

RUTH



WEEK EIGHT

"WAIT, MY DAUGHTER"

DAY 1

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. Read Ruth 3:12-18. Read Boaz's initial response to Ruth's request to redeem her in verses twelve and thirteen. Boaz ensures he does things properly. What insight does this give you about his character? What does Proverbs 11:18-20 and 27-29 tell us about the danger of trying to cut corners?
3. What does Boaz tell Ruth to do in verses thirteen and fourteen?
4. What does Boaz give to Ruth?
5. What does Naomi tell Ruth to do in verse eighteen?
6. Put yourself in Ruth's position for a moment. Her entire future hangs on a few events that will soon take place. How would you feel? How much sleep would you get on the threshing floor?
7. What does Boaz tell Ruth not to do in verse eleven? Why are we tempted to fear in times of waiting?
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:

"Wait for the Lord;
Be strong and let
your heart take
courage; Yes, wait
for the Lord."

~Psalm 27:14

I'm praying about:

DAY 2

1. Begin your study time with prayer. At the beginning of chapter three Ruth is told to "go." As soon as she takes action she is then told to wait. Following God is like that sometimes. He may ask you to take a step forward and you're sure you're on your way somewhere; the moment you obey you realize all you've done is taken a step into what feels like a giant waiting room. We get frustrated with waiting, but it's important to note that God has a purpose for these seasons. Read Genesis 12:1-4. What does God promise to Abraham and how old is Abraham? In Genesis 15:1-5 what does God again promise Abraham?
2. In Genesis 16:16 Abraham is eighty-six years old and is still waiting for God to deliver on the promise He made. What do Abraham and Sarah decide to do in Genesis 16:1-3, and why do you think they decide to do this?
3. Perhaps they doubted God or thought He was taking too long, but whatever the reason, Sarah and Abraham decide they will lay hold of the promise in their own way and in their timing. What does Genesis 16:4-12 say is the result of this disastrous decision?
4. What finally happens in Genesis 21:1-5 and how old was Abraham? How long did the promise take to be fulfilled? (Compare Genesis 12:4 and Genesis 21:5)
5. Write out this week's memory verse below:

DAY 3

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read 1 Samuel 13:5-7. What is happening in this story and what is the overall attitude of the people?
2. Sometimes, like Abraham, the waiting times push us to impatiently grasp for a solution of our own choosing. Other times, like Saul, seasons of waiting provoke fear in us. In this story Saul has been instructed to wait for the prophet Samuel so he can pray, sacrifice, and ask God's favor for the impending battle. Instead what does Saul do in 1 Samuel 13:8-9?
3. What does 1 Samuel 13:10-14 say is the tragic consequence of this action?
4. Allowing fear or impatience to drive us to actions that are outside of God's plan for us can have catastrophic consequences. What do you think drives us to impatience or fear in times of waiting?
5. Write out this week's memory verse below:

DAY 4

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. Joseph is another character in Scripture that waited a long time to see the fulfillment of God's promise in his life. Read Genesis 37:2-11. How old was Joseph and what were the dreams he had?
3. His brothers' jealousy drives them to sell him as a slave. He ends up in Egypt and is falsely accused of making sexual advances toward his master's wife (Genesis 39:1-18). Where does Joseph end up in Genesis 39:19-23 and how long was he there according to Genesis 41:1?
4. Finally, at the end of two long years in prison, Pharaoh has a dream and calls for Joseph to interpret it (Genesis 41:1-37). What is the result of his interpreting this dream in Genesis 41:38-46 and how old was Joseph when this happened?
5. What finally happens in Genesis 42:3-6?
6. Joseph could not possibly have imagined all that would transpire between the dreams being revealed to him and the fruition of those dreams. Along the way he experienced incredible difficulty and there must have been times he wondered if his dreams were just dreams and not promises from the Lord. Is there anything in your life that you're waiting for? Do doubts about God's ability or willingness to answer creep in? How so?
7. Write out this week's memory verse below:

DAY 5

1. Begin your study time with prayer.
2. Seasons of waiting can tempt us to fear. What reasons do Proverbs 3:5-6 and Isaiah 41:10 & 13 give us that help us battle fear as we wait on the Lord?
3. If we don't guard against it fear can give way to doubt and doubt will often drive us to disobedience. How have you seen this to be true in your own life?
4. In Ruth's life God was arranging things she could not see. She had to surrender, trust and, in the meantime, obey. We must follow suit if we hope to lay hold of the blessings God has in store for us. What blessings or rewards does Psalm 19:7-11 list for us as walk in surrendered obedience to the Lord?
5. Write out this week's memory verse below: