

Ruth 1:1-2

Rootwork

Seeking Refuge In a Foreign Land

1. (Everyday) Before you begin your study time - spend time in prayer! Go through your "yesterday" and ask the Lord to reveal your heart! Prepare your heart and surrender your will to the Spirit of God! Allow Him to have full access by not withholding anything He wants to do in and then do through you!! Make a conscious effort to bow your will and your obedience to the Lord before you even dive in! This prepares your heart to hear and to heed everything He speaks to you!
2. (Everyday) Then spend time in adoration and worship after you have cleansed your heart and before you dive into the scriptures!! Proclaiming who God is and adoring Him lifts our eyes up and keeps our focus on what really matters...putting God in His rightful place and putting us in ours! Remember, the enemy is going to try to keep you from being in the Word, he hates when we worship our God- worship breaks his bondages over believers, so resist him and he will flee!!
3. If you were at the "Digging Deeper Workshop" and you would like to structure these scriptures, copy and paste Ruth 1 into a word/pages document or write it out verse by verse, following the structuring handouts you received! If you were not there

and want to watch it, search "Digging Deeper" on our website or app and watch it for tools to help you in your study time!

4. (Everyday) After you finish your rootwork every day, be sure to spend time in prayer (ACTS) going through what you have learned and received from the Word of God! This is also in your "Digging Deeper" handout!

5. Before you begin on your journey through the book of Ruth, spend time finding out the "who, what, when, where, why and how" of the foundations of the book. We discussed this in our Bible study, so if you have it in your notes review it now. If you were not there, you can go back and listen t it. You can also find this information Through internet searches, Bible Knowledge Commentary, or Blue Letter Bible! You are going to want to answer the following questions to get a good foundation of the book:
 1. Who wrote the book of Ruth?
 2. What kind of book is Ruth?
 3. When was Ruth written?
 4. Where does the book of Ruth take place?
 5. Why was Ruth written? (This ties into the "when" because the time of when the book was written has to do with the reasoning of why it was written)
 6. How was Ruth written? Well, we know by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God - that is for sure!

6. We discussed in length the spiritual climate of the children of Israel at this time! What was the cycle they were in?
7. Read Judges 21:25 and record in your own words what they were doing and why! Has there been a season in your life where this could identify you? What did you do to get out of that cycle? Are you in it right now? What does God's Word tell you to do to get out of this cycle?
8. Read verse 1 of Ruth chapter 1. We see that leaving off from the time of the judges, there was a famine in the land! The last part of the cycle of the Israelites was "rest" before "rebellion" took place again! In Bible study we talked about how rest, and prosperity are more dangerous to our walk with God than adversity. Why is this often the case? Have you seen this before in your own walk? If so, how?
9. Look up the word "famine" in the Blue Letter Bible app, (if you need help with this, please email me) what further insight does this give you?
10. Read Deuteronomy 28:15, 23-24, Ezekiel 14"13 and Deuteronomy 11:13-17 and record why this is not a "normal" famine. What was God trying to do with the nation of Israel? Why?

11. Looking still at Deuteronomy 11:13-17, take this word by word. (Structure these verses if you have time) examine this carefully! What is God saying here? What matters to Him? How does this encourage your own heart personally?
12. What does the second part of Ruth 1:1 say? What did this family do because of the famine? What kind of man was this? Where was he from?
13. Look up the word "Bethlehem", and "Judah" in your Blue Letter Bible app. What do you see?
14. Who is the Bread of Life? Read John 6:35 and record! Look up any other verses you can find that describe Jesus as the Bread of Life and record them! What does it mean that He is the Bread of Life?
15. Be sure to write these attributes in your "Who is God" Journal! What has He done for you? Then write how that defines who you are and what you do!
16. So we see that this family decides to look for "greener pastures" in a land that is forbidden and foreign! Ever been there personally? Been tempted to seek our refuge in a foreign land?
17. Look up the word, "sojourn" and record what you find! What does this mean?

18. Where did they sojourn?

19. Why did they go there? Write your thoughts about this quote:
"To do so, he had to hike through the desolate Jericho pass, through the Judean wilderness near the Dead Sea, going across the Jordan River, into the land of Moab. This was a definite departure from the Promised Land of Israel, and a return towards the wilderness from which God had delivered Israel hundreds of years before. These were clearly steps in the wrong direction." Guzik-

20. Unfortunately we can see how this could happen because we know our own hearts! I am sure Elimelech and Naomi comforted themselves by justifying why they were going and they probably had some really good reasons! But no matter the reason..SIN WILL ALWAYS TAKE YOU FARTHER THAN YOU WANT TO GO, KEEP YOU LONGER THAN YOU WANT TO STAY, AND COST YOU MORE THAN YOU WANT TO PAY! Oh how this is true!! Take some time and reflect on this, then be vulnerable with the Lord and ask Him to reveal excuses and justifications that you have been giving yourself so that you do not venture into "Moab"! The sad thing about it is that even though they thought it would be a short time, Elimelech and his sons never returned to Bethlehem! It ended up altering the trajectory of their lives!

