



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

**Week Four**

*Ruth*



WRITTEN BY

*Jennifer Richmond*



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Join the Group Study  
Online Mondays, 8pm

REGISTER HERE: <http://bit.do/womanofsignificance>



## ...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 though? 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* the Word
- ☞ *Create 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 -- Ruth 4:14

### Read the Word

### ...Dwell in the Word...

Remember that this story is set during a time when “Israel had no king, and everyone did as he saw fit” (Judges 21:25). More often than not this meant NOT obeying God’s laws and not honoring God’s ways. This is why the period of time recorded in Judges is filled with the many times God’s people were under discipline. But Boaz and Ruth stand as shining examples of the rewards and lasting blessings that come when we are honorable in our ways toward God.

1. READ RUTH 4:1-12 How do you see Boaz’s actions contrasting with the actions of “everyone” else during this period in Israel’s history? Review Judges 21:25

2. REVIEW THE FOLLOWING verses and note what specific actions he took:

4:1a He went to the \_\_\_\_\_ (this is where legal transactions took place.) 4:1b Ruth’s \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ comes by and Boaz gets the man to join him by the gate 4:2 Boaz took \_\_\_\_\_ of the elders to the gate also. Ten elders were required for a full court to make any legal proceedings official. 4:3-10 (What does Boaz do here in front of the witnesses?) \_\_\_\_\_  
4:11 How do the witnesses respond? \_\_\_\_\_

Note especially the phrase in verse 11 – “may you be...famous in Bethlehem. Through the offspring the Lord gives you...” Indeed!

The book of Ruth is well-known not only as a beautiful love story but as an amazing balanced work of fine literature. The story is balanced from the first through the final chapter in theme as well as words. In the Hebrew, the opening verses have the same number of words as the closing verses you just read.



3. **NOTE ANY PARALLELS** from Ruth 1:1-5 and Ruth 4:13-22 Think about the who, when, where, details mentioned. Consider the emotions and actions going on in each portion of the account...

[Large empty space for writing answers to question 3, bounded by a vertical green line on the left and a horizontal green line at the top.]

4. What word or phrase would you use to summarize...  
The opening of Ruth... \_\_\_\_\_  
The closing of Ruth ... \_\_\_\_\_

5. Think about your own life. Can God open and close a season in your life in a similar way? Has He already? Is He working on that now? Write your thoughts here:

[Large empty space for writing answers to question 5, bounded by a vertical green line on the left and a horizontal green line at the top.]





Write & Memorize the Word -- Ruth 4:14

Read the Word

...Dwell in the Word...

1. WRITE RUTH 4:13



2. HOW DOES THIS VERSE remind you of God's sovereignty?



3. WHAT IF RUTH had conceived from her first husband? How would this story have been different?



4. DO YOU THINK Ruth had been sad and worried about the thought of being childless? Why or why not?



5. RUTH WAS AT LEAST ten years without an heir, without hope and even in her move back to Bethlehem, she had no promise of marriage or children. And yet, God, in His time provided for her. What area of your life are you waiting on God to provide?





6. HOW HAS READING Ruth's story helped you become more willing to trust in God's plan and timing?



7. READ PSALM 37 How did each of these people exemplify an aspect of this Psalm...

RUTH...

BOAZ...

NAOMI...

8. Select a verse from Psalm 37 that will help you when your mind and heart fret about God's timing. Write your verse here:





## Write & Memorize the Word -- Ruth 4:14

### Read the Word

### ...Dwell in the Word...

1. READ RUTH 4:14 Which two people are mentioned in the story that they would become "famous?"

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do they? How so?



3. Re-Read Ruth 4:1 What is the name of the man who was first in line to be Ruth's Kinsman-Redeemer? Hint: This is sort of a trick question. ;-)



4. Why do you think the author leaves out his name?



5. What reason did this un-named man give for not wanting to be her kinsman-redeemer? Hint: Read 4:5-6 Write his exact words here:



*\*We're going to come back to this question in a minute! (So exciting!!!)*

6. Read Ruth 4:15 Naomi's friends say what about Ruth to Naomi?





In a culture that whose mark of prosperity was defined by sons and land this is a powerful statement!

- 7. What did Ruth and Boaz name their son? \_\_\_\_\_ His name means “servant” or more fully: “servant of the Lord”
- 8. Read Matthew 1:2-6. Write any names in the genealogy that also appear in Ruth 4:18-22



- 9. Read Isaiah 43:1, Psalm 139:1-4, and Jeremiah 1:5. Write one or all of these verses here. Then share how knowing this about God’s nature impacts your life today:



- 10. **IMAGINE YOU’VE MET RUTH** and Naomi on their journey from Moab back to start again and all the unknowns of Bethlehem, what would you tell them?





