

Session One: "A Little History"

Setting the Stage

1. Time
 - a. Characteristics
 - i. No absolute truth
 - ii. No standard of right or wrong
 - iii. Decisions were made based on feelings, wishes, and circumstances
2. Important Locations
 - a. Moab
 - i. Origin
 - ii. Characteristics
 - iii. Relationship with Israel
 - b. Bethlehem
 - i. Origin
 - ii. Characteristics
 - iii. Purpose
3. The spiritual condition of God's people
 - a. The people sinned.
 - b. God sent consequences.
 - c. The people cried out to God for help.
 - d. God sent a judge to rescue the people and reestablish godly principles.
 - e. The people prospered only to fall back into the painful trap of sin.



4. Important People

- a. Ruth

- b. Ruth's Family
 - i. Father-in-law: Elimelech
 - ii. Mother-in-law: Naomi
 - iii. Sister-in-law: Orpah
 - iv. Husband: Mahlon
 - v. Brother-in-law: Kilion

- c. People of Bethlehem
 - i. The women of Bethlehem
 - ii. Foreman and Workers in the Field
 - iii. Boaz

- d. You and Me

5. Conclusion



Reading Assignment

Before next week, please read chapters 1 & 2 of *On the Road with Ruth*.
Journal the answers to the questions in the space below.
We will discuss some of these questions next week.

Chapter 1 Questions

The Right People

- Who are the “right people” that God has placed in your life?
- How do the “right people” help you to cling to God and His word?
- Who are the “wrong people” that you need to release by redefining the relationship?
- What steps do you need to take in order to redefine this relationship in a Christ-honoring way?

The Right Places

- Do you have a “Moab” in your background?
- Are you living in a “Moab?”
- Do you feel that God is leading you to a place that you are unwilling to go? If so, why?

The Right Actions

- Do you believe that God has a plan for your life?



- How is your level of confidence in God impacted by the truth that God's plan is secure in His heart and mind?
- In what areas of life do you need to demonstrate simple obedience?
- Write down or share with a friend what you believe God's plan is for your life

Chapter 2 Questions

Embracing hope instead of despair

- What situation(s) are you facing in life that seems hopeless?
- How would your view of this situation change if you embraced a big picture perspective to life?
- Do you believe that God can restore your life again?
- What tends to be a trigger for you in regards to despair? When you are in a place of despair, what are you believing about God?

Embracing peace instead of strife

- Do you believe it is possible to experience peace during difficult seasons?



- How would it change your life if you were filled with joy and peace?
- How does strife show up in your life? Are you at odds with God? Others?
- Are you jealous of other people and their lives? How does this affect your own joy and peace?

Demonstrating power instead of weakness

- What is God calling you to do that you are unable to do in your own power?
- How can getting real with God and yourself help you to embrace God's life-changing power?
- Do you believe that God's power can make you able?



Outcome of Hard Times

- Naomi: She was bitter and without hope.
- Ruth: Her act of love was rejected and she was left wondering how to survive.
- You and Me? _____.

How can we cling to God and be determined to live for God during hard times?

Key Verse: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

- Hope instead of despair.

- Peace instead of strife.

- Power instead of weakness.



Reading Assignment

Please read chapters 3 & 4 of *On the Road with Ruth*.

Journal the answers to the questions in the space provided below.

We will discuss some of these questions next week.

Chapter 3

Initiative

- What type of initiative do you typically display, godly or selfish?
- How do the Holy Spirit and God's Word help you to display godly initiative?
- How much time do you spend each day in prayer and Bible study?
- Why is it important to spend time with God each day? How does your personal time with Jesus impact your ability to walk with Him?
- Think about a time when you displayed selfish initiative. How did this lead to additional selfish steps?

Authority

- Do you struggle with submitting to God or to the people God has placed in positions of authority in your life? If so, how does this affect your walk with God?



- How can respecting the authority of leaders in your life strengthen your relationship with God and with them?
- Have you ever experienced an “as it turns out” moment? If so, how did God orchestrate that event? How does respecting God’s authority in your life lead to this type of moment?

Diligence

- Think about the work God has called you to perform, whether that is as a wife, a mom, a professional, a student, or a mixture of these. Would you describe yourself as a hard worker?
- How do you respond when the work is hard to complete? Are you able to dig deep, lean on Jesus, and complete a task? If so, give an example.
- Can you think of a time when you made an emotional commitment to a task but were unable to complete it? What did you learn from the experience? How can you avoid repeating this in the future?

Chapter 4

Humility and Refuge

- Where do you look for refuge? Is it hard for you to place your trust in God? If so, how is this affecting you?



