



**WOMAN
OF
SIGNIFICANCE**

Week Three

Ruth



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Join the Group Study
Online Mondays, 8pm
REGISTER HERE: <http://bit.do/womanofsignificance>



WOMAN OF SIGNIFICANCE

...Welcome...

Welcome to this study through the wonderful book of Ruth. Ruth's story is beautiful and unique in the Bible:

- There are only two books in the Bible that are named after women and Ruth is one of them.
- There are only five books in the Bible which are read in their entirety on Jewish holy days and Ruth is one of them
- There are only five women named in the genealogy of Christ, and guess what... Ruth is one of them!

Ruth is a woman of significance in the Bible and worthy of our time to understand and appreciate. Her story directly connects to us as followers of Jesus. Ruth is a gentile (not a Jew) and not only that, but she was a Moabitess – a cursed and hated nation. She is known for her kindness, loyalty, and faith. Her story weaves together God's plan to continually "bless those who bless Him" and brings us moving reminders of where our hope lies.

The story of Ruth will remind you that your heavenly heritage trumps your earthly heritage. Her story will remind you of how deeply God values kindness and loyalty. You'll find joy and hope in recalling the power of redemption and sacrifice.

I believe that as you study you'll see the exciting story of love and hope woven through the genealogy of Jesus. Yes. The genealogy. You know, that part of the chapter we tend to skip? That list of hard-to-pronounce-names we stumble through? Those never-ending "begats" that we'd like to ignore? You will love them! At least I hope you will.

Our heart's deepest longings swirl with desire for connection, hope, and significance. We want to matter. We want life in general and our own specific stories to matter. So, this study is a place for you to find significance and to see that only in Christ – like Ruth – can that ultimately be found.

Are you ready? I am!

Let's dwell in God's word together!

Jennifer



How this Study Works

☞ Schedule...

30 minutes daily to dwell in the Word

- ☞ 20 minutes in the morning to begin your day centered on God.
- ☞ 10 minutes in the evening before bedtime to close the day with God's Word on your mind
- ☞ There are 15 days divided into 3 sessions in this study. Each day is designed on the 20/10 approach. Divide your time as best suits you.

☞ Mindset...

- ☞ *Read* the Word
- ☞ *Write* the Word
- ☞ *Memorize* the Word
- ☞ *Study* the Word and
- ☞ *Meditate* on the Word

☞ You'll be equipped to...

- ☞ *Use* the Word
- ☞ *Share with* the Word and
- ☞ *Defend your Faith* with the Word

We'll meet weekly on Monday nights at 8pm online
Login on your computer or phone through the Zoom link
<http://bit.do/womanofsignificance>

Let the Word of God
Dwell in You Richly





Write & Memorize the Word -- Proverbs 21:21

Read the Word Ruth

...Dwell in the Word...

We're half way through Ruth and it's a good moment to re-read the whole book. Review your notes from the first day and maybe get caught up if you've missed a day or two. Then read and respond to the prompt on the following page after reading this thought from my heart to yours...



IN THE SIXTH GRADE I was once again the new kid in my school.

Because of my dad's work I had moved six times since kindergarten and now, as a 6th grader, I was starting over again. As out-going and friendly as I was – and I really was! – I still felt timid and shy and worried. Sixth graders can be a mean, petty bunch and starting again was making me feel unsure and weak and tired of it all. I wanted to blend in, keep my head down and just come and go unnoticed – and yet, I wanted to belong. I wanted to connect, have a friend and be a friend in return. But starting out in a school where most of these kids had been together since kindergarten was not easy and to make it worse, I didn't get to start school on the first day. I started a week late.

I WALKED NERVOUSLY DOWN the echoing hallway into room 23 with a transfer slip from the office that may as well have read: "This is Jana Garrett*. She's the new kid. Be sure to have all the kids stare and her and snicker and give her mean glares if she wants to sit near them." Sigh. I opened the door to my new classroom, every head spun to see what was going to save them from the lesson going on...eyes followed me as I walked up to meet the teacher...and the room filled with the sounds of fidgeting and whispers. Mr. Garber read the note, seated me in a wobbly, lift-top desk near the front, and I slumped trying to will the powers of invisibility to come over me even as I felt the stares of the students behind me.

