

MORNING BIBLE STUDY

# RUTH

*Redeeming Love*





STUDY GUIDE

# RUTH

*Redeeming Love*



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**THEREFORE, AS YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS THE LORD, SO WALK IN HIM, ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM AND ESTABLISHED IN THE FAITH, JUST AS YOU WERE TAUGHT, ABOUNDING IN THANKSGIVING.**

**– COLOSSIANS 2:6-7**

Dear Friend,

Welcome to Morning Bible Study at Richland Creek Community Church! We are thrilled that you've chosen to study the Bible with us this semester.

The mission of Morning Bible Study is to reach and teach women, encouraging them to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ through Bible study and fellowship - making disciples for His glory. It is a privilege to provide this opportunity for women of all ages to study God's Word together.

There is nothing like studying the Bible in community. Thirteen years ago, this fall, I participated in my first women's Bible Study. I committed to setting aside time, regularly, to work through the lesson each week. This was key. It changed my life!

Was it easy? No (I had two young children and a third on the way). Was it worth it? Absolutely! The more time I devoted to reading and studying God's Word for myself, the greater became my love for Him and His Word.

*...if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. (Proverbs 2:1-5)*

Did you catch that? You will "find the knowledge of God" - not just knowledge about God!

You will learn a lot this semester, but we're not here to get smarter. Our motivation is to know the God of the Bible - not just learn about Him. As you get to know Him, your love for Him will grow. As your love for Him grows, you will develop a greater appreciation for all He's done in and through Jesus Christ.

Without a doubt, you will get out of this what you put in. Commit. Stick with it. We're in this together.

I can't wait to study the Bible with you!

Love in Christ,

*Elizabeth Rodriguez*

Lead Teacher, Morning Bible Study



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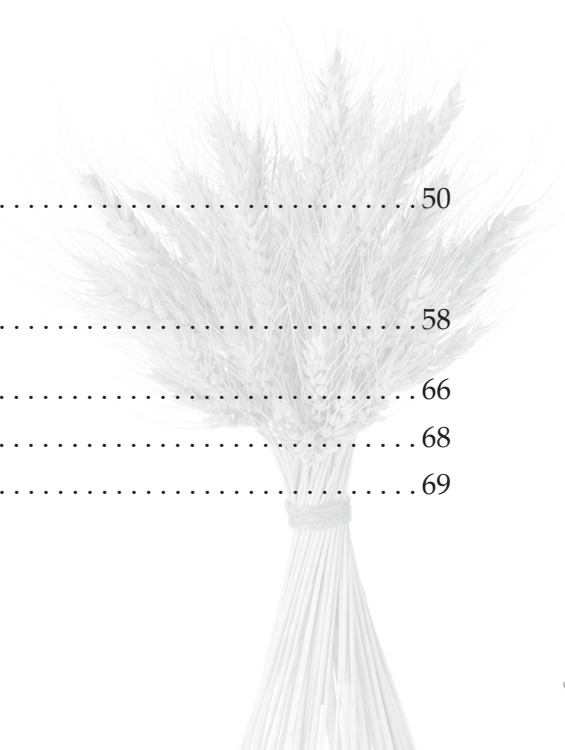
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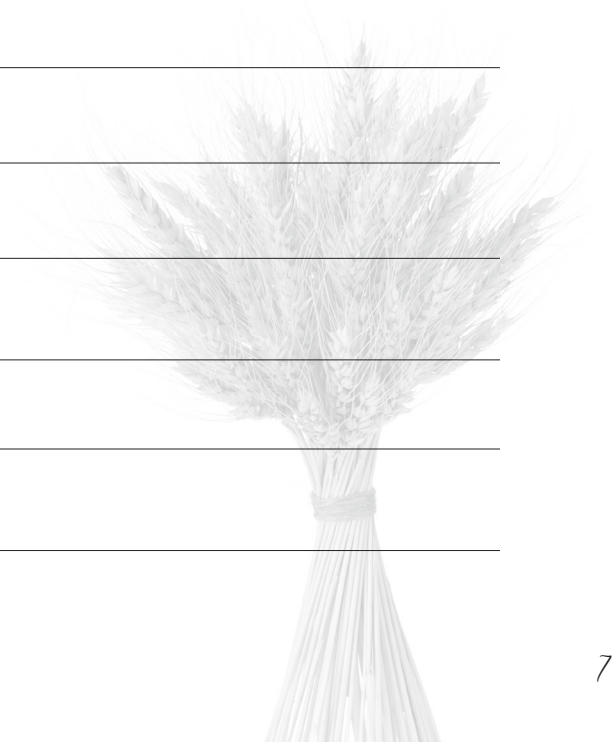
# LESSON ONE

*Introduction to the Bible*





Lecture Notes

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## *For Personal Reflection*

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.





# LESSON TWO

*Ruth's Context*



## Day One

**READ THE BOOK OF RUTH IN ITS ENTIRETY (1:1-4:22).**

**Which** type of literature best describes the book of Ruth? (Circle one.)

***Epistle** - letter written to a specific audience; shows us how to live in light of who God is*

***Narrative** - an account of events or people; shows us how God is working in and through human history*

***Poetry** - vivid figurative language, rhythmic prose, parallelism, etc.; shows us the nature of God and man*

**When** do the events in this book take place, according to Ruth 1:1?

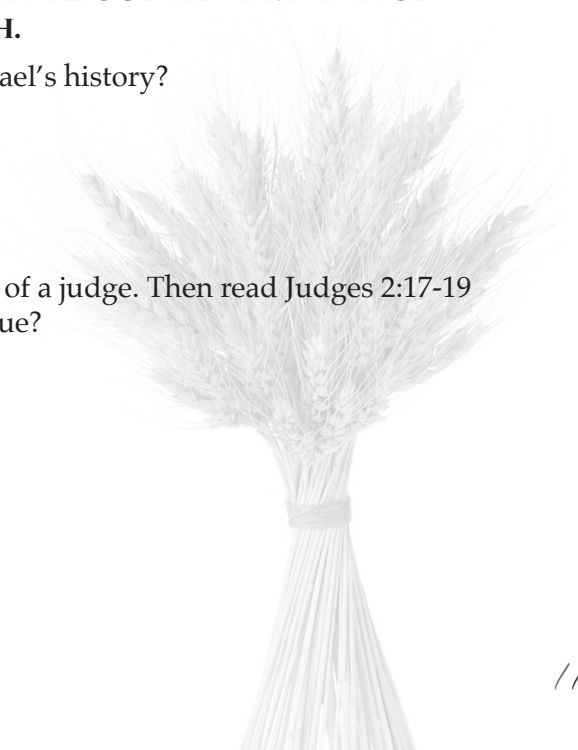
**What** book of the Bible is located before the book of Ruth? What book of the Bible is located after it?

## Day Two

**READ JUDGES 2:6-23 TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE TIME PERIOD OF THE EVENTS IN THE BOOK OF RUTH.**

**What** stands out to you about this time in Israel's history?

Using an English dictionary, look up the role of a judge. Then read Judges 2:17-19 and 3:10. **How** were the judges of Israel unique?



Looking back at Judges 2, **what** pattern of behavior does the nation of Israel repeat throughout the time of the judges?

First, the people of Israel did \_\_\_\_\_ and served \_\_\_\_\_ . They \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord (verses 11-12).

Next, the Lord gave them over to their \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 14).

Then, the people of Israel cried out to the Lord (as in 3:9).

Finally, the Lord raised up a \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ them (2:16 and 3:9).

*Bonus: Look for this pattern again in Judges 3:7-9, 12-15; 4:1-3; 6:1, 7-9; 10:6-16; and 13:1.*

**What** contributed to this disobedience? What did the people of Israel not do? Read Judges 1:27-2:3.

Read Deuteronomy 20:16-18: **What** had the Lord commanded them to do? **Why**?

## APPLICATION

How should we respond when we become aware of disobedience in our lives? (See 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 and 1 John 1:9)



## FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

**What** were the consequences if God's people were unfaithful and followed the ways of the Canaanites? Take a look at Deuteronomy 8:11-20 and Joshua 23.

