

Week Three: Discussion Questions

LEGACY OF FAITH - EXTRAORDINARY GRACE RUTH CHAPTER 2



1. *What impacted you from last week's message?
2. *In what ways do Ruth and Boaz reflect godly qualities in this chapter?
3. *In Israel, gleaning was a way to honor God and care for others (Leviticus 19:9-10). Although this practice is not part of our lives, what are some practical ways that we can follow this principle in our modern culture?
4. *In Leviticus 19:33-34, God commands the people of Israel to love the foreigners in their land as they love themselves. How does Boaz demonstrate obedience to these instructions from the Lord?
5. *What can you learn from Boaz in this scene? (3 lines)
6. *Considering what you know about Ruth so far, how do you think her experiences in these verses impacted her?
7. *Boaz's kindness to Ruth and Naomi had a huge impact in their lives. When has the kindness of another person impacted you?
8. *What one word sums up Ruth 2 to you?
9. *Summarize Ruth 2 in one sentence.
10. *Boaz showed favor (grace) to Ruth by providing for her physical needs. As New Testament believers in Jesus Christ, we can trust Him to provide not only our physical needs, but also for our spiritual needs. Read Ephesians 2:4-10.

LEGACY OF LOVE, EXTRAORDINARY HOPE

RUTH CHAPTER 3

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RUTH CHAPTER 3

III. The legacy of _____: Let your heart take _____ in the midst of the unknown. (14-18)

Week Three: Homework

LEGACY OF LOVE, EXTRAORDINARY HOPE RUTH CHAPTER 3

DAY ONE

PRAY: Please offer this time to the Lord, and ask Him to open your heart to His heart—His tender, romantic, and loving heart.

MEMORIZE: Please write Proverbs 31:27 on the following lines, and repeat it several times.

“She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.”

STUDY: For anyone who is a romantic, Ruth 3 is a beautiful love story. Sometimes we can read it quickly and miss some of the intricacies that make it so beautiful. Please take your time in reading Ruth 3 with your imagination engaged. Try to picture what was happening as it happened. Then, answer the following questions:

1. *If someone asked you what Ruth 3 was about, what would you say?

2. Things were done pretty differently in the Hebrew culture of that time. What do you see that’s different from today’s culture?

3. What evidence do you see of God working behind the scenes to do the extraordinary in the ordinary?

4. God included this story in the Bible for a reason. What do you see about God’s character in this passage, that He would make sure this story was told?

Please close today’s homework with a small story time with the Lord. Tell Him what happened in Ruth 3.

DAY TWO

PRAY: As you prepare to study God’s word, ask Him to give you a deeper glimpse into how much He cares for you.

MEMORIZE: Please unscramble the words to put Proverbs 31:27 in order.

looks well eat the of her does she bread household and ways not idleness the of to

STUDY: The culture of that time was different than ours. Today, we might say that Naomi is pushy, but being a matchmaker was common and accepted in her culture. You'll see that Naomi has come up with a strategic plan. Remember, when Naomi first came home, she told everyone to call her "Mara," which means "bitter." However, now it seems that Naomi's bitterness has turned to hope. Please read vs. 1-5, and answer the following questions:

1. Vs. 1 starts out with the word "then." To what is it referring (see Ruth 2:22-23)? What did Boaz seem to prove to Naomi during that time?

2. Please compare vs. 1-2 with Ruth 1:8-9. Why do you think Naomi used the word "rest" with Ruth? What do you think this implies about Naomi's view of Ruth and how their relationship has grown since Naomi tried to tell Ruth to go back to Moab in chapter 1?

3. Please compare vs. 2 with Deuteronomy 25:5. Explain why Naomi mentioned that Boaz was a relative. If you were Ruth, who had no understanding of Jewish law, what would you have thought?

4. *What things did Naomi ask Ruth to do in vs. 3-4, and why do you think these things mattered?

5. In that day, to lie at someone's feet was the role of a servant. Why do you think Naomi asked Ruth to take this posture?

6. What insight does Ruth's response to Naomi give you about Ruth's character?

7. *If you were watching this story from God's perspective, how would you explain God's involvement in the story?

