



Week 8 Ruth

Every Sunday evening at [Bible Explorer](#) we will explore the question

'What does this book from the Bible mean for us today?'

Chapter 1

In the time of the judges – not an auspicious period (Judges 21:25)

No food in Bethlehem (“the house of bread”) – may link to Deut 28:38-40?

Family goes 50 miles east to Moab, across the Jordan to other side of Dead Sea – was that a good idea?

- Enemies at times (Judges 3:12-14)
- Intermarriage ill-advised (Deut 7:1-4)

Naomi (“pleasant”) feels life has turned bitter

- Blames God
- Sees a solution for Ruth only through remarriage
- *But* at least she still seems to have demonstrated a God worth following

Ruth

- Demonstrates selfless love
- Has faith in the one true God

Chapter 2

Ruth goes gleaning in the fields (Lev 19:9-10)

- ‘As it happens’, in the field of Boaz

Boaz:

- A godly man of stature
- A descendant of Rahab (Matt 1:5)

Rahab, the prostitute of Jericho: (Joshua 6:24-25)

- Commended for faith (Heb 11:31)
- Commended for works (James 2:25)

Ruth works hard and acts with humility



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Chapter 3

Kinsman-redeemer (the theory)

- Reclaiming family property (Lev 25:25)
- Law of Levirate marriage (Deut 25:5-6)

Naomi & Ruth follow a well-considered plan

Chapter 4

Kinsman-redeemer (the practicalities)

- Boaz follows the protocol
- Boaz is prepared to meet the cost

The story of Judah, Tamar and Perez (Gen 38)

- A sordid tale, but sorted in the end (4:18)

It all comes together in the line to David and Jesus (Matt 1:1-17)

What is this book saying to us today?

A nice story of friendship and love with a happy ending

- Nice characters, an example to follow

God is working things out

God's saving purposes

- Bad personal situations
- Bad corporate situations
- Sin & death

Faith & works (and salt & light)

These messages are timeless and universal