*"When you are reading your Bible and you come across something that makes you uncomfortable, resist the temptation to simply move on to something else... When our thoughts or feelings bristle under God's Word, He is right and we are wrong... If we would rightly worship Him, even here we would praise His name."*  
- R.C. Sproul

## Day Three

### LOOK BACK OVER JUDGES 2:6-23.

**Where** do you see God's mercy, faithfulness, and protection, even in this cycle of sin?

**What** two phrases are repeated in Judges 17:6, 18:1, 19:1, and 21:25?

### APPLICATION

What warning does God's Word give us about following our own moral compass? (Proverbs 12:15; 21:2, Jeremiah 17:9)



**What** do you remember about the promised King from last week's lecture? (Genesis 17:6; 49:10)

Now let's fast-forward in Israel's history past the books of Judges and Ruth, to the very end of the time of the Judges. Read 1 Samuel 8:4-9, 19-20. **Why** did the people of Israel demand a king? (check all that apply)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> They wanted to honor God      | <input type="checkbox"/> They wanted to be like other nations      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Samuel was old                | <input type="checkbox"/> They wanted a king to fight their battles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Samuel's sons were ungodly    |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> They had rejected God as King |  |

Was the root of their troubles political or spiritual? Why?

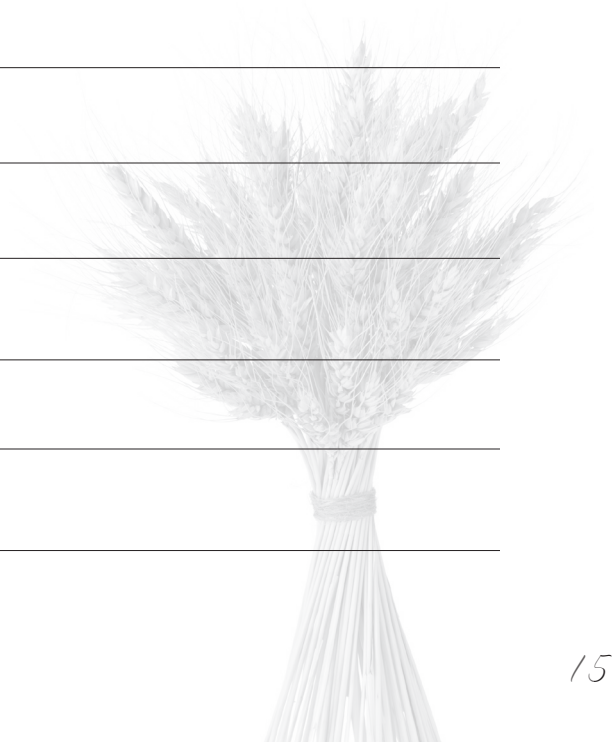
## *Day Four*

**READ THE BOOK OF RUTH IN ITS ENTIRETY (AGAIN).**

Did knowing about the unfaithfulness of God's people during this time in history change your perspective?



Lecture Notes

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## *For Personal Reflection*

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.





# LESSON THREE

*Ruth 1:1-22*





## Day One

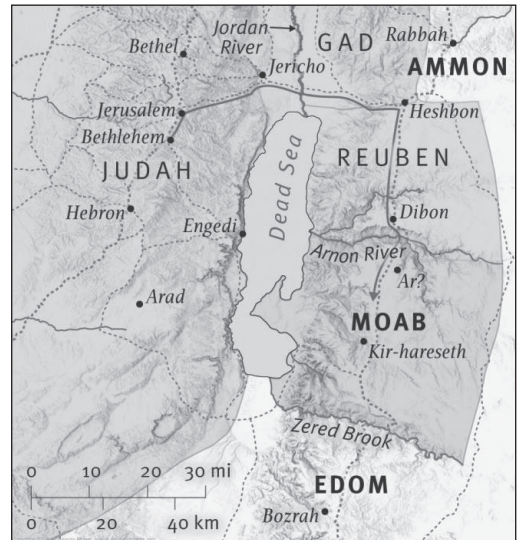
**READ ALL OF RUTH 1, FOCUSING ON RUTH 1:1-5 AS YOU ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

**What** do you remember about the time period of the Judges from our last lesson?

Look at the map and find approximately **where** Naomi's family travelled from Judah (in Israel) to the foreign nation of Moab.

**What** event caused Naomi's family to relocate?

Look up the word *sojourn* in an English dictionary. **What** does this word tell us about how long the family originally intended to stay in Moab?



**Who** are Naomi's family members?

*Husband:*

*Sons:*

*Daughters-in-law:*

**What** major tragedy occurred while they were in Moab (verse 5)?

## FOR EXTRA STUDY

What was likely the cause of the famine in Israel (see Deuteronomy 28:1-6, 15-19)?

## Day Two

**READ RUTH 1:6-14 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

**Why** did Naomi decide to go back to Judah? Choose one:

- ☐ To find her daughters-in-law new husbands
- ☐ To find work
- ☐ The famine was over

**What** does Naomi repeatedly advise her daughters-in-law to do (verses 11-12)?

According to verse 9, Naomi's ultimate goal for her daughters-in-law is to "find \_\_\_\_\_" (circle one):

rest

love

food

money

*\*How does Naomi think they will achieve this goal?*

The women weep and protest, but Naomi insists that she cannot provide for them another husband. **What** does Naomi then say about "the hand of the Lord..." (verse 13)?

## APPLICATION

Have you ever felt about God the way Naomi feels? Explain.

Choose one or two words to describe the mood of chapter 1:1-14.

## Day Three

**READ ALL OF RUTH 1, FOCUSING ON VERSES 1:15-18 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Compare and contrast Ruth's response to Naomi's urging versus Orpah's response.

Note below the particular promises that Ruth makes to Naomi in her vow of loyalty in verses 16-17.

Where you go.... \_\_\_\_\_

Where you lodge... \_\_\_\_\_

Your people... \_\_\_\_\_

Your God... \_\_\_\_\_

Where you die... \_\_\_\_\_

and... \_\_\_\_\_

May the Lord... \_\_\_\_\_

Imagine that you are Ruth, a young Moabite widow. Make a list of the possible pros and cons of pledging your life to Naomi, an older widow from Israel:

PROS
------

CONS
------

### APPLICATION

Showing love and faithfulness to others requires personal sacrifice. In what relationships do you need to be more willing to sacrifice of yourself? What specific sacrifices should you make?

## *Day Four*

**READ RUTH 1:19-22 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

**What** happened when Naomi and Ruth reached Bethlehem (verse 19)?

**Why** does Naomi want to change her name (verses 20-21)?

**What** do Naomi's words tell us about her view of God, especially as He relates to her life experiences?

Based on what you know to be true about God (He is holy, sovereign, powerful, merciful, loving, righteous, gracious, etc.), in what way(s) might Naomi be right? And in what way(s) might she be wrong about God?

**RIGHT**

**WRONG**

Take a closer look at verse 22. Did Naomi really return empty (as she said in verse 21)? Who was with her?

*BONUS: Note also the last sentence of the chapter. How does this contrast with the first sentence of the chapter? How might this verse foreshadow what is to come?*

