. Read Ezekiel 16:8 and explain the idiomatic phrase of a man "spreading his skirt" over a woman.

9. Fill in the blank from Ruth 3:11 "All the people of my town know that you are a _____."

10. Twice in this chapter, (Ruth 3:9&16) Ruth is asked, "Who are you?" What will soon change the identity of Ruth, the Moabitess?

Waiting in the Wings

11. What final instruction did Naomi give Ruth in verse 18?

12. Describe a time when you did everything you could do and then had to wait for someone else's response.

 **Private Time:** Do you enjoy waiting? No one does! Like Ruth, are you waiting for something right now? Is there a promise you feel God has given to you that you haven't yet seen fulfilled?

According to the following verses, what happens when we are still?

Exodus 14:13-14 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. 14 The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God:

How can you make a waiting time productive?

GGWO Women's Connection Bible Study

Esther and Ruth

Lesson 4 Redeeming Love

Read Ruth 4



Let's Make a Deal

- 1.** A kinsman-redeemer had to be:
1. Related by blood.
 2. Able to redeem.
 3. Willing to redeem.

Which of these qualifications was the man Boaz spoke to missing?

The Invisible Woman

2. Ruth didn't have a husband, property, children, and her job as a gleaner was temporary at best. Do you think Ruth ever felt "invisible"?

3. The town knew about Ruth, but how many people do you think took the time to get to know her? What can we do to help people feel included?

4. How good are you at including people? Check your response

_____ I'm always looking to help people feel noticed.

_____ I'm pretty good but could use some improvement.

_____ I need help noticing people outside of my circle of friends.

5. Ruth was the subject of people's prayers in Ruth 1:9 and Ruth 2:12. Who can we pray for today?

It's a Boy!

6. In Ruth 4:13, God is directly intervening in Ruth's life. What did He do?

7. Find Ruth mentioned in the New Testament in Matthew 1:1-6. What was the result of Ruth's loyalty to Naomi and her God?

8. Was baby Obed the grandson of Naomi?

9. The Book of Ruth starts and ends with Naomi. The first chapter tells of three funerals she had to endure and the last one ends with a wedding and the birth of a baby. What is God's heart towards this formerly bitter widow (Ruth 4:14-15)?

The Substance of Things Hoped For.

10. Remind yourself of the three qualifications for a redeemer in the first question. Who fulfills these for you?

1. **Related** (Hebrews 2:14-17)

2. **Able** (Hebrews 9:12)

3. **Willing** (Mark 10:45 & Ephesians 5:25)

11. What can you say about your Redeemer (Job 19:25)?

 **Private Time:** There are different ways of moving forward in faith. Is God asking you to sit still or to make a move right now?

Fill in the blank: My next step in faith is _____."

We are so blessed that you decided to study the book of Ruth with us! If you enjoyed this study, let us know by connecting with us here:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/15288385518/>



<https://www.instagram.com/ggwolift/>

Here is our prayer for you:

My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given.
You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. You're deeply rooted in him.
You're well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith.
Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject
and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving.
Colossians 2:6-7 [The Message]

Greater Grace World Outreach

Women's Connection Bible Study

Small Group Study Guide



Sample Morning Schedule:

9:45 - 10:00	Connecting Time
10:00 - 10:05	Welcome / Announcements
10:05 - 11:00	Small Group Discussion / Prayer
11:00 - 11:15	Guest Speaker / Special Activity / Closing

Suggestions for Individual Study:

- Start to study several days before the group meets. Read and reread the passage being discussed.
- Pray that God will speak to you and reveal himself to you as you study.
- Set aside enough time to thoughtfully answer the personal application questions.

Suggestions for an effective Small Group:

- Come on time so you can connect with the women at your table before the discussion begins.
- Come prepared. Be willing to participate. Remember to stick to the topic being discussed.
- Be careful not to dominate the discussion. Leave opportunity for others to respond.
- Listen attentively and do not engage in side conversations.
- Many of the questions are intended to stimulate discussion and do not have a "right" answer. Allow God to speak to you through the women at your table.
- The group is a safe space for women to talk openly. Be sensitive and respectful. Refrain from speaking with judgment or criticism. Be cautious about giving advice.
- What is shared in your group is considered CONFIDENTIAL and should not be discussed outside your group unless specific permission is given.
- Prayer requests should focus on the women in your group and their families rather than others outside the group. Our expectation is that we will personally experience God's answers to our prayers.