

Session 6

Bible Study Notes: The Threshing Floor

Based on Ruth Chapter 4 Study

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to reveal areas where He wants to work in your lives and to give you courage to surrender fully to Him.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you tried to do something "your way" instead of following instructions. What happened?

Key Scripture Passages

- **Ruth 3-4** - Ruth at the threshing floor
- **1 Chronicles 21:18-27** - David's repentance and the temple site
- **2 Samuel 6** - The Ark of the Covenant and Uzzah

Main Themes

1. The Symbolism of the Threshing Floor

The threshing floor represents a place where God separates what's valuable (the grain) from what's worthless (the chaff). It's where our motives are exposed and refined.

2. Surrender vs. Striving

Ruth received twice as much when she surrendered (6 measures) compared to when she worked for it (3 measures).

3. God's Way vs. Our Way

David's story with the Ark shows the consequences of doing things our way instead of God's way, even with good intentions.

Discussion Questions

About Ruth's Surrender

1. What does it mean that Ruth received double when she surrendered compared to when she worked? How does this challenge our "work harder" mentality?
2. The quote mentioned was: "There are lovers and there are workers, and lovers get way more done than workers." What does this mean practically in your relationship with God?
3. Ruth had to wait until Boaz was finished eating and drinking before approaching him. What does this teach us about timing and patience in our relationship with God?

About the Threshing Floor

4. The pastor described the threshing floor as a place where "God separates the junk from the precious." What "chaff" might God want to blow away in your life right now?
5. Why do you think God chose to have the temple built on the threshing floor where David repented? What does this tell us about God's heart?
6. The Holy Spirit (wind) gently blows away the chaff while preserving the grain. How does this picture of God's gentleness encourage you?

About Doing Things God's Way

7. David thought using a cart for the Ark was a "better idea" - it was even what the world (Philistines) did successfully. When have you been tempted to adopt worldly methods instead of seeking God's way?
8. The oxen didn't stumble until they reached the threshing floor. What does this teach us about God's patience and His timing in addressing our disobedience?
9. David's wife Michal became barren after criticizing David's worship. The pastor said, "You can't have a critical heart and bear fruit for the Lord." How can we guard against a critical spirit while still maintaining discernment?

About Leadership and Responsibility

10. The pastor emphasized that leaders' choices affect those they lead. If you're in any leadership position (parent, workplace, ministry), how does this truth impact your decision-making?
11. David said about the plague: "I, the shepherd, have sinned... These are but sheep. What have they done?" What does this reveal about godly leadership and taking responsibility?

Personal Reflection Questions

(Take 5-10 minutes for silent reflection)

1. Are there areas where you're trying to "steady the ark" - controlling things that God wants you to trust Him with?
2. What would it look like for you to "lie down at Jesus' feet" in surrender this week?
3. Is there any rebellion or pride in your life that God is asking you to bring to the threshing floor?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **Surrender brings greater blessing than striving** - Ruth got double when she surrendered
- ✓ **The threshing floor is a place of mercy** - God wants to preserve what's valuable and remove what's not
- ✓ **God's ways are always best** - Even when our ideas seem more practical or efficient
- ✓ **Repentance leads to restoration** - The temple was built on the site of David's repentance
- ✓ **Our choices affect others** - Especially when we're in leadership
- ✓ **Keep your eyes on Jesus, not people** - People will fail; Jesus never will

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

1. **Surrender Exercise:** Identify one area where you've been striving and consciously choose to surrender it to God daily in prayer.

2. **Motive Check:** Ask God to show you the real motives behind a major decision or pattern in your life. Journal what He reveals.
3. **Do It God's Way:** Choose one situation where you're tempted to do things "your way" and intentionally seek God's way through prayer and Scripture before acting.
4. **Worship Without Reservation:** Like David, worship God this week without concern for what others think. This might be in private or public worship.
5. **Leadership Inventory:** If you're in leadership, ask God to show you if there are ways you've led people according to your ideas rather than His direction.

Prayer Focus

Pray together for:

- Courage to come to God's threshing floor
- Willingness to let go of the "chaff" in our lives
- Humility to do things God's way, not our way
- Protection from critical spirits
- Wisdom for those in leadership positions
- Hearts that are lovers of God, not just workers for God

For Next Week

Read Ruth Chapter 4 and consider:

- How does Boaz redeem Ruth?
- What does this teach us about Jesus as our Redeemer?
- How does the story end, and what's the significance?

Closing Thought

"The threshing floor is the place where God says, 'Okay, we're going to separate the junk from the valuable.' When the Lord takes what you have now and plants it, He gets an amazing harvest."

Additional Resources

- Consider studying other "threshing floor" moments in Scripture
- Research the kinsman-redeemer concept in Leviticus and Deuteronomy
- Read about the significance of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem