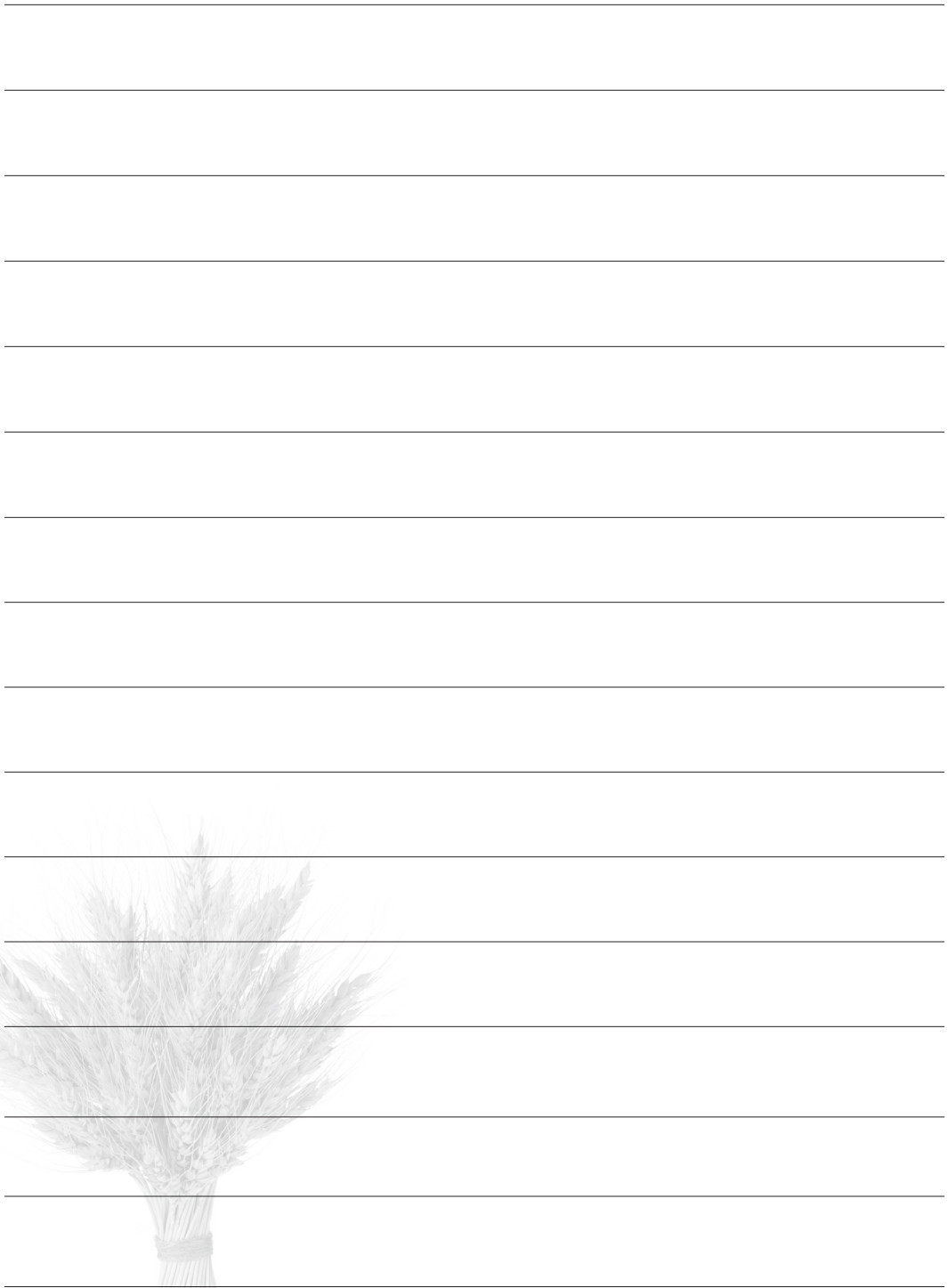
### **APPLICATION**

When you go through difficult times, does your view of God change? How can we protect ourselves from allowing circumstances to dictate what we believe about God?

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)**

Who else in the Bible underwent a name change? Why? (check out Genesis 17, Genesis 32:28, Daniel 1:7, John 1:42)







## *For Personal Reflection*

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.



# LESSON FOUR

*Boaz and Rahab*



## Day One

**READ RUTH 1 AND 2, THEN REREAD RUTH 2:1 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

**Who** is Boaz? List the details the Bible gives us about him.

If your Bible contains cross-references, and you were to follow the cross-reference (the small superscript letter) next to “Boaz” in verse 1, it would take you to Matthew 1:5, which contains a genealogy in which Boaz is included.

*“Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab...”*  
Matthew 1:2-5a

According to the above genealogy, who were Boaz’s mother and father?

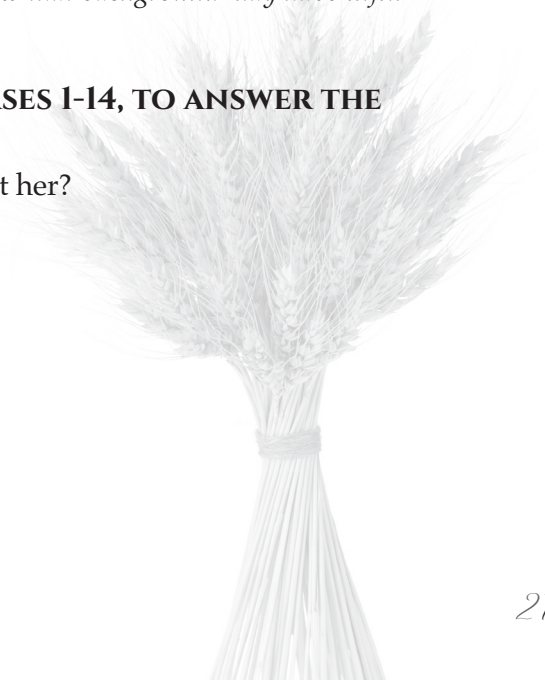
## Day Two

*For the remainder of the week, we will do a character study on Boaz’s mother, Rahab, in effort to learn more about Boaz’s background and how that background may have influenced his attitudes and decisions regarding Ruth.*

**READ JOSHUA 2:1-24, FOCUSING ON VERSES 1-14, TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

**Who** is Rahab? **What** details do you learn about her?

**Who** came to stay in Rahab’s house? **Why**?



**What** did Rahab say to the king's men when they came looking for the spies?

**What** had Rahab actually done?

**What** is Rahab risking by choosing to hide the spies? **What** does she hope will be the reward?

All the inhabitants of the land have heard about the God of Israel. **What** phrase is repeatedly used to describe their response to what they've heard? (See also Exodus 15:14-16)

**What** does Rahab believe to be true about God? Fill in the blanks (verse 11):

For the Lord your God, he is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## *Day Three*

**READ JOSHUA 2:15-21 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

**Where** is Rahab's house?

- ☐ In the city wall
- ☐ Near the temple
- ☐ Next to Starbucks

**What** do the spies agree to do? What does Rahab agree to do?

**How** would Rahab's house be identified when the Israelites returned?

**NOW READ JOSHUA 6:1-5, AND 15-25, THE STORY OF WHEN THE ISRAELITES CAME TO CONQUER JERICHO, AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

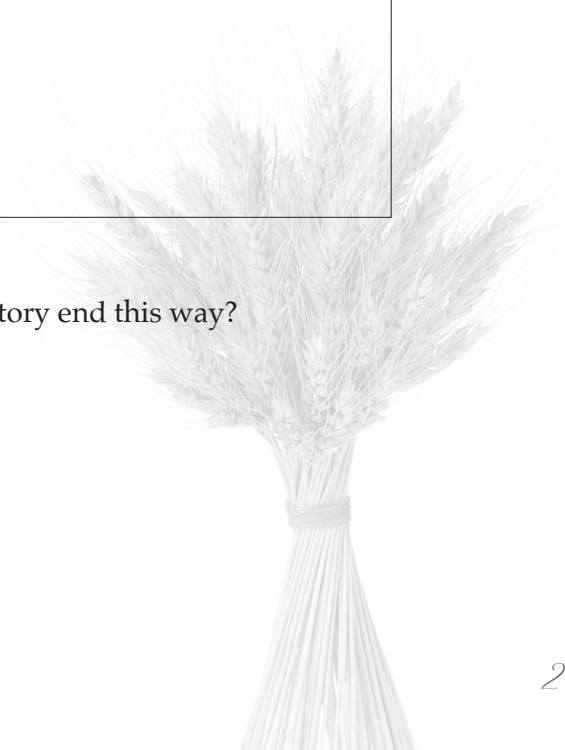
**What** instructions does Joshua give the Israelites regarding Rahab?

Contrast what happened to Rahab and her family versus what happened to the rest of Jericho:

RAHAB

REST OF JERICHO

**How** does Rahab's story end? **Why** did her story end this way?



## Day Four

**How** does Scripture judge Rahab's actions? (See Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:24-26)

Look back at Joshua 2. **What** did Rahab say that she believed about God? **How** did her actions prove that her faith was genuine?

### APPLICATION

How does Rahab's faith encourage or inspire you?

Do your actions prove that your faith in God is genuine? Why or why not?

Now that you know more about Rahab, Boaz's mother, what is one thing that we know that Rahab and Ruth had in common? Mark one.

- ☐ Both were widows
- ☐ Both were Gentiles (non-Israelites)
- ☐ Both were prostitutes

What are some lessons that Boaz might have learned from his mother, Rahab, or her circumstances that could have impacted his attitude toward Ruth?



**FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)**

Read Hebrews 11 from beginning to end. How does the Bible define faith?

*“And without faith it is \_\_\_\_\_ to please God.” (Hebrews 11:6)*



Lecture Notes

[illegible]

## *For Personal Reflection*

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.



# LESSON FIVE

*Ruth 2:2-23*



## Day One

**READ RUTH 2:1-3 AND DEUTERONOMY 24:19-22 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

**Whose** field did Ruth “happen” to come to? \_\_\_\_\_

Look up gleaning in an English dictionary and write the definition below (make sure the definition you pick fits the context of the passage).

