

# Judges & Ruth

God's *Faithfulness* Remains

women's | BIBLE STUDY

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women's | BIBLE STUDY

LESSON *Eighteen*

God's Faithfulness Remains

**J**ust as Naomi predicted, Boaz quickly spoke to the other possible redeemer. After speaking with Boaz, the relative decided he did not want to marry Ruth. Boaz stepped in, redeeming Ruth and marrying her just as Naomi had hoped. Soon after, Ruth and Boaz had a son, Obed, who was in the lineage of Jesus Christ. Naomi had returned to Bethlehem empty, but now she was full. She had lost everything but has now gained more than she had ever hoped. God's faithfulness not only remains, but it overwhelms.

## SELLING LAND

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The narrator includes new information at the beginning of chapter 4. Boaz said that Naomi was selling some land. This should be translated to say, "surrendering the rights to." It was likely land she possessed due to Elimelech's death.<sup>98</sup>

## SANDALS

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In ancient times, sandals and other footwear represented ownership. For examples, see Deuteronomy 25:8-10 and Psalm 60:8.<sup>99</sup>

## JUDAH AND TAMAR

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The text references the story of Judah and Tamar. To better understand this reference, read Genesis 38.

**Read Ruth 4 before answering the following questions.**

1. Remind yourself of the main events of the story.

*Chapter 1*

*Chapter 2*

*Chapter 3*

Where do you see God at work?

**Read Ruth 4:1-12.**

2. In just one or two sentences, recount the conversation between Boaz and the other relative in this section. Why was the other potential redeemer unwilling to help?
3. How did Boaz take action in this section? Take a moment to consider what challenges and what joys could have resulted from his actions?

4. Boaz became Ruth's redeemer. Similarly, in the Old Testament, God is called the redeemer of rebellious Israel (as seen in Judges). What do these passages reveal about Jesus as a redeemer for people today?

*1 Corinthians 1:30*

*Ephesians 1:3-10*

*1 Peter 1:18-19*

If you know Jesus personally, how are you experiencing His redemption in your life today? If you have not accepted Jesus as your Savior, what is stopping you?

**Read Ruth 4:13-22.**

5. Read Ruth 1:1-5 and Ruth 4:13-17 below.

**Ruth 1:1-5**

*"In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband."*

**Ruth 4:13-17**

*"So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David."*

## BOAZ AS REDEEMER

Boaz acted as kinsman redeemer to make sure Ruth did not experience poverty and widowhood. Boaz purchased the land of Elimelech and, in so doing, "redeemed" Ruth and took her to be his wife (Ruth 4:1-12).

## JESUS AS REDEEMER

"Jesus was not the first redeemer from Bethlehem and Judah, but He was the greatest."<sup>100</sup>

How did the book of Ruth end? What major differences do you see in these two passages?

6. God works in surprising, unexpected, yet ever-faithful, ways. How did He act in unexpected ways in this story? How has He worked in unexpected ways in your life?
  
7. God responded to the cries of His people. Using the chart below, read through the following prayers in Ruth and look at how God answered.

### PSALM 30

“You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!” Psalm 30:11-12

### OBED

The name “Obed” means “provider” or “guardian.”<sup>101</sup>

PRAYER	GOD'S ANSWER IN RUTH 4
Ruth 1:8-9	
Ruth 2:19-20	
Ruth 3:10	
Ruth 4:11-12	

How does this encourage you?

8. From verses 18-22, fill in the names of the genealogy below:

“Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, Salmon fathered \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ fathered Obed, Obed fathered \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ fathered \_\_\_\_\_.”

Now, read Matthew 1:1-6, 16-17. What is significant about Ruth and Boaz' genealogy?