- Make a list of the people who are meaningfully involved in your life. I like to call this a “pour in” list. These are the people who consistently “pour into” your life. These are the people who love you, want God’s best for you, encourage you in your walk, and want you to be an active part of their life, too. As you develop your list, write out the God-given role that each person plays. Thank God for the people on your list. Let them know— through a phone call, coffee date, or message— - the important role that they play in your life as well as in your walk with God.

- Do you struggle with any of the relational lies described in this chapter? If so, how does this lie affect your relationship with God and others?

Lie #1: I am a burden to the people around me.

Lie #2: I have to pay people back for their kindness.

Lie #3: I am always stuck on the outside.

- If, after reading this chapter, you placed your faith in Jesus by asking Him to save you from your sins, tell a friend or ministry leader. We are here to help you grow in your relationship with Christ.



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Session Three: "The Impact of Grace"

Grace

1. Ruth Chapter 2:1-13 Notes

- Ruth displayed Initiative and respected her Authority
"Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor. Naomi said to her, 'Go ahead, my daughter.'" Ruth 2:2

- Boaz noticed Ruth
"Whose young woman is that?" Ruth 2:5

- Ruth displayed Diligence
"She went into the field and has worked steadily from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter." Ruth 2:7

- Boaz offered Protection
"So Boaz said to Ruth, 'My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with my servant girls.'" Ruth 2:8

- Ruth's Response
"At this, she bowed with her face to the ground. She exclaimed, 'Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me— a foreigner?'" Ruth 2:10

- Boaz spoke a Blessing



“May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.” Ruth 2:12

Refuge: to hope in, confide in, and trust in.

- Ruth’s important Response

“You have given me comfort and have spoken kindly to your servant though I do not have the standing of one of your servant girls.” Ruth 2:13

2. Grace Defined: Getting something we do not deserve... or not getting something that we do deserve.

- Heseb: Kindness or love. Mercy and faithfulness, especially to one less fortunate.

3. Grace Applied

- Grace changes the direction of our lives. It moves us from the outside to the inside.
- Nothing brings more confidence into our daily walk with God than receiving the grace He extends to us.
- When we receive grace, we are able to extend it to others.

4. Lies that Stand in the Way of Grace

- “I am a burden to the people around me.”
- “I have to pay people back for their kindness to me.”
- “I am stuck on the outside.”

5. Truth in Light of the Lies



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- God did not create me to be a burden, He created me to be a blessing!
- I do not have to pay people back... I can simply say, “thank you” and receive the gift!
- A life on the outside is not my reality... I am a member of the family of God! Also, God has placed people in my life to love and support me!

Conclusion



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Reading Assignment

This week please read chapter 5 of *On the Road with Ruth*. Pick at least five of the activities and incorporate them into your daily walk with God during the week. Look for creative ways to sit at the table with Jesus. As you go through the week, journal your thoughts about each activity in the space below.

1. Have a consistent quiet time. (Suggestion: Read one chapter of Ruth each day along with a Psalm)
2. Memorize Scripture. (May I suggest Romans 15:13?)
3. Journal your thoughts.
4. Create a prayer closet.
5. Fill your life with godly friends.
6. Have a balanced prayer life.
7. Embrace personal worship.
8. Choose to use good media in your life.
9. Fast from a “creature comfort.”
10. Give it away.



Session Four: "Sitting at the Table"

The Table

1. Ruth Chapter 2:13-23 Notes

a. The Invitation

- i. "At mealtime Boaz said to her, 'Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar.'" Ruth 2:14

b. The Ample Supply

- i. "She ate all she wanted and had some left over... Boaz gave orders to his men, 'Even if she gathers among the sheaves, don't embarrass her. Rather, pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don't rebuke her.'" Ruth 2:15-16

c. Ruth Continued to Work

- i. "So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening." Ruth 2:17

d. Ruth Returned Home and Shared with Naomi

- i. "Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough." Ruth 2:18

e. The Impact on Naomi

- i. "Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!" Ruth 2:19
- ii. Kindness/Hesed
- iii. Kinsman-Redeemer



- f. The On-going Process
 - i. “So Ruth stayed close to the servant girls of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.” Ruth 2:23
2. Application of the Table
- a. Life-Source: (Boaz/Jesus) The giver of life.

 - b. Life-giver: (Ruth/Us) a person who loves Jesus and longs for Jesus to fill their lives with clear direction and life-sustaining spiritual food.

 - c. Recipient: (Naomi/Others) The result of sitting at the table with JEsus in a meaningful way is the production of spiritual fruit. When we are connected to the Life-source, life will flow through us to others.
3. Conclusion



Reading Assignment:

This week please read chapter 6 of On the Road with Ruth. Journal the answers to the questions in the space provided below. We will discuss some of these questions next week.