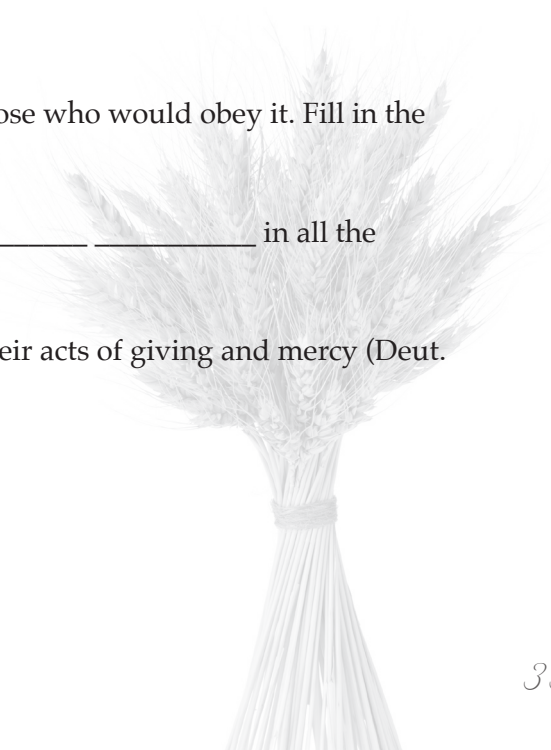
Based on the passage from Deuteronomy, what does Israel’s law require of the Israelite land owners in relation to gleaning during the harvest?

**What** three groups of people were these gleaning laws intended to help? Do Ruth and Naomi fit into any of these three categories?

God also intended for these laws to benefit those who would obey it. Fill in the blanks based on Deuteronomy 24:19:

“...that the Lord your God may \_\_\_\_\_ in all the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of your hands.”

God desired that what fact would motivate their acts of giving and mercy (Deut. 24:22)?



**APPLICATION**

What should motivate our acts of giving and mercy (see for example 2 Corinthians 8:1-9)?

*Day Two***READ RUTH 2:4-13 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Based on this passage and your reading thus far in Ruth, **how** would you describe Boaz? How would you describe Ruth? List a few adjectives for each person, with verse **references** next to them to support your answer.

**BOAZ****RUTH**

**What** instructions does Boaz give to Ruth (2:8-9)?

**How** did Ruth respond to Boaz's kindness?



Based on what he says in verses 11 and 12, what do you think most impressed Boaz about Ruth (choose one)?

- \_\_\_ her beauty
- \_\_\_ her self-confidence
- \_\_\_ her faithfulness to Naomi

**What** do we learn about Boaz's view of God in verse 12?

Look up Hebrews 11:6. What do we learn about God from Hebrews 11:6 and Ruth 2:12?

Do you think, based on his words, that Boaz had a faith like this? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think Ruth had this kind of faith? \_\_\_\_\_

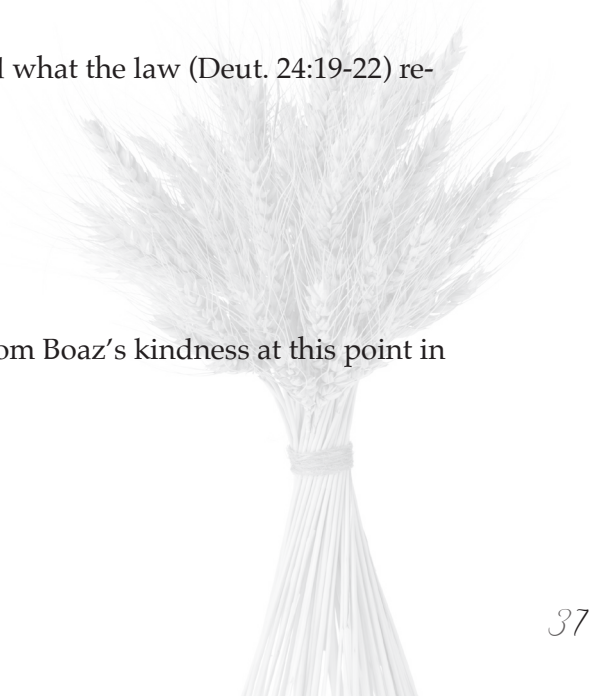
Do you have this kind of faith? \_\_\_\_\_

## *Day Three*

**READ ALL OF RUTH 2, FOCUSING ON VERSES 14-17, TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

In what ways did Boaz go above and beyond what the law (Deut. 24:19-22) required?

Name some ways that Ruth had benefited from Boaz's kindness at this point in the story (see especially verses 8-9, 13-17).



Look up the word *satisfied* in an English dictionary. In **what** way was Ruth satisfied in verse 14?

### APPLICATION

Is there an area of your life where you feel in need or discontent? What would meet that need?

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Ruth 2:14 says Ruth was satisfied AND had some left over for Naomi. Look at these passages to see how the Lord provides true satisfaction for our souls.

Psalm 63:1-7

Matthew 5:6

Matthew 14:19-20

John 4:13-14

John 6:35

## Day Four

### READ RUTH 2:18-23 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

Upon seeing the generous amount of food that Ruth brought home, Naomi asked who took notice of her. **How** did Naomi respond when she found out the man who had shown kindness was Boaz?

**What** does Naomi mean when she says that Boaz has not “forsaken the living or the dead” (verse 20, note also 2:1)?



**How** has the mood of the book changed by the end of chapter 2, as compared to the mood in chapter 1? Note especially the change in Naomi's demeanor at the end of each chapter. What has brought about the change?

Mood:

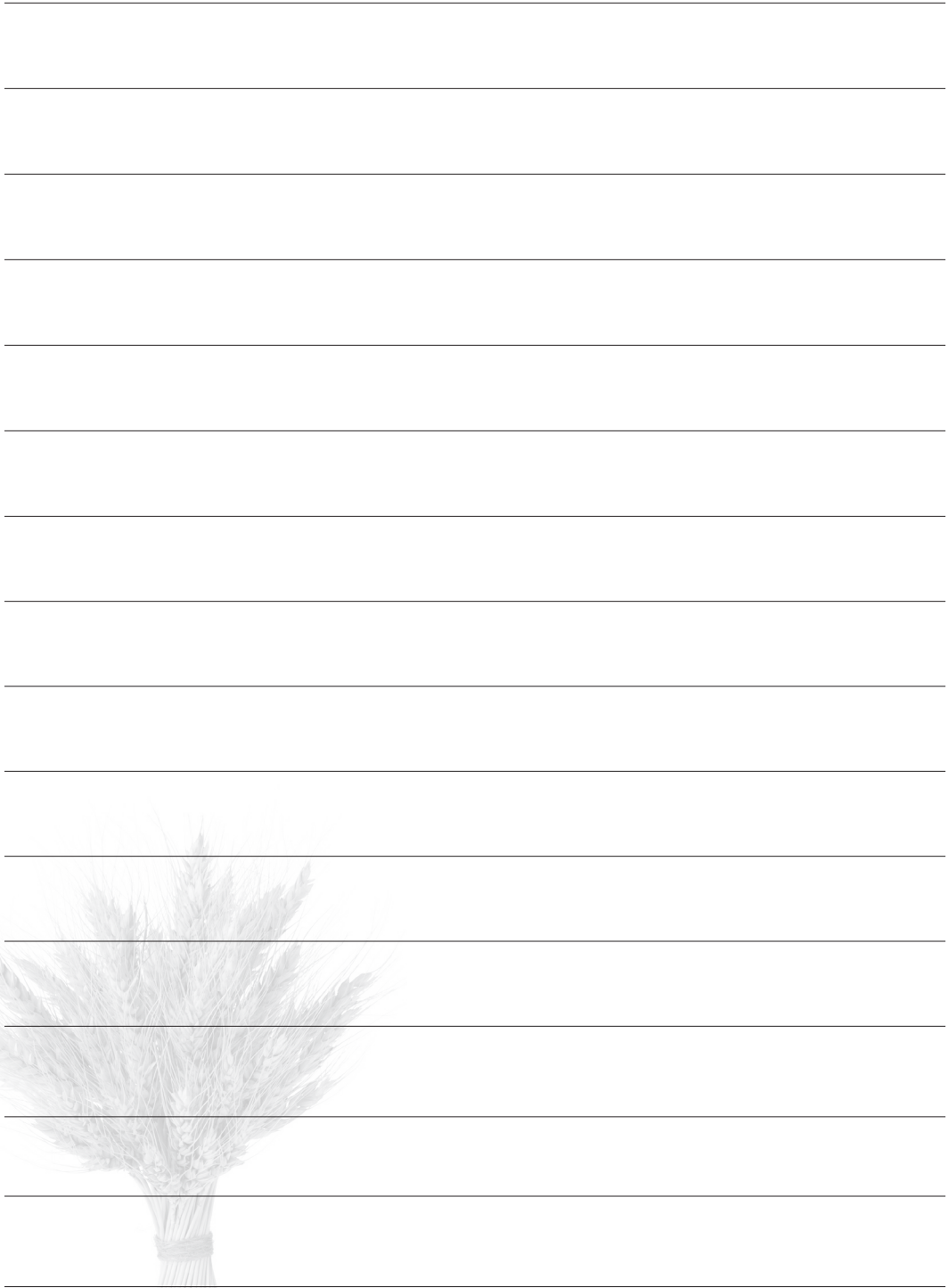
Cause:

Look again at Ruth 2:22, then back at 2:9. What danger might Ruth have found in another field? What does this fact highlight about Boaz's character? What does it highlight about God's character?