*The genealogy at the end of Ruth points to a much larger story, one that does not end with the birth of Obed. If you continue reading through 1 Samuel, the book immediately following Judges and Ruth, a couple of generations passed, and David was born. David became the most well-known king of Israel, a man that sought God with all his heart. God promised David that one of his descendants would sit on an eternal throne and rule forever (2 Samuel 7). However, time passed, and the nation of Israel continued to disobey God. Eventually, in God's loving discipline, He allowed His people to be exiled from the Promised Land. During that time, there was no descendant of David ruling as king. Israel spent 70 years in foreign lands, wondering how or if the promises of their forefathers, Abraham and David, would ever be fulfilled. Israel was in despair, all too aware of their need for God's supernatural help. They were a people in desperate need of a savior. And then, the cry of a baby changed everything.*

*The son of Abraham and David, yet the very Son of God, came into the world. Born of a virgin, Jesus lived a perfect life, died a death He did not deserve, and was resurrected from the grave three days later. He is fully God and fully man. He came to rescue His people. He came to rescue you. The truth of this good news is simple. If you believe in Him, you are saved. (Romans 10:9-10) You are redeemed. He takes you from the bondage of sin and death, the same bondage that plagued the Israelites in Judges, into His abundant grace. You no longer have to live for yourself but can live for the One True Judge and King.*

*Don't you see? Ruth's story did not end when she met Boaz... it didn't even stop when Jesus arrived on earth. Her story extends to you today.*

## MATTHEW 1

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Take some time to read through the genealogy in Matthew 1. Circle any names you recognize from the stories of the Old Testament. Find the women in the lineage of Jesus and be encouraged.

## DON'T MISS THE BEAUTY

"If someone invited you to listen to a story about a redeemer from Bethlehem in Judah who fulfilled and exceeded the law with his acts of mercy and abundant provision before entering into covenant with a bride from the nations, that story could be about Boaz or Jesus. Such is the beauty and brilliance of the Word of God."<sup>102</sup>

9. In what way did Ruth's faithfulness far outlast her lifetime? How does this spur you on in your walk with God?

*God had a plan. God has always had a plan. And it didn't include Israel being righteous on their own strength; rather, it required a Savior, one who would come and die for the sins of the world. Judges and Ruth were just one part of Israel's history, a difficult season in their sinful past. However, during Israel's rebellion, God continued to hear their cries. In the midst of their faithlessness, God always remained faithful. The amazing thing is that you get to participate in God's plan here and now. The question is: do you want to? Though you sin, God's grace overwhelms. Though you fall short, God's love is ever-present. And when you are faithless, God's faithfulness remains.*

10. Write a prayer in the space below. Thank God for what He taught you in the book of Ruth. Praise God for His character shown in Scripture. Finally, ask Him to use these truths and the Holy Spirit to change you to be more like His Son, Jesus Christ.

"If we are faithless, He remains faithful—  
for He cannot deny Himself."

— 2 Timothy 2:13

# REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. As our study of Judges and Ruth comes to a close, what are some of the main points of these books? What do you think will stick with you after studying them?
  
2. As we reach the last chapter of Ruth, consider: Was God's character different in Judges and Ruth? Did He work differently in each book? How did people act differently in Judges versus in Ruth?

	JUDGES	RUTH
<i>God</i>		
<i>People</i>		

3. Throughout these books, what did you learn about:

*Sin*

*God*

*Yourself*



4. The theme of this study was “God’s Faithfulness Remains.” Where did you see this in Judges? Ruth? What about in your life?
  
5. What in your life has changed since you started studying Judges and Ruth? What can you celebrate about the work God has done in you through this study? Where do you still have room to grow?
  
6. How did you see God answer prayers throughout your time studying Judges and Ruth? Did your relationship with God grow over your time in His Word? Explain.
  
7. Judges is an unexpected book to study. In what ways did it surprise you? What applicable truths did you learn that you can share with someone else?
  
8. Now that this study has ended what is your plan to continue studying God’s Word?



## BIG IDEA

What is your biggest takeaway from this week's lesson?

Notes