SOON ENOUGH the recess bell rang and I took my time so I'd leave the room last behind the pushing swarm of giggling 11 year-olds. I slipped out and stood by the classroom door surveying the playground. Kids bolting for the handball courts, running for the monkey bars, and already untangling ropes to jump in trios scattered across the blacktop. I walked slowly out from under the shade and covering of the hallway awning and made my way to the blue fiberglass-topped tables to eat my snack. As I sat down and reached into my brown lunch sack, I felt the table shudder as a big girl sat down next to me. So much for disappearing. "Hey," she said looking right into my face.

"Hey," I said weakly looking up and then back to my apple.

"You're new. My name is Noelle. I saw you come in today. I was in the back. But I saw you and you looked a little freaked out so I figured I'd say hey."

...AND WE BEGAN TO TALK...

I don't think I have to tell you what relief and peace came over me that day at the lunch tables of Weathersfield Elementary School. But the openness that Noelle showed me that day led to a year of friendship that helped me grow in kindness and strength that year. I gained a best friend and a lifelong appreciation for the blessings that come from reaching out in kindness to others. Perhaps you have experienced a kind act like this? Perhaps you've reached out in kindness to someone? Kindness is the simplest act that can leave the such great impact. God honors acts of kindness with rich blessings.

OUR STORY OF RUTH is one of loyalty and faith and is marked significantly by kindness. The Hebrew word translated "kindness" is "chah-sed." It is found explicitly three times – in the beginning, middle and end of the book - and implied throughout the story. As we continue, make note of the acts of kindness mentioned in the book and perhaps highlight them in your Bible as you read.

**my nickname in grade school was Jana*





As you close today, think of ways God has been abundant in His kindness to you. Write and/or draw a list of at least 5 ways God has shown His grace and goodness to you. Five is the number of grace and goodness in the Bible.



A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a green border, intended for writing or drawing a list of ways God has shown His grace and goodness to you.



Why not share this and encourage others? Take a photo of your list and share it on Facebook or Instagram #lmccwomen #WomensMinistries. Tag me in your post; I can't wait to see it! Not on social media? Send your photo to me at 562.755.4964 or Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com



Write & Memorize the Word -- Proverbs 21:21

Read the Word Ruth 3:1-6

...Dwell in the Word...

1. AFTER READING RUTH CHAPTER 3... What do you think is going through their minds at this point? Hopes? Concerns? Questions?

Naomi

Ruth

Boaz

2. Look up "threshing floor" on Google (or other search) and write or draw what that is:

BONUS...Where else does a threshing floor get mentioned in the Bible? Do you see any significant themes associated with it?

As we continue in reading through Ruth remember that this is not just a history of Ruth's life but it points to a bigger plan and reminds us of the picture of Christ and our relationship with Him. In the following verses note the steps that Ruth takes to come into a deeper relationship with Boaz and note how this parallels the steps we must take as we draw to Christ. Note that unlike Naomi returning to her homeland for bread, we must desire Christ not for what we can get from Him (bread/sustenance) but we must desire Christ. Period.

3. FROM RUTH 3:1-5 Ruth prepares herself in five ways for Boaz. It may seem odd because it is not part of our culture, but, set your western mindset aside and embrace the culture of Ruth's day. Naomi is telling Ruth to prepare herself as a bride. The imagery of a bride is used throughout the Bible to compare the church (the



bride) to becoming ready for the return of Christ (the bridegroom) List the five ways you read Ruth preparing herself and the corresponding way we should prepare ourselves for Christ:

1) Ruth 3:3a and 2 Corinthians 7:1

2) Ruth 3:3b and 1 John 2:20, 27

3) Ruth 3:3c, Isaiah 61:1-3 and 2 Corinthians 5:21

4) Ruth 3:3-4 and Hebrews 10:19-25 and John 4:24 (relates to our literal and spiritual position)

5) Ruth 3:5 and John 7:17 (speaks to her willingness to do what?)

4. RUTH 3:1-6 Where do you see the providence of God showing up in the “normal” happenings of Ruth’s life?

5. What about your life? Where do you see the providence of God in your life today?



Write & Memorize the Word -- Proverbs 21:21

Read the Word Ruth 3:7-15

...Dwell in the Word...

And now it begins! Ruth is fully informed of what she needs to do in this culture to make this happen. And she sets out to do it. Do you feel the tension? Do you feel the excitement and perhaps the doubt in Ruth's heart as she "approached quietly" to carry out this plan in the fields of Boaz?