## Write & Memorize the Word -- Ruth 4:14

### Read the Word

### ...Dwell in the Word...

1. READ DEUTERONOMY 23:3-4 What is the prohibition the LORD spoke against the Ammonites and Moabites in verse three?

2. THERE ARE TEN GENERATIONS of names listed from Perez to David. How many generations were the Ammonites prohibited? \_\_\_\_\_ Guess what? Ruth is of the eleventh generation! The next time you are tempted to skip a genealogy, remember this! Genealogies are helpful in seeing the amazing provision of God!

*I asked you earlier in our study to outline the Feasts that the Lord ordained. These were described in Leviticus chapter twenty-three. The feasts were given by God to His people to commemorate miraculous deliverance (Passover), grateful Harvest (First-Fruits), the giving of the Law at Sinai and the blessing of harvest (Shavuot/Weeks), etc.. Every year the book of Ruth is read in to this day among observant Jews around the world during the Feast of Weeks (Shavuot in Hebrew and Pentacost in Greek).  
But why? Why read the book of Ruth?*

3. READ RUTH 1:22 Does this give you a hint? Why do you think the book of Ruth is read on the first day of the Feast of Weeks?

4. OK, I PROMISED earlier that we'd come back to Ruth 4:6 - the statement of Mr. Not-So-Kinsman-Redeemer (NSKR for short). He was unwilling to redeem Ruth because he did not want to do what? (I know you probably already wrote it down earlier...but do it again here. I promise, this is really important!)



5. **MR. NSKR DIDN'T SEE** the value in Ruth, didn't see a future in Ruth, didn't see a need for Ruth in his life, did he? What, by implication then, did he value? Hint: starts with "e" and ends with "state" (Ruth 4:6)



*He valued his own estate, and by extension, his own name. The interesting thing to note is that by looking out for his estate and name he missed out on the greatest Estate and the legacy of having the greatest Name above all names descend from his line. In his shortsightedness this man, trying to protect his name gains the distinction of being unnamed. Mr. NSKR is never named in a chapter that repeatedly honors the names of the men who stepped up – even calling on God to make their names famous!*

6. Are you at risk of being shortsighted like Mr. NSKR today? Read Psalm 90. What verse or verses can help you with your focus? How so?



7. How has Ruth's account given you hope in your personal life?



8. How could you encourage a friend struggling with what seems to be a completely unredeemable relationship today?





Write & Memorize the Word -- Ruth 4:14

Read the Word  
RUTH 4

...Dwell in the Word...

1. HOW DID GOD redeem Ruth? What about Ruth makes her a surprising recipient of God's grace?



2. IN WHAT WAYS does the marriage between Ruth and Boaz bring restoration to Naomi?



3. READ RUTH 4:11-12, 18-22. The comparisons in verses 11 and 12 point back to Israel's history. The mini-genealogy in verses 18 to 22 points forward to Ruth's grandchildren. Why is this an appropriate end to the story?



4. We've come to the end of our study and what a blessing it has been. Today, let's take this time to reflect on the most significant aspect of what you gained by studying Ruth. Write or draw your thoughts here and share them with a friend if you feel so led...





~~ From my heart to yours ~~

This world, that man, that person may not treasure you, may not see the hope in you, may not grasp your value, but you have a Kinsman-Redeemer who does....

Like Boaz, who saw the beauty and future in Ruth,  
Jesus sees the beauty and future in you.

Like Boaz, who treasured and protected Ruth,  
Jesus - your kinsman-redeemer - treasures and protects you!  
The book of Ruth begins with loss and emptiness.

No future.

No hope.

...But the story of Ruth ends with gain and fullness.

It ends not only with a future but the ultimate future...

the Ultimate Hope

as it concludes with the name of David the king  
who was a man after God's own heart and from whom descends  
the Hope of the Nations - all nations.

Like Ruth, you were bought with a price.

Your name cannot be blotted out from the Book of Life when you  
surrender fully to the Name that is above all names -

Jesus Christ.

I am praying for you today that you will renew your love for Jesus,  
deepen your trust in His plan,  
and grow ever more faithful in surrendering to the one who knows you by name.



Until we meet again, know that you are loved and prayed for - by name.



*You Are Loved  
and  
Prayed For*



**WOMAN  
OF  
SIGNIFICANCE**