## APPLICATION

In chapter 2 we see that Boaz is impressed with Ruth's kindness to Naomi, and then that Ruth and Naomi are overwhelmed by Boaz's kindness to Ruth. Kindness is one of the main themes in the book of Ruth as well as a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). Who can you overwhelm with the kindness of God today?





## *For Personal Reflection*

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.



# LESSON SIX

*Ruth 3:1-18*



## Day One

*Naomi called Boaz a “close relative of ours, one of our redeemers” (2:20) in last week’s passage. The idea of the Kinsman Redeemer is another important theme in Ruth. The next several questions will help you explore the meaning of this concept.*

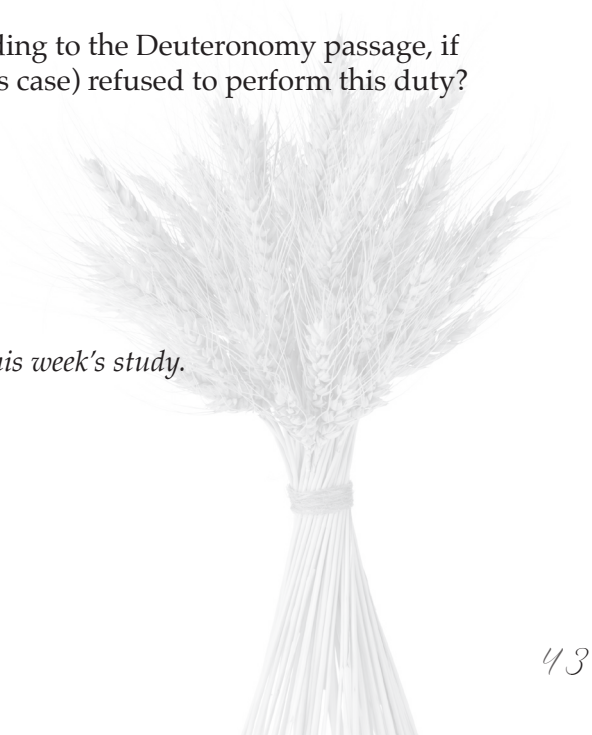
Look up the word *redeem* in the English dictionary. There are several definitions. Which definition do you think fits the context of Ruth and Naomi’s story?

Read Deuteronomy 25:5-10. If a woman’s husband died and she had no son (to pass on the family name and property), what was her deceased husband’s brother supposed to do? Why?

**What** had happened to Ruth’s deceased husband’s brother (Ruth 1:5)?

**What** was the widow supposed to do, according to the Deuteronomy passage, if the brother (or nearest male relative in Ruth’s case) refused to perform this duty? Why do you think this was such a big deal?

*Read all of Ruth 3 in preparation for the rest of this week’s study.*



## Day Two

### READ RUTH 3:1-5 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

Naomi continues to seek “rest” for Ruth. Based on what you have learned about the kinsman redeemer and verses 2:20 and 3:1-2, what is Naomi planning?

Look up the words *winnowing* and *threshing* in an English dictionary. What kind of work was Boaz doing?

Fill in the following list in order of the instructions that Naomi gives Ruth:

1. Wash and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Put on your \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Go to the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ until he has finished eating, drinking, and lies down.
5. Go and \_\_\_\_\_ his feet and \_\_\_\_\_.

**What** was Ruth’s response to Naomi’s instructions (verse 5)?

## Day Three

### READ RUTH 3:6-9 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

Did Ruth obey Naomi’s instructions (circle one)?    YES    NO

**How** did Boaz respond?

**What** do you think was the purpose of uncovering his feet? **What** is Ruth asking Boaz to do for her?

Write out Ruth's request from 3:9. Then write out Boaz's words in 2:12 from last week's passage.

**3:9**

"Spread your...

**2:12**

"The Lord repay you for what you've done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose...

### **APPLICATION**

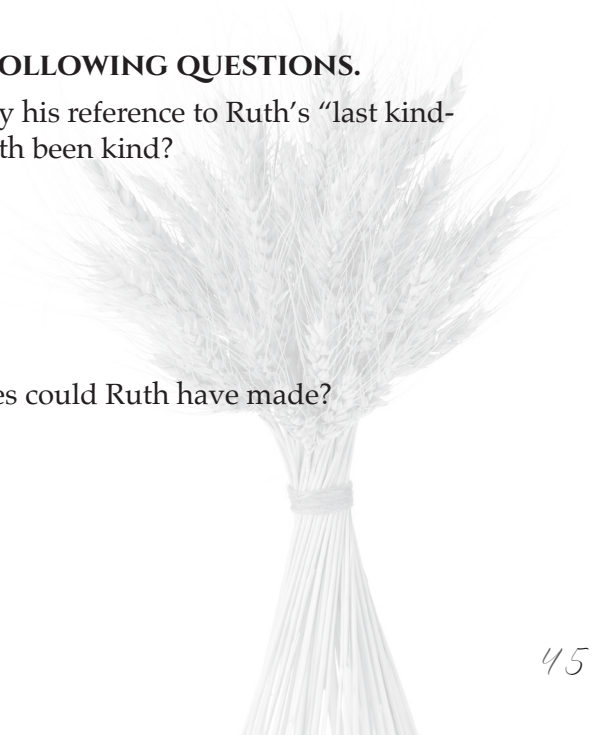
Ruth, in essence, is also asking Boaz to be the answer to his own prayer for her. Who have you prayed for today? How might you be an answer to prayer for that person today?

## *Day Four*

**READ RUTH 3:10-18 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

**What** do you think Boaz means in verse 10 by his reference to Ruth's "last kindness" and "first" kindness? To whom has Ruth been kind?

According to Boaz (vs. 10), what other choices could Ruth have made?



Boaz gives Ruth some mixed news regarding whether he can and will agree to be her kinsman redeemer. Circle YES or NO.

Ruth 3:11 Is Boaz willing? YES or NO

Ruth 3:12 Is Boaz currently able? YES or NO

**What** does Boaz promise to do (verse 13)?

Does Naomi expect that Boaz will keep his promise?

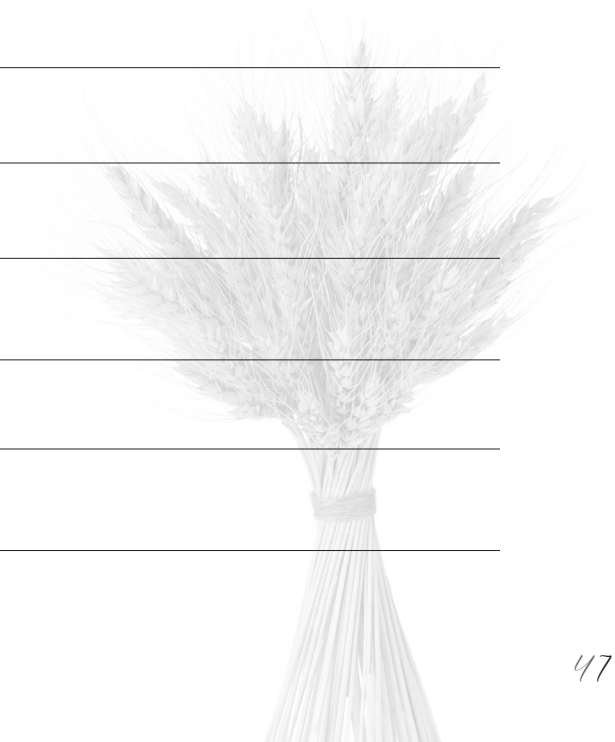
### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

In verse 11, Boaz refers to Ruth as a “worthy woman.” Read Proverbs 31:10-31 (which some scholars have suggested could have been written about Ruth) to learn more about what it means to be a woman of worth, or excellence. Note characteristics of the worthy woman below.





Lecture Notes

[illegible]

## *For Personal Reflection*

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.





# LESSON SEVEN

*Ruth 4:1-12, Genesis 38*



## Day One

**READ RUTH 4:1-12, FOCUSING ON VERSES 1-4 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

We see in this chapter the setting move to the gate. **Why** did Boaz go to the gate? Look at 2 Samuel 15:2 and Proverbs 31:23 for clues.

