

OCTOBER 2021

# Word for Women

The Women of Jesus' Family Tree (Part 3/5) - RUTH

## WEEK 1

**Day 1: Read Matthew 1:5 & Ruth.** Today is heavy on the reading. We're peeking at Jesus' genealogy and then reading through the whole book of Ruth (4 chapters). Pray and ask God to reveal His character to you during this month's study.

**Day 2: Read Ruth 1:1-5.** Today we are beginning to set up the context for the book of Ruth. Write all the details you read in these verses: who, what, when, where, why? What is going on? This will help you understand as we read on.

**Day 3: Read Ruth 1:6-18.** Today we will dive into the people of our story more. Who is mentioned in this passage? What are they doing? What are they saying? What does this reveal about their character? Does the text tell us why they make the decisions they make?

**Day 4: Read Ruth 1:19-22.** When Naomi and Ruth return to Bethlehem, what does Naomi say to her people? Naomi means "pleasant" and Mara means "bitter." Why do you think Naomi would want to label herself bitter? The theme of this first chapter of Ruth could be, "disappointment." Everyone will find themselves disappointed by life. Even Jesus struggled with sorrow in the face of disappointment (John 11:33-36). When you are disappointed, do you turn toward God or away from Him? Do you look for a way to glorify Him or do you cry against Him?

**Day 5: Read Ruth 1:1-22.** Today write everything you've learned particularly about Ruth. Is she Jewish? Has she grown up knowing God was the only God or did she grow up in pagan country? Her covenant to Naomi is often quoted in Christian culture (v. 16-17), what is she committing to? When given the chance to return to her people, culture, and lifestyle, Ruth says no. How difficult is it to move forward from your past life as you walk with God?

## WEEK 2

**Day 1: Read Ruth 2:1-3, Leviticus 19:9-10, Deuteronomy 24:19-21.** What can be learned from Boaz from this passage in Ruth? What is learned about Levitical law in the other passages? God has a heart for the poor and for justice. He's instructed His people to care for them. Ruth also has a heart to care for her mother-in-law (v. 2). Have you ever been in a situation where you have been cared for in a hard time? Remember that time and ask God to make a way for you to be like Boaz, alert and looking for someone to help.

**Day 2: Read Ruth 2:8-18.** Note what this passage teaches you about Boaz. What does he say to Ruth? How does he treat her? Note also what this passage says about Ruth. What does she say to Boaz? How does she respond to his treatment? What is noted about her character?

**Day 3: Read Ruth 2:8-18, Proverbs 31:10-31.** Ruth was a woman whose reputation of love, care, and devotion to Naomi was known. This is evident in the text. Do you see any terms or descriptions of Ruth in this passage that match or align with the noble woman in Proverbs 31? Make a list of these.

**Day 4: Read Ruth 2:19-23, Deuteronomy 25:5-10.** In verse 20, what does Naomi declare to Ruth? Do you see Naomi beginning to see God's sovereign hand at work in their lives? What is a family redeemer? (If you studied Tamar in August you may recognize this passage!) How is Boaz seen protecting Ruth in this passage? Do you think this is his character or due to his duty or both? Consider this.

**Day 5: Read Ruth 2:19-23, Matthew 1:5.** Naomi sees God providing for them in this passage, but what she doesn't see is God also providing for the salvation of this world. Their best-case scenario in this was provision and a son. They could have never dreamed up God's future blessing through Ruth's faithfulness. How has God used your circumstances for good?

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## WEEK 3

**Day 1: Read Ruth 3:1-18.** Note all the who, what, when, where, why found in this passage. Note any questions you have about the passage. Ask God for the Holy Spirit's help this week as you study and see how this passage of Scripture connects to the story of Scripture as a whole.

**Day 2: Read Ruth 3:1-18, Proverbs 31:10-31.** First, let's go back to Proverbs 31. This chapter isn't written about Ruth, but of the women in Scripture, Ruth is the best model of Proverbs 31. It's notable that the Hebrew phrase "γυναίκα ἀνδρείαν" is used in Proverbs 31:10 which translates, "brave woman." The only other time this expression is used in Scripture is in Ruth 3:11 and it is translated to "woman of power" or in the ESV, "worthy woman" (also seen in Proverbs 31). Ruth models a noble or worthy woman not just because of what she does, but because of who she is. She is brave and courageous and bold in doing what is asked of her. Does learning this change the way you have come to view the Proverbs 31 woman?

**Day 3: Read Ruth 3:10-18.** In this passage, Boaz is seen as a "type of Christ." This doesn't mean he is equal to Christ; it means he is an Old Testament example reflecting what Christ will come and do for mankind. How many times was "redeem" mentioned in the whole passage? Boaz, although not our Redeemer, did redeem Ruth when he didn't have to (someone else was closer as kin). This points to Jesus who did perfectly redeem all of us.

**Day 4: Read Romans 3:23-24, Galations 3:13-14, 4:4-45, Ephesians 1:13-14, Colossians 1:13-14, Hebrews 9:11-12, Ephesians 1:13-14.** Close this week reading about our ultimate redeemer, Jesus. Thank Him for how He's taken us out of our hopelessness and disappointment and given to us eternal hope through His redemption. List how you can see Christ redeeming you out of disappointment. Thank Him.

## WEEK 4

**Day 1: Read Ruth 4:1-12.** What is happening in this passage? Note all the who, what, when, where, why found here. Do you have any questions about the passage?

**Day 2: Read Ruth 4:1-12.** In this passage, the other man seems eager to acquire some new land, but his attitude changes when he finds out that land comes with someone's widow he must also redeem. Because this would jeopardize his inheritance, he passes on the opportunity and Boaz is now legally permitted to marry and redeem Ruth. Consider these two men. Considering what we learn here, we see even more how unselfish Boaz is in wanting to marry and redeem Ruth. Ask God today to reveal any hidden, sinful motive you have in your life.

**Day 3: Read Ruth 4:11-12.** The elders witness this exchange and bless Boaz and his soon to be wife. Who do they mention in this passage? Do you recognize the name of another woman in the line of Christ? Was Tamar a Jew or a Gentile? Is Ruth a Jew or a Gentile? Through Ruth we see God, again, using a woman and a Gentile to move forward His gospel plan of redemption. A theme in this study has been that God can use those with varying pasts who have put their hope in them for His good and glory. Are you believing God can use you to move His gospel forward?

**Day 4: Read Ruth 4:13-15.** What do the women say to Naomi? Flip back to 1:19-21. Remember Naomi's disappointment upon returning. Now, she is a symbol of God's blessing. Through Ruth's service (2:1-23) and the hope of these women and Boaz (3:1-18), God has redeemed the disappointment of Naomi and even Ruth who was widowed too. What can you learn from the book of Ruth about remaining faithful in service and in hope despite disappointment in suffering? Thank God for His redemption through Boaz toward Ruth and through Christ toward us.



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