Chapter 6 Questions

Waiting and Watching

- What are some benefits of waiting on God and watching for Him to move?
- Have you experienced a time when you faced a crossroad in life and the outcome was beyond your control? How did you deal with it? Looking back, can you see a way God was working at that time?
- If you are currently facing a crossroad, think about the three steps presented in this chapter. Step one: Be ready. Step two: Be convinced. Step three: Be active. Which of the three steps helps you and why?
- Do you struggle with over-planning to the point where it becomes difficult for you to wait on God and watch Him move?
- How would an accountability partner help you embrace a life of waiting and watching? If you have an accountability partner, is the relationship focused and balanced? If you do not have an accountability partner, what specific steps could you take in order to find one?



Session Five: "Waiting and Watching"

Jewish Laws and Customs

Law of Levirate Marriage

- Leviticus 25:24 (Land)
- Deuteronomy 25:5-10 (Legacy)
- Example in Ruth 4:4-5

Goel

- The person who redeems

Hesed

- God's loyal and faithful love.

Kinsman Redeemer Process

- Nearest relative
- Ability to redeem
- Willingness to redeem

Jesus the Ultimate Redeemer

- Nearest Relative
- Ability to Redeem
- Willingness to Redeem

Ruth Chapter 3 Notes

- Naomi's Idea
"My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for?" Ruth 3:1



- Naomi's Instruction
"Wash and perfume yourself, and put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor..." Ruth 3:3

- Ruth's Humble Reply
"I will do whatever you say, Ruth answered." Ruth 3:5

- Ruth's Bold Move
"Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down." Ruth 3:8

- Ruth's Bold Request
"I am your servant, spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer." Ruth 3:9

- Boaz's Honest Reply
 - Boaz blessed Ruth

 - Boaz calmed Ruth

 - Boaz respected Ruth

 - Boaz was honest with Ruth

 - Boaz provided for Ruth

- Ruth's Return Home
"When Ruth came home to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, 'How did it go, my daughter?'"

- Naomi's Final Instruction
"Then Naomi said, 'Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens.'" Ruth 3:18



Waiting on God and Watching for His Move

- Be ready for Jesus to move.
 - Do not “check out” during the waiting process but rather “check in” and trust that a resolution is on the way.
- Be convinced that the outcome is clear in God’s heart and mind.
 - God is the ultimate authority over our lives, He is directing the events of our lives, and He is fulfilling a plan in and through our lives.
 - Our lives are not “up in the air!” God takes care of us in perfect faithfulness.
- Be active in the waiting and watching process.
 - Times of waiting and watching should never be viewed as wasted. Instead, they offer an opportunity for spiritual growth and deep commitment to God and His will.
 - The journey is just as important as the outcome!

Conclusion

Ruth 4:1: Meanwhile...



Reading Assignment:

Please read chapter 7 & Epilogue of *On the Road with Ruth*.
Journal the answers to the questions as you read.

Chapter 7 Questions

Blessed to be a blessing

- What is the hardest aspect for you of recognizing and meeting the needs of others?
- Which of the three ways that God speaks to us— the Bible, circumstances of life, the encouragement of others— helps you the most?
- Share one or two specific ways that you have blessed others?
- Describe one area where the Lord is calling you to respond to the needs of others. How can responding to this need help you move forward in your walk with God?



Session Six: "Soul Deep Restoration"

Introduction

- Soul
- Deep
- Restoration

Ruth Chapter 4 Notes

- The Meeting

"Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat there. When the kinsmen-redeemer he had mentioned came along, Boaz said, 'Come over here, my friend, and sit down.'" Ruth 4:1
- The Offer
 - Naomi is selling a piece of land (vs. 3)
 - When you buy the land, you acquire Ruth the Moabitess (vs. 5)
- The Decision

"At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, 'Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.'" Ruth 4:6



- The Journey of Ruth
 - Ruth 1:20
 - Ruth 2:10
 - Ruth 2:13
 - Ruth 3:9
 - Ruth 4:10

- The Rest of the Story (Vs. 11-17)
 - The Witnesses blessed Boaz and Ruth
 - Boaz and Ruth were married
 - The Lord enabled Ruth to conceive
 - The Women of Bethlehem spoke a blessing to Naomi about Ruth
 - Naomi cared for Obed

- Obed Provided Hope for the Future

“Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.” Ruth 4:22

Conclusion:

“When God steps in, the ordinary events of life take on extraordinary significance.”

- God IS Sovereign!

- God IS Providential!

- God IS Purposeful!



On the Road with Ruth
Guided Handouts



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