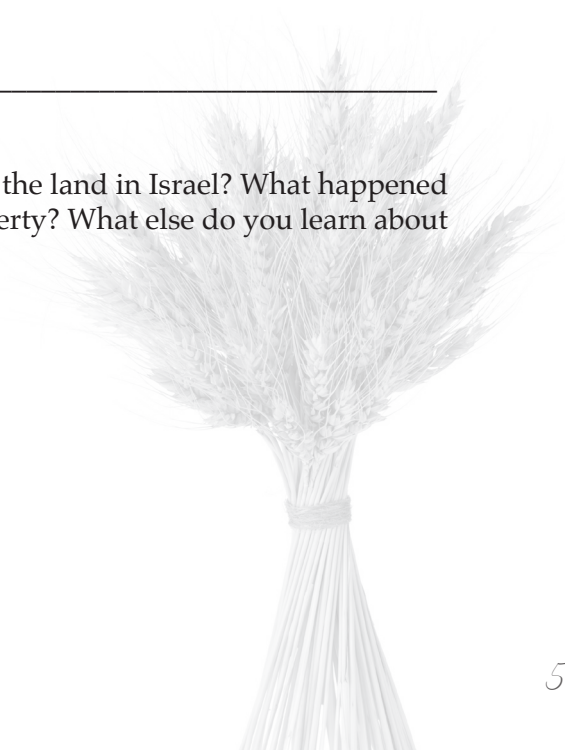
In addition to the potential “redeemer”, what other people did Boaz ask to be present to witness the business transaction?

Boaz begins the conversation by stating that Naomi intends to do what?

**What** word do you see repeated in verse 4? **What** meaning does this word have in this context?

R \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ : \_\_\_\_\_

According to Leviticus 25:23-28, who owned the land in Israel? What happened if a person was poor and had to sell his property? What else do you learn about land redemption in Israel?



## Day Two

**READ RUTH 4:5-10 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

**What** stipulation does Boaz mention that is required in the land transaction (verse 5)? Remember Deuteronomy 25:5-6 from last week?

Does the “redeemer” agree to purchase the land and acquire Ruth? Why or why not?

Boaz declares before all of the elders and witnesses that he is redeeming...  
(Choose one)

- ☐ A. The land belonging to Naomi’s husband
- ☐ B. The land belonging to Naomi’s sons
- ☐ C. The widow of Mahlon
- ☐ D. All of the above

**What** custom did Boaz perform to complete the transaction?

**What** reason does Boaz give as to why he has acquired Ruth (vs. 10)? **How** does this compare to the law given in Deuteronomy 25:5-6?

### FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)

Redemption is a theme throughout the Bible. Look at the following passages to identify God’s main act of redemption as found in the Old Testament and then in the New Testament. What is the main event or subject of each set of verses?

>>> God's act of redemption in the Old Testament: Exodus 6:1-8

>>> God's act of redemption in the New Testament: Galatians 3:13-14; 4:3-7, Ephesians 1:6-7, Titus 2:11-14

In what ways are these events related? In what ways are they different?

How might they be connected to the redemption that we see in the book of Ruth?

### *Day Three*

**READ RUTH 4:1-12, FOCUSING ON VERSES 11-12 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

**What** was the reaction of the elders and other witnesses?

**Who** were Rachel and Leah? **How** did they "build up the house of Israel" (See Genesis 35:23-26)? *Note: Jacob's name was later changed to Israel.*

The witnesses hoped that Boaz would be a worthy man in Ephrathah (another name for Bethlehem - Genesis 35:19) and "...be renowned in Bethlehem." **What** do we learn about "Bethlehem Ephrathah" from Micah 5:2?

**Who** is this prophecy in reference to? (Matthew 2:1-6)

**What** evidence do we have in the book of Ruth that Boaz was a worthy man?

If you look up "Perez" in a Bible search, you will find that the sons of Perez were notably influential for generations in Israel. Do you think Boaz's house will be as remarkable, as the well-wishers hope?

## *Day Four*

*Today we will do another short character study, as we see God weaving His threads of mercy through Ruth and Boaz's family tree.*

**READ GENESIS 38 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

**Who** is Judah? (Go back to the genealogy on Lesson 4, Day 1, Question 2) **What** do you learn about him from Genesis 38?

**Who** is Tamar?



**How** were Tamar's circumstances similar to Ruth's? (vs. 7-8)

**Why** did Tamar choose to take matters into her own hands?

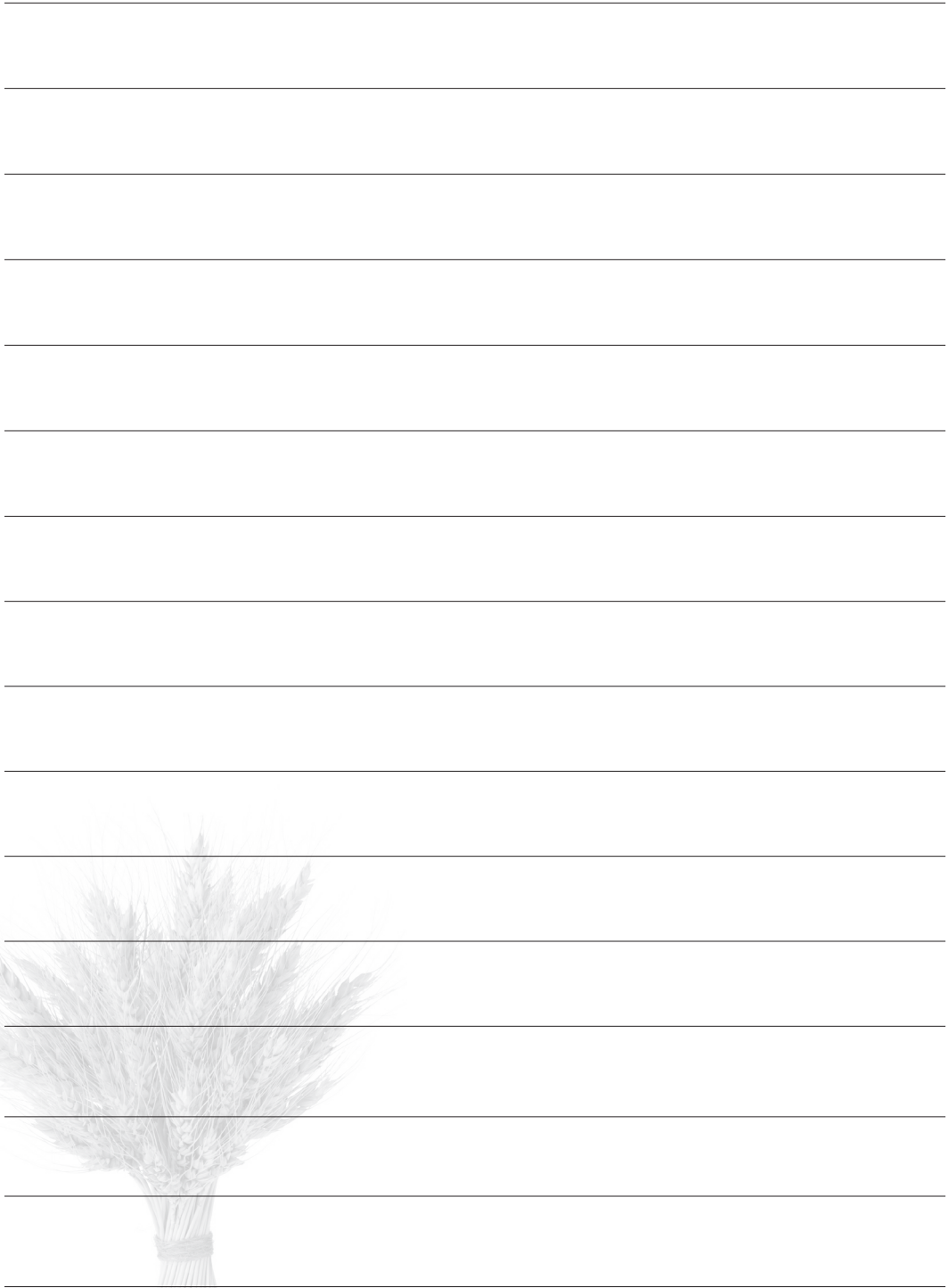
**What** did Tamar do? Why did she ask for a guarantee?

In the end, what word does Judah use to describe Tamar? Why?

### **REFLECTION AND APPLICATION**

Does it surprise you that God would choose to work in and through the lives of sinful and broken people like Judah and Tamar, Rahab, Naomi and Ruth? What can these real stories of ordinary people teach us about God? About ourselves? About those around us (See Romans 3:9-11, 3:21-26, 5:6-10, Isaiah 53:5-6)?





## *For Personal Reflection*

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.



# LESSON EIGHT

*Ruth 4:13-22, Matthew 1*



## Day One

**READ RUTH 4, FOCUSING ON VERSES 13-15, TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

Ruth never conceived a child with Mahlon. How long were they married? (See Ruth 1:4.)

