



Ruth – Study Guide



Bible Reading (Other chapters may be read for extra credit/benefit)	Textbook Reading (Other material may be read for extra credit/benefit)
Ruth	Ch. 12
☐ ch. 1 ☐ ch. 2 ☐ ch. 3 ☐ ch. 4	☐ The Book of Ruth ☐ Contents ☐ The Sovereignty of God and Faithful Living

Study Guide for Ruth

Chapter 1

- What does this chapter describe about Elimelech's family and how they ended up in Moab? What happened to the men of this family? Who was left in the family?
- Why did Naomi decide to return to Judah? What did she say to her daughters-in-law on the road? How did they respond at first?
- What did Naomi say to discourage her daughters-in-law from returning with her? How was this unselfishly seeking the best for them?
- How did each of the daughters-in-law respond to Naomi? What did each of them do? Why? Do you think what each of them did was right or wrong? Why?
- What did Ruth promise to Naomi? Why? What does this signify about how she would identify herself and her loyalties?
- How did people of Bethlehem receive Naomi when they arrived? How did she respond? What did Naomi say about her own situation and why?
- At what time of the year did they arrive at Bethlehem? Why do you think the author included this detail? What do you think it foreshadows?

Chapter 2

- How does the author introduce this chapter? What do you think is the significance of this?
- What did Ruth go out to do? Where did she end up? Why?
- What does this chapter demonstrate about the character of Boaz? How did he treat Ruth? Why?
- How did Ruth describe herself to Boaz? What did Boaz say about her? Why? How did she respond?
- What did Ruth tell to her mother-in-law? How did she respond? What do you think this all foreshadows later in the story?

Chapter 3

- What did Naomi tell Ruth to do? Why?
- How did Boaz respond when he discovered Ruth? How did he describe Ruth? What did he tell Ruth about a kinsman? What did he promise to do?
- What did Boaz do for Ruth in the morning? What did Ruth tell her mother-in-law? What is the significance of all of this?

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Chapter 4

- What is the name of the other kinsman (trick question)? Why do you think this is significant?
- What did Boaz say to the kinsman? How did he respond at first? What did Boaz then add? How did the kinsman respond after that? Why do you think this changed?
- What did Boaz say to all the elders as the result of this exchange? How did the elders respond? What do you think this foreshadows about later history?
- What happened to Boaz and Ruth? How did this concern Naomi?
- What did the women of the town say to Naomi? How does this compare to what Naomi said about herself at the end of chapter 1?
- What is the point of the genealogy at the end of this book? Who is the focus of this genealogy? Why do you think this is significant for the Old Testament as a whole? How does this contribute to the purpose and message of the book of Ruth? What difference does this make?

Study Guide for Textbook chapter 12

The Book of Ruth

- How does the textbook summarize the message of Ruth?

Contents

- How does the textbook define the term “idyll”? Do you think this accurately describes the book of Ruth? Do you think this *completely* describes the book of Ruth? Why or why not?
- Who are the three main characters in this story? What does each of them do?
- What role does God play in this story, according to the textbook? Why is this significant

Literary Structure

- According to the textbook, how is this book similar to a play? What “framework” is used to organize the story as a whole? What does this tell us about the content and message of Ruth?

Outline

- How does the textbook outline this book? How does this compare to the outline given in the course Lecture? How does this help us understand the book of Ruth?

Overview

- Who does the textbook say this book is really about? Do you agree? Why or why not?
- Where does this book take place?
- How does the textbook contrast the characters of Ruth with the main characters of other historical books? What does this tell us about this book?
- Describe the situation of Naomi, according to the textbook? Why did she encourage her daughters-in-law to return to Moab?
- How did Ruth respond? What is the point the textbook makes about devotion?
- How does chapter of Ruth demonstrate an Old Testament provision for the poor?

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- What point does the textbook make about why Ruth ended up in that particular field? Why is that significant? How does that influence the outcome of this story?
- What does the textbook tell us about the role and responsibility of the “kinsman-redeemer” in Israel? How does Boaz fulfill that role?
- How did Boaz understand Ruth’s actions, according to the textbook? Were her actions upright? What were the possible dangers of her actions?
- How did Boaz respond to Ruth’s actions? What does this say about Boaz’s character, according to the textbook?
- According to the textbook, what was the significance of the transaction that took place at the city gate? What is “levirate marriage”? How is this relevant to the story of Ruth?
- According to the textbook, how do all the problems of chapter 1 resolve in a solution?
- What does the textbook describe as the “surprise ending” of Ruth? Why? Why is this important in the larger Biblical story? How should we respond?

The Sovereignty of God and Faithful Living

- What point does the textbook make about the central character of the book of Ruth? What difference does this make? How does it apply to us today?
- How does the textbook contrast this book with the book of Judges? What point does it make from this? How should we respond?
- What point does the textbook make about boundaries? What difference does this make?

Review the Study Questions and Summary at the end of the chapter