

Name: _____

Date: _____

RUTH: A HEART OF FAITH

“The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.” (Ruth 2:12)

Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	Learn how Ruth’s faith was evident in her actions. Learn about Boaz’s godliness, generosity, and moral integrity. Understand how their faith was connected to God’s blessings.
<i>Knowledge of God’s Divine Nature</i>	God is compassionate and loving.
<i>Good Works</i>	To be used in God’s work as Ruth was, we need to have faith even in difficult times, and also diligently maintain our faith. Understand the extent of God’s loving nature, and learn how this should affect our daily lives.

A. Ruth’s Characteristics

1. *Her faithfulness:* Ruth not only leaves behind her home and family, but also goes the extra mile in caring for her mother-in-law and in following her instructions.
2. *Her compassion and kindness:* Ruth’s first action upon settling into Naomi’s hometown is to help support her mother-in-law, making her compassion and kindness clearly evident.
3. *Her obedience:* The book’s title and content focus on Ruth, but Ruth’s focus was on supporting her mother-in-law. And aside from leaving her homeland, her every action is done under the advice of Naomi and Boaz.

B. Boaz’s Characteristics

1. *His godliness:* From his daily greetings to his care for Ruth, we can see that Boaz lived a God-centered life in his speech and actions.
2. *His generosity:* Boaz offers three things that Ruth would have been sorely lacking as a foreign widow: friendship, protection, and refreshment.
3. *His moral integrity:* After a length of time during which she could observe Boaz and Ruth’s interactions with each other, Naomi clearly had a good grasp of Boaz’s character, in particular, his diligence and his integrity.

C. God’s Redemptive Power

Although the book does not state God’s actions directly, we can clearly see His redemptive power at work in the events that occur. First, there is the redemption in the Mosaic law:

1. *Redemption from slavery*
2. *Redemption of property*
3. *Kinsman-redeemer*

It is not by mere chance that Naomi received so many blessings once she chose to return to God, and Ruth’s status as a foreigner did not deter Boaz from agreeing to redeem the house of Elimelech. In the same way, our own status as Gentiles did not stop God from choosing to redeem us from sin.

Life Application: God Uses the Faithful

It is easy to fall into the belief that we are incapable or ineligible to serve God. But Ruth, a poor and widowed Gentile, was chosen not because of her physical capabilities but because of her faith.

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Lesson 5 Homework Assignment

Ruth: A Heart of Faith

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Ruth 2:12):

1. How do we receive the same abundance of blessings that Ruth received?
2. Why was it so unusual for Ruth to insist on following Naomi?
3. In what actions do we see that Boaz's life was centered around God?
4. Briefly explain what a kinsman-redeemer is, and why the law regarding redeeming land was such an important law.
5. How do we show our faith through our diligence?
6. Can you recall a time when difficulties that you faced made you waver in your faith? Do you think you would waver again if faced with the same circumstances?