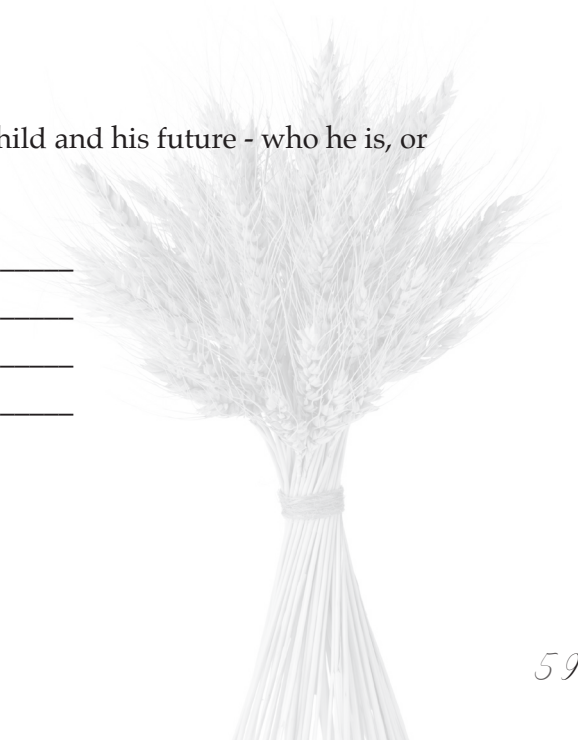
**Who** allowed Ruth to conceive a child with Boaz, according to verse 13? (See Genesis 29:31 and Genesis 33:5 for other instances)

**What** significance would this son have for Naomi and Ruth? (See Deuteronomy 25:5-6)

**Whom** did the women praise when Ruth bore a son? Why?

Name four things the women say about the child and his future - who he is, or what they hope he will be or do:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_



## APPLICATION

How do these four characteristics ultimately point to Jesus and His work in the church?

## Day Two

**READ RUTH 4:13-22, FOCUSING ON VERSES 14-17 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

**Why** do you think the women's words, and the storyline of the book, turn to focus on Naomi rather than Ruth?

Names and the act of giving a name is significant throughout the Bible. Who named the child?

*Note: Obed means: "serving or worshipping"*

In chapter 1, Naomi declared the Lord brought her back to Bethlehem "empty." What are the two ways these women declare the fullness that God brought to Naomi through Ruth? (verse 15)

1.

2.

Compare and contrast Naomi's life/perspective in chapter 1 to her life/perspective in chapter 4.

**CHAPTER 1**

**CHAPTER 4**

**APPLICATION**

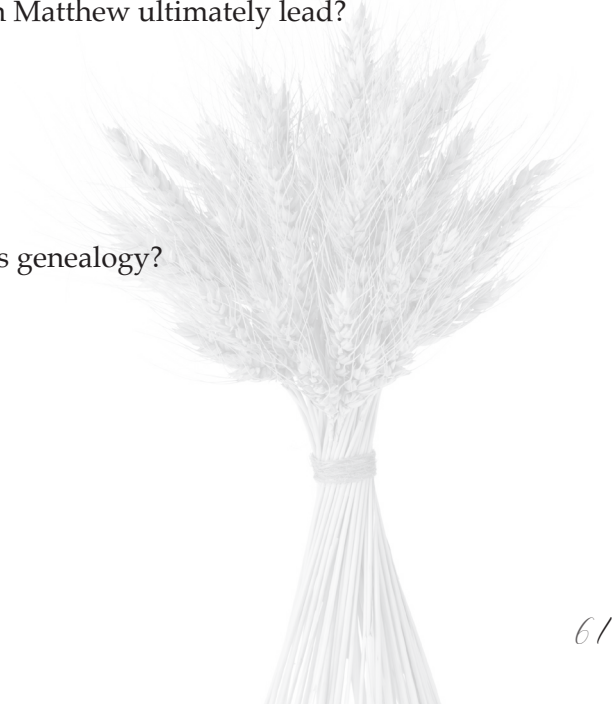
In whom or what do you seek fulfillment? Do you feel empty or satisfied? In Whom is true fullness of life found? See John 10:10 and Ephesians 3:14-19.

*Day Three*

**READ RUTH 4:18-22 AND MATTHEW 1:1-6, 16-25 TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

**What** do you observe as you compare the two genealogies? Who was Obed's grandson? To whom does the genealogy in Matthew ultimately lead?

**Which** women are mentioned in Matthew's genealogy?



Look again at Matthew 1:21. Note carefully each word:

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name \_\_\_\_\_, for he will \_\_\_\_\_ people from their \_\_\_\_\_.”

### APPLICATION

Not only did Jesus come to save His own people, the Israelites, from their sins, He also came to die for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2) Have you placed your faith in Him alone for salvation?

How did Boaz redeem Ruth? (Ruth 4:9) By contrast how did Jesus redeem those who have trusted in Him? (Gal. 3:13, Eph. 1:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19)

BOAZ

JESUS

## Day Four

**READ ALL FOUR CHAPTERS OF RUTH ONE MORE TIME. NOTE BELOW SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF GOD’S KINDNESS AND FAITHFULNESS TO RUTH AND NAOMI THROUGHOUT THEIR JOURNEY.**

*There were times when Ruth and Naomi were either ignorant of or in doubt of God’s kindness and faithfulness, even though it was there, waiting to be revealed, the whole time.*

What are some times that you have doubted God’s kindness?

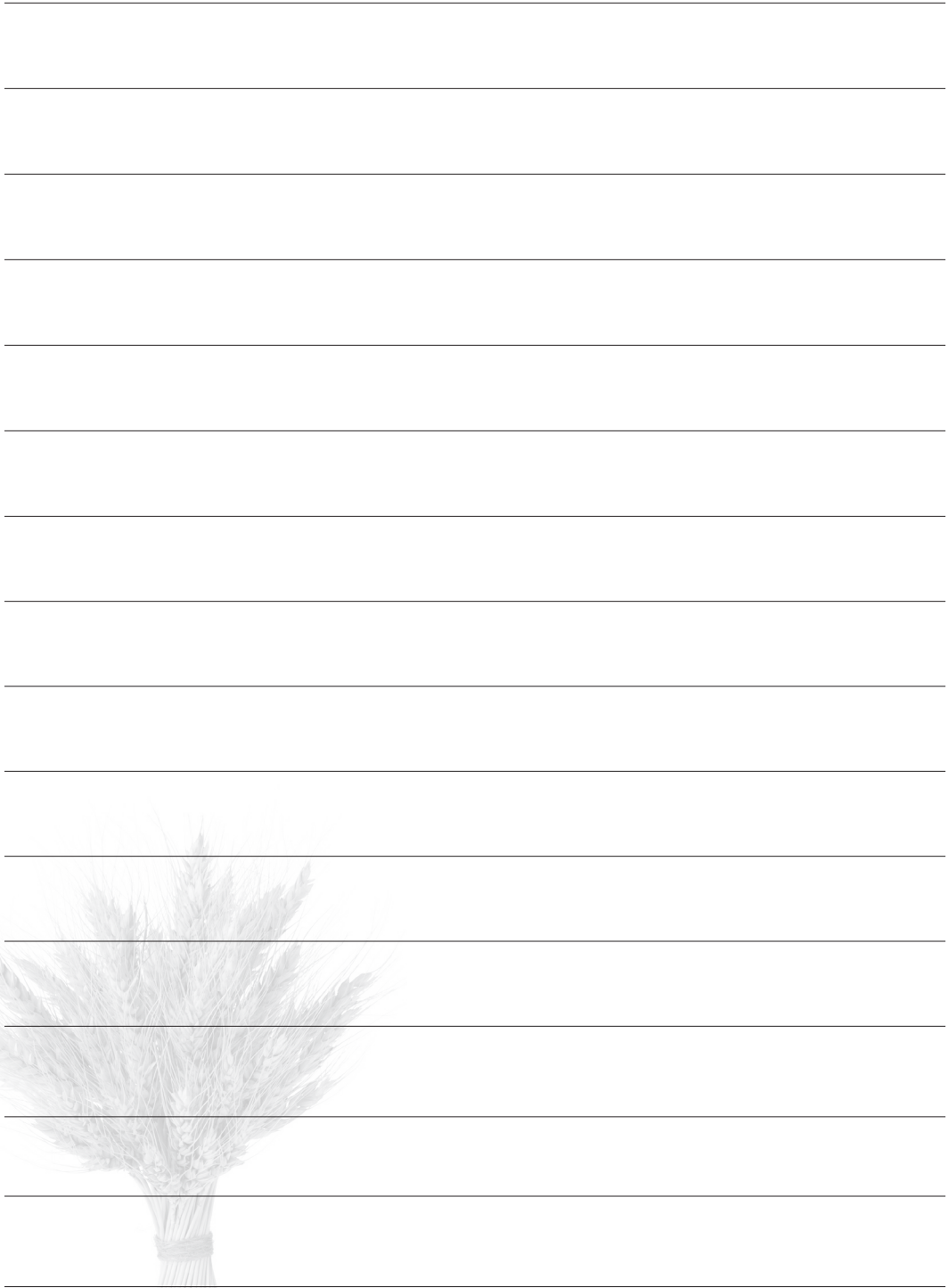


Make a list of times and ways that God has been faithful throughout Scripture and to you personally, so that you can always remember, even when your present is unclear.

