

Week Two: Discussion Questions

LEGACY OF TRIALS, EXTRAORDINARY RESPONSE RUTH CHAPTER 1

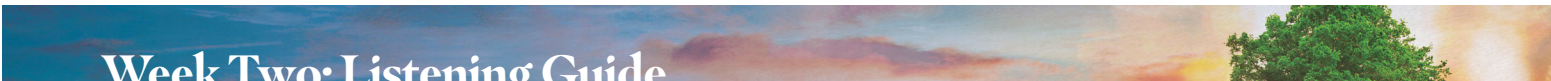


1. *What impacted you from last week's message?
2. *What do we learn about God's character in this chapter?
3. *Are there any questions you have as you read through this chapter? Record them on the lines.
4. *What applications can you draw from the experiences of Elimelech and his family in these verses?
5. *What can you do to intentionally run to God when facing trials?
6. *What do we learn about Naomi from the blessing she speaks over her daughter-in-laws in verses 8-9?
7. *What do we learn about Naomi's character from Ruth and Orpah's reluctance to leave her?
8. *What were the spiritual implications of Orpah's choice? How did this contrast with Ruth's choice?
9. *What are some aspects of Ruth's character that you admire from this passage?
10. *Read Romans 5:3-5 again. How could this perspective of suffering have changed Naomi's response to her struggles?
11. *Can you relate to Naomi's response to her suffering and her view of God? Why or why not?

Week Two: Listening Guide

LEGACY OF FAITH - EXTRAORDINARY GRACE

RUTH CHAPTER 2



Week Two: Listening Guide

LEGACY OF FAITH - EXTRAORDINARY GRACE

RUTH CHAPTER 2

I. _____ the gracious hand of God in the _____ of life. (1-7)

II. _____ the gracious _____ of God with humility. (8-16)

III. _____ in the gracious _____ of God. (17-23)

Week Two: Homework

LEGACY OF FAITH - EXTRAORDINARY GRACE RUTH CHAPTER 2

DAY ONE

PRAY: Ask the Lord to teach you more about Himself this week, and show you areas of your life where He would like to bring change in response to His word.

MEMORIZE: This week we will memorize Proverbs 31:26. *“She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.”* Write the memory verse on the lines below or on a notecard to use for reference and meditation throughout this week.

STUDY: In contrast to chapter one which takes place over many years, Ruth chapter two relates the events of only one day. When God gives us this many verses about one 24-hour period, we can know that there are many important details for us to learn from. As you read today, look for ways that Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi demonstrate their faith in Yahweh, and how His favor/grace is revealed to them. Please read Ruth 2.

1. On the lines below record repeated words or phrases, power words, and key ideas that you notice in this passage.

2. What do you learn about God in this chapter?

3. *In what ways do Ruth and Boaz reflect godly qualities in this chapter?

4. Record any questions that you have about these verses.

5. Based upon what you have read today, what is one thing that you feel led to start, stop, or change in your life?

Commit yourself to careful consideration of the Scripture that you are studying this week and how it may be applied to your life.

DAY TWO

PRAY: As you open in prayer today ask God to show you how His grace abounds in your life, and how you might become an instrument of His grace to others.

MEMORIZE: Read or say Proverbs 31:26 out loud several times. Try to fill in the blanks below without looking. “She opens her _____ with _____, and the _____ of _____ is on her lips.”

STUDY: In Ruth 2:1-7 we are introduced to Boaz – a worthy man – who will become the hero of this story. But, let’s not miss the fact that although he is a godly man, his actions point to the true Hero of the story – our gracious, faithful Lord. We will also see Ruth search for someone who will show favor or grace to her by allowing her to glean in their fields. Please read Ruth 2:1-7

1. Ruth is referred to as a foreigner from Moab throughout this chapter. Why would this have been significant to the first people who heard this story? (for more insight about this, see Genesis 19:30-38 and Judges 3:12-14)

2. *In Israel, gleaning was a way to honor God and care for others (Leviticus 19:9-10). Although this practice is not part of our lives, what are some practical ways that we can follow this principle in our modern culture?

3. How do you see the Lord leading in Ruth and Boaz’s lives in these verses?

4. Do you identify more with Boaz or Ruth in these verses? Why?

5. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11.

a. How do you see Ruth and Boaz reflecting the qualities mentioned in these verses?

b. What do you learn about God from these verses?

c. In what ways do you see God’s grace abounding in your everyday life?

d. Record any ways that these verses challenge you.