21. Look up "Moab" what does it mean? Who were the people of Moab? Read Genesis 19:30-38 and record what you see here!

22. What is God's view and opinion of Moab? Read the following verses (and chapters for full context if time) for more insight on Moab, and if you have time see if you can find anymore and record what you find!

1. Judges 3:12-14
2. Numbers 22:1-4
3. Psalm 60:8
4. Psalm 108
5. 1 Kings 11
6. Isaiah 16
7. Jeremiah 48
8. Ezekiel 25
9. Zephaniah 2

23. Read Ruth 1: 2 and look up each name written here and record what you find! (You will notice "Chilion" means "pining" look up "pining" to get the full detail of his name)

24. Do you see the irony of the father's name? Why is this so ironic? Who was his king?

25. Why do you think they chose not to follow the promises of what God had given to them? Why did they respond to the famine this way? They needed bread, and they were in the perfect environment for compromise! That is just what the enemy waits for! When the grass looks greener at the right time, under the right set of circumstances, with just the right amount of pressure, anything can look better than what you are in!!

Remember though....when the grass looks greener it is because of either 2 things: the grass is fake, or it is FULL of manure!!

😏 don't let the enemy or your flesh convince you otherwise!!

26. Perhaps they needed to be reminded! Have you been there? Do you forget what you should remember and remember what you should forget? How can you teach yourself truth when that starts to happen? How can you take thoughts captive to the obedience of Jesus Christ? How can you remind yourself in the moment? This is vital to your walk with God, this will help bring your flesh under obedience to the Word of God no matter how you feel, what you want, or what you think!! This strengthens your heart to make God truly your King!!

27. Read Joshua 4:1-7 and record what they chose to forget? Even as they passed by, do you think that they hesitated? That they felt any conviction? Do you think they forgot to whom they belong? Did they forget how Joshua led them? How faithful God had been to the nation of Israel and to them? How does this king of forgetfulness take place?

28. Read Psalm 40:6-8 and record your response to the Lord for doing this in your life!!

29. We need to set up "a monument of the faithfulness of God" so that we are reminded of the faithfulness of God when we are tempted to entertain "Moab" in our lives! Take time and write out every single thing you can remember that God has done! From the moment you were redeemed and rescued from your pit of miry clay to the moment you are doing this rootwork...every

single thing that God has done! I know this may take a while, and it should!! You can always go back and add more, but right now, write what you can remember! This will bless you so very much and I know the Spirit of God will bring to your mind things you have not thought about in a long time! Just ask Him! Then spend some time in just adoration at the goodness of God! Praise Him for His faithfulness and rejoice in the beauty of His glory!! HE is a good good Father!!

30. See Elimelech and Naomi had that one thing they could not live without..the one thing that they were willing to disobey the Lord to get...and they suffered the consequences for it! They had no rest after seeking refuge in that foreign land!

31. What foreign land have you been seeking refuge in?

32. What is that one thing for you? The one thing that has caused you to become dissatisfied with your life? The one thing you could not live without? The one thing that has tempted you to distance yourself from God? To leave behind the promises of God? Could it be you have been entertaining Moab to get it? Separating yourself from those who speak truth into your life? Separating yourself from being in and under the Word of God? Separated from being transformed by the words of God? If this is you, it is time right now to deal with it! Bring it before the Lord and confess and repent of it, knowing that your God is the great I AM - the answer to every problem, the fulfiller of every need, the sustainer of every life!!! That is WHO HE IS!! He wants you to find fulfillment only in Him! His plan, His ways and in His presence! He is your rest!!

33. Everyone who said the name "Elimelech" (My God is King) knew to whom he belonged to, just by his name! The same is true for us, everyone who knows we are followers of Christ, knows to whom we belong. Our choices affect more than just us! Who is affected the most by your choice to entertain "Moab"? How? Does your actions reflect that God is your king in your life? These are tough questions, but vital to ask ourselves! We do not realize just how much our lives affect others! This is not to add burden and dread..but to wake us up to the reality of the privilege and responsibility we have as Christ followers!

34. So my sweet sister in Christ, let this be a reminder that when things are hard and you want to escape.... press in and not out, run to and not from, cling tightly and don't separate yourself! Do not let anything or anyone get in the way of your service and obedience to the Lord!! Nothing is worth it! The joy and the adventure of clinging to Jesus in every season brings Him so much glory and honor!!

35. End by recording any attributes of God that you want to add to your "Who is God" journal from your study time! Then spend time in worship and adoration to the Lord for those attributes! He inhabits the praises of His people!!