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY (OPTIONAL)**

When you are tempted to doubt God's good purposes in your life, Romans 8 can be a huge encouragement. Read Romans 8:18-39. What do you learn about suffering? What do you learn about God's provision during suffering?





## *For Personal Reflection*

What did you learn about God this week (see Appendix 1 for a list of God's attributes)?

Write down any additional thoughts or questions you have. Then, pray about what you've learned.



# APPENDIX 1



Navigator  
Discipleship  
Tool

God is...

## 30 DAYS OF PRAYING the Names and Attributes of God

Though God is infinitely far above our ability to fully understand, through the Scriptures He tells us truths about Himself so that we can know Him, and be drawn to worship Him. Take a description of God and meditate on it for a day.

### ① JEHOVAH

The name of the independent, self-complete being—"I AM WHO I AM"—only belongs to Jehovah God. Our proper response to Him is to fall down in fear and awe of the One who possesses all authority. *Exodus 3:13-15*

### ② JEHOVAH-M'KADDESH

This name means "the God who sanctifies." A God separate from all that is evil requires that the people who follow Him be cleansed from all evil. *Leviticus 20:7,8*

### ③ INFINITE

God is beyond measurement—we cannot define Him by size or amount. He has no beginning, no end, and no limits. *Romans 11:33*

### ④ OMNIPOTENT

God is all-powerful. He spoke all things into being, and all things—every cell, every breath, every thought—are sustained by Him. Nothing is too difficult for Him. *Jeremiah 32:17,18, 26,27*

### ⑤ GOOD

God is the embodiment of perfect goodness, and is kind, benevolent, and full of good will toward all creation. *Psalms 119:65-72*

### ⑥ LOVE

God's love is so great that He gave His only Son to bring us into fellowship with Him. His love encompasses the world, and embraces each of us personally and intimately. *1 John 4:7-10*

### ⑦ JEHOVAH-JIREH

"The God who provides." Just as He provided yesterday, He will provide today and tomorrow. He grants deliverance from sin, the oil of joy for the ashes of sorrow, and eternal citizenship in His Kingdom for all those adopted into His household. *Genesis 22:9-14*

### ⑧ JEHOVAH-SHALOM

"The God of peace." We are meant to know the fullness of God's perfect peace, His "shalom." God's peace surpasses understanding and sustains us through difficult times. It's the product of fully being what we were created to be. *Judges 6:16-24*

### ⑨ IMMUTABLE

All that God is, He has always been. All that He has been and is, He will ever be. He is ever perfect and unchanging. *Psalms 102:25-28*

### ⑩ TRANSCENDENT

God is not simply the highest in an order of beings (this would be to grant Him eminence). He is transcendent—existing beyond and above the created universe. *Psalms 113:4,5*

### ⑪ JUST

God is righteous and holy, fair and equitable in all things. We can trust Him to always do what is right. *Psalms 75:1-7*

### ⑫ HOLY

God's holiness is not a better version of the best we know. God is utterly and supremely untainted. His holiness stands apart—unique and incomprehensible. *Revelation 4:8-11*



## Navigator Discipleship Tool

# God is...

### 13 JEHOVAH-ROPHE

"Jehovah heals." God alone provides the remedy for mankind's brokenness through His son, Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the physical, moral, and spiritual remedy for all people. *Exodus 15:22-26*

### 14 SELF-SUFFICIENT

All things are God's to give, and all that is given is given by Him. He can receive nothing that He has not already given us. *Acts 17:24-28*

### 15 OMNISCIENT

God is all-knowing. God's knowledge encompasses every possible thing that exists, has ever existed, or will ever exist. Nothing is a mystery to Him. *Psalms 139:7-12*

### 16 OMNIPRESENT

God is everywhere, in and around everything, close to everyone. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the Lord." *Psalms 139:7-12*

### 17 MERCIFUL

God's merciful compassion is infinite and inexhaustible. Through Christ, He took the judgment that was rightfully ours and placed it on His own shoulders. He waits and works now for all people to turn to Him and to live under His justification. *Deuteronomy 4:29-31*

### 18 SOVEREIGN

God presides over every event, great or small, and He is in control of our lives. To be sovereign, He must be all-knowing and all-powerful, and by His sovereignty He rules His entire creation. *1 Chronicles 29:11-13*

### 19 JEHOVAH-NISSI

"God our banner." Under His banner we go from triumph to triumph and say, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57). *Exodus 17:8-15*

### 20 WISE

All God's acts are accomplished through His infinite wisdom. He always acts for our good, which is to conform us to Christ. Our good and His glory are inextricably bound together. *Proverbs 3:19,20*

### 21 FAITHFUL

Out of His faithfulness God honors His covenants and fulfills His promises. Our hope for the future rests upon God's faithfulness. *Psalms 89:1-8*

### 22 WRATHFUL

Unlike human anger, God's wrath is never capricious, self-indulgent, or irritable. It is the right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil. *Nahum 1:2-8*

### 23 FULL OF GRACE

Grace is God's good pleasure that moves Him to grant merit where it is undeserved and to forgive debt that cannot be repaid. *Ephesians 1:5-8*

### 24 OUR COMFORTER

Jesus called the Holy Spirit the "Comforter," and the apostle Paul writes that the Lord is "the God of all comfort." *2 Corinthians 1:3,4*

### 25 EL-SHADDAI

"God Almighty," the God who is all-sufficient and all-bountiful, the source of all blessings. *Genesis 49:22-26*

### 26 FATHER

Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father" (Matthew 6:9), and the Spirit of God taught us to cry, "Abba, Father," an intimate Aramaic term similar to "Daddy." The Creator of the universe cares for each one of us. *Romans 8:15-17*

### 27 THE CHURCH'S HEAD

God the Son, Jesus, is the head of the Church. As the head, the part of the body that sees, hears, thinks, and decides, He gives the orders that the rest of the body lives by. *Ephesians 1:22,23*

### 28 OUR INTERCESSOR

Knowing our temptations, God the Son intercedes for us. He opens the doors for us to boldly ask God the Father for mercy. Thus, God is both the initiation and conclusion of true prayer. *Hebrews 4:14-16*

### 29 ADONAI

"Master" or "Lord." All God's people ought to acknowledge themselves as His servants, with His right to reign as Lord of our lives. *2 Samuel 7:18-20*

### 30 ELOHIM

"Strength" or "Power": He is transcendent, mighty and strong. This name displays His supreme power, sovereignty, and faithfulness in His covenant relationship with us. *Genesis 17:7,8*

# APPENDIX 2

## *Discussion Group Questions*

### **HOW IS THE MESSAGE TO THE ORIGINAL AUDIENCE RELEVANT FOR ME TODAY?**

- Is there an example to follow (or avoid)?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there an attitude to change towards God, others, or my circumstances?
- Is there a promise to trust?
- Is there a principle to apply?
- Is there a warning to heed?
- Where do I see grace?
- How does the message of the passage compare/contrast with “worldly wisdom” today?
- What does this mean for the body of Christ - collectively?

### **HOW CAN I PUT WHAT I’VE LEARNED INTO PRACTICE?**

- How does the truth I learned from the text affect my view of God/my relationship with God?
- How does the truth I learned from the text affect my view of others/my relationship with others?
- How does the truth I learned from the text affect my view of myself?
- Do I identify with any of the characters’ struggles, emotions, tensions, etc.?
- How can I apply what I’ve learned from the text to my life this week?
- What are some specific actions I can take?

# APPENDIX 3

## *Memory Verses*

**“SANCTIFY THEM IN THE TRUTH; YOUR WORD IS TRUTH.” (JOHN 17:17)**

*We encourage you to hide God’s Word in your heart. Work on memorizing the following verses this semester:*

“For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7b)

“But Ruth said, ‘Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.’”  
(Ruth 1:12)

“The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.”  
(Ruth 2:12)

“Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.’ Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”  
(Proverbs 31:29-30)

“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!’” (Ruth 4:14)

*Work on memorizing this passage over the Christmas break:*

“For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”  
(Isaiah 9:6-7)