As you close in prayer thank God for some specific ways He shows grace to you every day.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Ask the Lord to help you become completely obedient to Him and to trust His leading in every area of your life.

MEMORIZE: Read Proverbs 31:26 or say it from memory out loud. Emphasize the words that are most impactful to you.

STUDY: In these verses, Boaz addresses Ruth with great compassion. He offers not only freedom to glean in the field, but takes steps to ensure her health and safety. Ruth seems completely overwhelmed by his “above and beyond” kindness as she recognizes his grace to her with gratitude and humility. Please read Ruth 2:8-13.

1. *In Leviticus 19:33-34, God commands the people of Israel to love the foreigners in their land as they love themselves. How does Boaz demonstrate obedience to these instructions from the Lord?

2. What are some reasons that Boaz could have given for not being completely obedient to the commands from Leviticus 19?

3. Think of times when you are not completely obedient to the Lord, what excuses do you make?

4. What do you learn about Ruth from these verses? Why is it significant that she has taken refuge in the Lord?

5. Read Psalm 34:1-10

a. What should we do when we are fearful and in need of help?

b. When do you feel tempted to call on others for help rather than looking to the Lord?

c. From these verses, what specific actions would a woman who is taking refuge in the Lord do?

d. What is promised to those who seek the Lord and take refuge in Him?

Close in prayer today by personalizing the words of Psalm 34 back to the Lord in prayer as you commit to taking refuge in Him.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Begin today by asking the Lord to show you new ways that you can apply the truths you will study today.

MEMORIZE: Try to recall Proverbs 31:26 from memory without looking. Write the entire verse on the lines below.

STUDY: In these verses, Boaz's actions affirm that he is in fact a worthy man. And Ruth's actions continue to reveal more about her character. At the end of this day she has gleaned about 30 pounds of grain to carry home to Naomi. Please read Ruth 2:14-19.

1. *What can you learn from Boaz in this scene?

2. *Considering what you know about Ruth so far, how do you think her experiences in these verses impacted her?

3. The words of Jesus in Luke 6:38 say, “Give and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

a. Based upon this truth, what conclusions can you draw about Ruth and Boaz?

b. How are you challenged by these verses and by the example of Boaz?

4. These verses tell us twice that Ruth was satisfied. Why do you think the author specifically pointed this out?

5. Unlike Ruth and Naomi, most of us do not experience physical hunger, but we all have spiritual emptiness that needs to be satisfied. Read Matthew 5:6 and Philippians 4:19 then answer the following questions:

a. According to these verses, how can we be satisfied?

b. Where do you look for that feeling of satisfaction in your life?

c. What does it mean to hunger and thirst for righteousness?

d. How would your life be different if you trusted God to supply your every (physical, emotional, and spiritual) need?

Close your time of study by sharing with the Lord what you have learned today. Prayerfully commit to being satisfied with God’s provision in your life.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Start your study time by thanking the Lord for His Word and for the privilege of coming to Him. Ask Him to show you any new details of this passage that He wants you to learn from.

MEMORIZE: Review Proverbs 31:26. In what ways does this verse relate to what you have been learning from your study of Ruth so far?

STUDY: Ruth went out in the morning looking for someone to show her favor, and she returned in the evening with enough food to supply them for several weeks - and leftovers from lunch to serve for dinner! Although she was a destitute, foreign widow, Boaz showed favor to her far above what she expected. Like Ruth, we are all “foreigners” to the family of God, but in Christ we are brought near to Him and lavished with far more grace than we deserve. Please read Ruth 2:20-23

1. How has Naomi’s outlook changed from chapter one? What do you think caused this?

2. How do these verses indicate a more hopeful future for Ruth and Naomi?

3. *Boaz’s kindness to Ruth and Naomi had a huge impact in their lives. When has the kindness of another person impacted you?

4. *What one word sums up Ruth 2 to you?

5. *Summarize Ruth 2 in one sentence.

6. *Boaz showed favor (grace) to Ruth by providing for her physical needs. As New Testament believers in Jesus Christ, we can trust Him to provide not only our physical needs, but also for our spiritual needs. Read Ephesians 2:4-10.

a. What qualities of God cause Him to extend grace to us?

b. From these verses, how does God's grace impact you?

c. List some of the ways that God shows the "immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness" to you.

Close your study this week by praising the Lord for what you have learned about Him. Commit to obedience in any way that you have been challenged by your study this week.

