

Our **Virtual**

PowerGroup

RUTH
Week 6 Study

Icebreaker

Pick an adjective that starts with the first letter of your first name that describes you and your personality. Share your answer with the group.

Passage 1 **Ruth 4:13-15**

The women's praises indicate that God has been at work in these events that have benefited Naomi. At the beginning of our study we noted that the Israelites recorded their stories and history to reveal the ways God interacts with men and women in the world he has made and rules. Though Ruth 1:1-5 describes a tragic situation, God doesn't leave Naomi there. Throughout the book God shows that he is at work through the love and actions of his people. The women of Bethlehem rightly recognize God's fingerprints in all that has transpired, and they credit the Lord for the blessing of providing an heir for Naomi through a guardian-redeemer.

Reflection 1. How had Naomi's attitude changed throughout each chapter.

2. If you were Naomi, what part of the women's blessing would have meant the most to you and why (vv. 14-15)?

3. How does Ruth 4:14-15 reveal God's heart toward the sufferer?

Passage 2 **Ruth 4:16-17**

Ruth 4:16 notes that Naomi took the child in her lap (or against her breast) and cared for him. We're not certain of the details, but it appears Ruth allowed Naomi a significant role in raising Obed, perhaps something similar to a foster mother. We get a strong sense that Ruth wanted her beloved mother-in-law to have a significant role in Obed's life, that it deeply blessed Ruth to see the once hopeless Naomi rocking the child against her breast as if he were her own. When it comes to something important to us like our children, it is hard to allow others to watch them. Our desire is to protect them and keep them safe.

Reflection **If you have children, is releasing them to the Lord difficult for you? If you don't have children, what is another relationship you have a hard time entrusting to God?**

Passage 3 Ruth 4:18-22

Genealogies in the Bible were intended to establish family identity and roots and were not necessarily a chronologically precise listing of every name in each family line. Names were often omitted, and the names that were included were often selected for particular reasons. Terms like "son" and "father" could mean not only "grandson" or "grandfather," but also "descendant" and "ancestor," respectively. Biblical genealogies form connecting links from early times in history throughout the Old Testament period. In this way God has provided a connected history from Adam to Christ

(see Matt. 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38), whose coming to redeem us from sin and death is the ultimate focus of the book of Ruth and indeed of the entire Bible.

Reflection

1. What is significant about the genealogy or family record that ends the book of Ruth, Matthew, and Luke?
2. Turn back to Ruth and read 1:11-14. How does our understanding of Ruth's place in the line of Christ make the verses you just read more significant than ever before?
3. How does Ruth's story of coming to live among God's people speak to your own story? Be specific.

Application

The book of Ruth, like many other accounts in the Bible, shows that God's purpose is accomplished through the lives of ordinary, even unlikely, and yet faithful individuals. Each main character of this story displays Christ-like attributes. Discuss the two main characters Ruth and Boaz reflect Jesus in their character and their relationship with God in their actions.

Is the book of Ruth more about "getting" or "giving"? Why?

Whose examples of love do you think the author encourages us to emulate? What does that love look like?