

ORDINARY PEOPLE
RUTH
Chapters 3 - 4

Memorize Proverbs 31:30, 31.

Read the book of Ruth at one sitting.

NOTE: This passage has much to do with the Levirate law. The name is derived from the Latin levir, meaning "husband's brother." When a married man died without a child his brother was expected to take his wife. Children of the marriage kept the inheritance in the family. This custom is found among other peoples besides the Hebrews.

Read Ruth 3:1-5.

1. In the New American Standard Bible (NASB) verse 1 begins "then." *When* did Naomi give Ruth these further instructions?

2. In your own words and from verses 1-5:
 - a. Give Naomi's instructions to Ruth.

 - b. Give Naomi's reasons.

 - c. Give Ruth's response.

3. What principles do you see in verse 3 that can help you in communicating with others?

NOTE: The action that Naomi encouraged Ruth to take, i.e., to uncover Boaz's feet and to lie down, was evidently a custom of the times by which Ruth was offering herself to Boaz in marriage.

Read Ruth 3:6-18.

4. What took place in these verses?

5. From what he said and what he did what do you learn about Boaz in verses 6-18?

6. How does he differ from the type of man society today often puts forth as an ideal mate?

7. Thinking about the previous two questions, *what bearing* do your answers have on the kind of man you would encourage your daughter or your friend (or yourself!) to marry?

8. Why do you think Boaz sent a gift to Naomi?

9. In verse 18 Naomi admonishes Ruth to "wait." Why this shift from action to waiting?

10. What principle can you apply from this to your life?

Read Ruth 4:1-12.

11. Why did Boaz go to the gate? (The same word is used in the NASB in verses 10 and 11 and is translated "court.")

12. Tell what took place in verses 1-8.

13. At what point did the closest relative change his mind about buying the land Naomi had to sell? Why did he change his mind?

Read Ruth 4:9-22.

14. Does this passage infer that it was a really lucky thing that a child was born to Boaz and Ruth? If not, what *does* it teach concerning conception of children?

15. Why does the book of Ruth end with a list of generations and with David in particular?

All through the book of Ruth much is made of the fact that Ruth was a foreign woman, a Moabite. (Could this have been one reason the closest relative wouldn't marry her - Ruth 4:5-6?) Perhaps there are some indications as to why this was no problem to Boaz. Let's see!

16. Verse 21 of chapter 4 tells us who was Boaz's father. Who was he? _____.
Who was his mother? (See Matthew 1:5.)_____.

17. What kind of a woman was Rahab? (See Joshua 2:1-21; Joshua 6:17-25; Hebrews 11:31, Matthew 1:5.)

18. Now, why do you think Boaz was willing to marry Ruth?

19. What important lessons for your life do you learn from the book of Ruth:
a. about God?

b. about the women God uses?

c. about circumstances God uses?

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