Please close this time in prayer and talk with the Lord about His involvement in your life.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer, and ask the Lord to show you how to be both humble and bold in your obedience to Him.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the blanks:

She _____ well to the ways of her _____ and does not eat the _____ of _____ . Proverbs ____:27

STUDY: This was during the time of the judges when the Israelites as a whole were going through cycles: following God, falling away from God, getting into idolatry, falling into enemy hands, crying out to God for deliverance, and starting the cycle all over again. The Israelites were always on their guard, so it makes sense that Boaz would stay with his harvest at night in order to protect it from vandals or burglars. Today, we'll study the sweet interaction between Boaz and Ruth at the threshing floor. How cool is it that God is a romantic! Please read vs. 6-9, and answer the following questions:

1. "Actions speak louder than words." According to vs. 6, what did Ruth's actions speak about her promise to Naomi?

2. *Why do you think it's so important that our actions align with our words? How does that affect our relationship with the Lord? How does it affect our relationships with others?

3. *Please compare Ezekiel 16:8, where God is speaking, to vs. 9. What, in essence, is Ruth asking of Boaz?

4. *From vs. 9:

a. What phrases from Ruth's request of Boaz simultaneously showed boldness and submission?

b. Please compare this request with what we're told in Hebrews 4:16. Explain how boldness and submission can fit together.

5. Boaz is called a “kinsman-redeemer.” He is considered a model of Jesus being our kinsman-redeemer. How does this interaction between Ruth and Boaz model the relationship we have with Christ?

Please close this time in prayer, boldly and in submission.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Please offer this time to the Lord, and ask Him to teach you to trust Him in the unknown.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the blanks:

_____ looks _____ to the _____ of her _____ and _____ not _____ the _____ of _____. Proverbs 31:27

STUDY: Today we get to celebrate an unexpected love story. Boaz was a lot older than Ruth. Ruth was a Moabite, not one of God’s “chosen” people. From the outside, there was no reason for God to bless such a match... and yet He did. As we study vs. 10-13 today, may we see the beautiful, creative, loving nature of God. Please read vs. 10-13, and answer the following:

1. Please look back over Ruth 2. What do you see about Boaz that would make Ruth feel safe to boldly ask him to “spread his wings over her” and “redeem” her?

2. What additional traits do you see about Boaz in vs. 10-11 that would draw Ruth to him?

3. Some people think that the way in which Ruth approached Boaz could have been inappropriate. What evidence do you see in this passage to prove that this interaction was handled with purity and integrity?

4. *Imagine being Ruth and hearing that there could be someone else who had the right to marry her before Boaz. What thoughts would you have if you...

a. Trusted God's sovereignty?

b. Had a heart of fear?

c. Had a heart of pride?

5. *Looking over your answers to #4, what impact does it have on your life that the circumstances never changed, but the response changed based on the level of trust?

Please close this time in prayer. Talk with the Lord about any circumstance in your life that you need to trust Him more. Tell Him why it might be hard to give Him that trust.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: As you offer this time to the Lord, please ask Him to give you the strength to wait for Him.

MEMORIZE: Please write Proverbs 31:27 on the following lines:

How do you see this verse exemplified in Ruth's life?

STUDY: We have just found out that there is another kinsman-redeemer who has the right to marry Ruth before Boaz. We know how Boaz and Ruth want this love story to end. But how does God want this story to end? Waiting is hard! We will find that this chapter ends on a cliffhanger... with more waiting. How often do our own lives seem to be in the middle of a situation with no understanding of how it will end? Even when we don't know how it will end, we can trust that God "declares the end from the beginning...and says, 'My purpose shall stand'" (Isaiah 46:10). Please read vs. 14-18, and answer the following questions:

1. Vs. 14 says that Ruth “lay at his feet until morning.” Do you think she got any sleep? What thoughts could have kept her awake?

2. Why do you think Boaz might have asked those with him not to tell anyone that Ruth had been there?

3. What do you think Naomi’s first thoughts were when she saw Ruth carrying up to 60 pounds of barley?

4. What do you think Boaz was trying to communicate to Naomi by sending Ruth home with her arms full of barley?

5. *Naomi told Ruth to “wait, my daughter, until this matter is settled.”

a. What thoughts run through your mind when you have to wait without knowing the outcome?

b. How does your view of God impact the way you handle waiting?

6. What hope do the following verses give you about waiting?

a. Psalm 33:18-20

b. Psalm 40:1-2

c. Lamentations 3:24-26

7. *In Ruth 1, Naomi spoke of how God had dealt bitterly with her and left her empty. What do you see God using in her life to remove the bitterness? What does this tell you about the character of the Lord?

Before closing this time in prayer, please look back over your homework. Please tell the Lord some things that you'd like to take away from this week to apply to your life.