1. READ RUTH 3:7-15 She does it all! How does Boaz respond?



2. WHAT WAYS DOES HE demonstrate his integrity and honor toward Ruth?



3. IN VERSE 10 WE READ once again that beautiful word: "kindness" And Boaz remarks that this kindness of Ruth's is what in comparison to all the other acts of kindness she has previously shown...



4. IN SUBMITTING TO BOAZ in this way Ruth's action is counted as a kindness. Does that surprise you? Why or why not?





5. READ 3:15 AGAIN...What does Boaz give Ruth? _____ Was he required by the law (Torah) to do this? (Recall this from your readings the other day.)



As a type of Christ again we see that Boaz goes above the requirements of the law. There is a traditional Jewish song called the “Dayenu.” At the Passover meal, called a Seder, Jewish families sing this song joyfully as they recount the many ways God has been more than enough in their lives. Boaz exemplifies this right here in verse 15 but all throughout the story!

What-a-guy!

Here’s the lyrics to the Dayenu:

Eelu hotzianu mi-mitzrayim (if He had taken us out of Egypt...)

Eelu natan lanu et ha-shabat (if He had given us the Sabbath...)

Illo natan lanu eta ha-torah (if He had given us the Torah...)

Dai-yenu, dai-yenu, dayeinu! Dai-yenu, dai-yenu! (It would have been enough! It would have been enough!)

This traditional song is 15+ stanzas long and recounts the many, many abundant ways God has provided for Israel, is to be thankful for God’s kindness and to recognize that He has gone over and above all that we could ask or imagine.

You can find the Dayenu song on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/VtLKOcFwct4>

Or search YouTube for “Dayenu – Israeli Passover Songs”

Ruth and Naomi would have arrived back in Bethlehem not long after the Passover feast would have been observed.

Recall that in Ruth 1:22 they arrived “as the barley harvest was beginning.” The barley harvest begins around two days after Passover. It was a joyous occasion and a time of singing and preparations for the harvest.

Boaz continues the spirit of happiness and rejoicing as we saw through his happy greeting of his men in 2:4, in his thoughtful attention to Ruth in 2:14 and now here in 3:15, Boaz is again a model of generosity and kindness





Write & Memorize the Word -- Proverbs 21:21

Read the Word Ruth 3:7-18

...Dwell in the Word...

1. REVIEW RUTH 3:10-15 How does Boaz show the kindness (hesed love) of a kinsman-redeemer in 3:10-15?

2. Look up Isaiah 1:17, and Micah 6:8. What do you learn about God's seriousness and our responsibility concerning justice and care for the poor?

3. One aspect of Boaz's strong character was his determination to go beyond the "letter of the law" and provide for the poor around him in a more gracious manner than simply following the law. How does this example challenge you?

4. Read Romans 8:28. How do you see this truth of God's nature in effect at this point in Ruth?



5. Read Romans 2:4. Note the character trait of God and its result...

_____ → _____

In what way does this truth about God apply to those who have not yet surrendered their lives to Him?

In what way does this truth about God apply in the daily lives to those who have?

6. How is it a “kindness” of God to lead us to repentance?





Write & Memorize the Word -- Proverbs 21:21

Read the Word Ruth Ch. 3

...Dwell in the Word...

1. Where do you see the providence of God showing up in the "normal" happenings of life from Ruth 3:7-9 and Ruth 3:10-18?

2. Note the character of Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi in these parts • Ruth 3:1-6 • Ruth 3:7-9 • Ruth 3:10-18

3. How does Ruth refer to herself as she makes her plea in 3:6-13? What character trait does this show in Ruth?

4. If Boaz threw his cloak over Ruth, he would be claiming her as his wife. Read Ezekiel 16:1-14. Compare God's actions (metaphorically) with Israel and the Boaz/Ruth scene in Ruth 3. What similarities do you see?

5. The "plot thickens" in 3:11-13. What does Boaz make known?

6. Read Deuteronomy 25:5-10. What family relation is mentioned?

Common sense tells us from this passage that in due order a near kinsman could raise up children for his brother-less relative.



7. What does Boaz's statement: "as the Lord lives" say about his intention?



8. What does Naomi's advice to Ruth tell you about what she knows of Boaz's character? (3:18)



9. Ruth is described as loyal, loving, and a "women of noble character." In what was does she exemplify this at this point of the account?



10. What challenges you about your own character as you read this story?



You Are Loved
and
Prayed For



**W O M A N
O F
S I G N I F I C A N C E**