Ruth, “Fear, Commitment, and Redemption”

I. _____
   1. The fear of _____
   2. The fear of _____
   3. The fear of _____
   4. The fear of _____
II. _____
III. _____
   1. _____
   - He must be a _____ (one of us)
   - He must not be involved in the _____
   - He must be able to accomplish _____
   2. _____
   3. _____
   4. _____

Discussion Questions:
- What fears do you battle most often?

- What would God look at in your life to gauge your level of commitment?

- Ruth is a short four-chapter read. After reading through it, what do you see as the key themes in the book?

- What makes a loyalty like Ruth had so rare and powerful today?

For next Sunday: Read 2 Samuel 11-12

"A Stroll Through the Scroll"
A Walk Through God's Word

Bible Book; ***Ruth***

I. Title of the Book;

This book is named after its principal character, a young woman from Moab, and the great-grandmother of King David, and ancestor of Jesus Christ. Distinctively, it is one of two books in the Bible named after a woman.

II. Writer of the Book;

This topic is debated, as some think it was written by Samuel, but internal evidence suggests it was written after Samuel's death. No author is named, but the reference to David and his genealogy (4:17-22) place the writing after David became king (2 Samuel 2) in 1010 BC. The book was most likely written during the period of David's reign as king (1010-970 BC), yet its contents deal with a period during the time of the judges (1350-1050 BC).

III. Theme or Purpose of the Book;

This book is read at each Feast of Pentecost, or Feast of Weeks, which marks the end of the harvest, and at this time people were urged to remember the needy. The book is also deeply admired for its literary style. It is a book dealing with sincere love and devotion in an age when it was rare. It also shows the lineage of David and Jesus. This book is also, and very importantly, an excellent word picture for describing "redemption."

IV. Outline of the Book;

A. Ruth chooses to leave Moab and go to Bethlehem with Naomi; ch. 1,
B. Ruth meets Boaz as she gleans in his fields; ch. 2,
C. Ruth speaks with Boaz about the kinsman; ch. 3,
D. Ruth and Boaz are married; ch. 4.

V. Suggested Personal or Group Study Sections in the Book;

- Consider how Ruth was a Moabite yet still part of God's plan. How does this affect you and your views on such things as missions, for instance?
- How many contrasts can you find between the book of Judges and Ruth?
- Consider the similarities of Boaz as a kinsman-redeemer and Jesus Christ as our redeemer.
- Track the progress of Naomi's emotional condition; what made her bitter, how it effected her actions and decisions, what brought her hope, how it changed her…
- "There is, about a mile east of Bethlehem, a field, called the "Field of Boaz," where, tradition says, Ruth gleaned. Adjoining is the "Shepherds' Field," where, tradition says, the angels announced the birth of Jesus, to the shepherds… Under the Church of the Nativity, in Bethlehem, there is a room in which, it is said, Jesus was born. An old tradition says that this same room was part of the ancestral home of David, and before David, of Boaz and Ruth" (H. Halley).

VI. How is Jesus Christ seen in this book;

He is our Kinsman Redeemer (Ruth 2:1; 4:12-17; Levit. 25:25-28; Heb. 2:17; 10:12).

For Personal or Group Studies

Always remember that the Bible is God's infallible, inerrantly inspired authoritative Word.

Book;

Human Author;

Approximate date of events;

Theme, Purpose, Principal characters;

Study Section; _____

Summary of section;

Interpretation; What was the author trying to say to his audience? Within the historical and grammatical context what did it mean to them?

Application; What does it mean to you (be specific)? Practical areas; family, church, job, nation, sins, examples, promises, etc.

Favorite portion or verse;