

# RUTH



## WEEK FIVE "STAY CLOSE"

### DAY 1

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. Read Ruth 2:17-23.
3. How long did Ruth glean and how much did her efforts yield?
4. What does she do with the barley she has gleaned (see verse 18)? Are you prepared to do the same, even in times of lack?
5. Ruth tells Naomi where she has been all day. What is Naomi's reaction to Ruth's information and why?
6. What request does Boaz make of Ruth in 2:8 and 2:21?
7. If you think in a spiritual context, what does it mean to "stay close" to the Lord? How do we do that?
8. Write out this week's memory verse on a notecard or a piece of paper and post it somewhere you will see it often (e.g bathroom mirror, car, desk, kitchen sink, etc.).

### Scripture Memory:

You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him and cling to Him.

~Deuteronomy 13:4

### I'm praying about:

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## DAY 2

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. Boaz tells Ruth to "stay close," which literally means to cling to or be joined together. Look up the definition for cling and write it below:
  
3. What things does Deuteronomy 10:20 instruct us to do?
  
4. Notice the verse above contains the phrase "cling to Him." Looking at the definition you wrote above, how would you describe what it means to "cling" to the Lord?
  
5. The word for "stay close" is the same word that is used of marriage when a man and woman are joined together. This implies a close, intimate relationship that must be nurtured. How is this a reflection of our relationship with God? How do we nurture this relationship and what happens if we don't?
  
6. Write out this week's memory verse below:

## DAY 3

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. Although we are commanded to stay close to the Lord, there are times we may not "feel" close to God. In these times, what does Jeremiah 29:13 tell us to do and what does it promise?
  
3. In addition to seeking God with all our hearts, Scripture gives us additional insight on how to stay close to the Lord. What six things does Deuteronomy 10:1 list? Do you do these things? Are there any on the list you need to pay closer attention to?
  
4. What does the Psalmist say he clings to in Psalm 119:30-32 and what do 1 John 2:6 and 1 John 3:24 tell us we will do if we abide (stay close) in God?
  
5. There is a correlation between staying close to God and doing what He says. Examine your own life. Do you follow the commands of the Lord closely? Are there any areas of disobedience God is convicting you about?
  
6. Write out this week's memory verse below:

## DAY 4

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. In Ruth 2:22 what is the reason Naomi gives for wanting Ruth to stay close to Boaz's workers?
3. Evidently there was potential danger in other fields for Ruth as she gleaned among the sheaves. By staying close to Boaz's field she would be safe and provided for. What does 1 Peter 5:8 caution us about?
4. Joshua 23:6-13 gives the Israelites clear instructions. What are they commanded to do and what will happen if they don't?
5. Failing to stay close to the Lord is perilous to us. In the verses above Joshua cautions the people that their sin will be a snare and a trap to them, a whip in their sides, and thorns to their eyes. When we drift from the Lord we open ourselves up to attacks from the enemy, and we are more apt to fall to temptation and entertain or tolerate sin. In your own life, what is it that demands your attention or distracts you from staying close to the Lord? What negative impact have you seen in your own life when you fail to stay close to God?
6. Write out this week's memory verse below:

## DAY 5

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
  2. There were likely moments Ruth questioned the Lord's plan. She followed Naomi to a land that was foreign to her, she knew no one, and had no idea what would result. At times she must have wondered, "Is this what I followed for? To glean among the servants of someone else's field in someone else's harvest? Is this all there is?" In moments like these we are tempted to drift from the Lord and to reach for our own solutions. However, if we do so, we miss the plan that God is arranging. What does Proverbs 3:5-6 promise us?
  3. In Ruth 2:2, what is Naomi's husband's name? To what family does Boaz belong? (See Ruth 2:3)
  4. It is evident from Ruth 2:3 and 2:19 that neither Ruth nor Naomi arranged for Ruth to glean in Boaz's field. It was God who arranged it. As we stay close to God He directs our paths into the next step He intends us to take as He works a bigger plan for our lives that we cannot see. We don't have to worry about the future; our job is to simply stay close and trust He will direct our paths. Why is this sometimes difficult to actually do?
  5. Write out this week's memory verse below:
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