

# SESSION 1

## Bible Study Notes: Studying the Book of Ruth

### Introduction to Bible Study Methods

### Key Takeaways from the Session

1. **The best translation is the one you read** - Don't get paralyzed by finding the "perfect" Bible version
2. **Slow down when studying** - It's better to be impacted by two verses than to rush through three chapters
3. **Use multiple resources** - Commentaries, cross-references, and study tools help us understand context
4. **Ask questions while reading** - Who, what, when, where, why
5. **Look for personal application** - God speaks to us today, not just to the original audience
6. **Study in ways that work for you** - Journaling, highlighting, drawing, audio - find your style

### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding the Material

1. What was one new Bible study tool or resource mentioned that you'd like to try? (Strong's Concordance, Bible Hub, commentaries, etc.)
2. Why is it important to understand the historical and cultural context when reading Scripture? Can you think of an example where this matters?
3. The pastor mentioned that names in the Old Testament often have significant meanings. Why do you think God inspired the writers to include these details?

#### Going Deeper

4. Discuss the difference between reading the Bible and studying the Bible. What does "slowing down" look like practically in your life?

5. The pastor shared about looking for "foreshadowing" in the Old Testament - glimpses of Jesus and His redemptive work. Why is this important? Have you noticed any examples of this?
6. One participant shared about not moving on from a scripture until it's fully applied and lived out. What scripture has become so rooted in your life that it "couldn't be stomped out of you"?

## **Personal Application**

7. What barriers or obstacles keep you from studying God's Word consistently? (Time, understanding, knowing where to start, etc.)
8. The question was asked: "Who do you want to be to me in this season, God?" How would you answer that question right now? What name or characteristic of God do you need to experience?
9. What's one practical change you can make this week to engage more deeply with Scripture?

## **Practical Applications**

### **This Week's Challenge (Choose One):**

#### **Option 1: The Deep Dive**

- Choose one verse or passage that speaks to you
- Spend 15-20 minutes with it each day this week
- Use at least two different translations
- Journal what God is showing you
- Look up one cross-reference or use Strong's Concordance to study a key word

#### **Option 2: The Preparation**

- Read Ruth chapter 1 slowly (it's only 22 verses)
- Write down your questions
- Note what stands out to you
- Look up what the names mean (Naomi, Ruth, Orpah, Mahlon, Chilion)
- Come prepared to share one observation next week

#### **Option 3: The Resource Explorer**

- Download one Bible study app or bookmark one website from the handout

- Spend time exploring the features
- Choose a favorite verse and see what resources are available (commentaries, cross-references, original language study)
- Share with the group next week what you discovered

## Action Steps

1. **Get equipped:** If you don't have a study Bible, explore online resources like Bible Hub or Bible Gateway this week
2. **Set a time:** Block out 15-30 minutes in your schedule for intentional Bible study (not just reading)
3. **Find your style:** Experiment with different study methods - journaling, highlighting, drawing, audio Bibles - discover what helps you engage best
4. **Ask questions:** As you read, write down your "who, what, when, where, why" questions to explore

## Reflection & Prayer (10 minutes)

### Reflection Questions:

- What is one thing God highlighted to you through this session?
- What's one step you can take this week to grow in studying His Word?

### Prayer Focus:

- Pray for a hunger and love for God's Word
- Ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher and guide
- Pray for discipline and consistency in Bible study
- Ask God to reveal Himself through Scripture this week

## Looking Ahead

Next week we'll dive into Ruth Chapter 1, exploring:

- The historical context (time of the judges)
- The meaning of the names
- Naomi's bitterness and journey
- God's redemptive plan beginning to unfold

**Preparation:** Read Ruth 1:1-22 and come with your observations and questions!

## Closing Thought

*"God is not looking at his daughter while you're reading his word and criticizing how you're reading it. He's just sitting beside you on the couch going, 'That was a good part, huh? That was a good one.'"*

**Remember:** The goal isn't perfection - it's connection with God through His Word. Start where you are, use what you have, and let the Holy Spirit guide you!