

Ruth

Intermediate Workbook

Manitoulin Youth Camp 2022



Dear Student,

We are so glad you are planning to come to Manitoulin Youth Camp this summer, God willing. Whether this is your first year or you are a regular, we hope you have a fantastic time.

Before you start this workbook, it is a very good idea to read this part of the Bible together with your parents. You will want to read through the book of Ruth and probably through some of Judges as well.

There are four parts to your pre-camp assignment: 1) the workbook, 2) a minute meditation, 3) preparation for the morning quizzes and memory verses and 4) a special project.

Try to get started as soon as possible and do your best work!

If you have any questions about the workbook or any of these assignments, please don't hesitate to call or send a note to:

Aunt Julie Snobelen

thesnobelens@hotmail.com

902-410-0365

May God bless you!

Minute Meditations

You will need to prepare a Minute Meditation to present at camp. You will present it in your class or you can volunteer to present this in the main pavilion.

You will need to choose one verse on which to base your Minute Meditation. A Minute Meditation is an opportunity for you to meditate or think about a verse from the study and share what you have learned in approximately one minute. You will read the verse and then tell what you have learned from the verse. You can share what you have learned about God and His character, or what you have learned about the people in the verse, or how this verse relates to other verses in the Bible, or how it relates to your life or a combination of these ideas.

The passages are divided up by the first letter of your last name. **Please find the first letter of your last name below and choose a verse from one of the passages listed next to that letter to use for your Minute Meditation.**

A-C: Judges 2:6-3:6; Ruth 1:1-5; Matthew 6:33; 13:44-46;
Acts 2:44-47; 4:32-35; 1 John 2:15-17; Romans 12:2;
1 John 5:4-5

D-K: Ruth 1:6-22; James 2:20-23; James 4:4; John 15:12-15;
Proverbs 13:20; 27:6; 27:17

L-Q: Ruth 2:1-23; Leviticus 19:10, 33-34; 23:22;
Deuteronomy 10:19; 24:17-22; Psalm 82:3-4;
Isaiah 58:6-7; Matthew 25:35-36; James 1:27

R-S: Ruth 3:1-18; Romans 1:16-17; 5:1-2; Galatians 2:20; 3:6-9;
Hebrews 11:1,6,13

T-Z: Ruth 4:1-22; Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Matt. 1:5-6
1 Jn. 4:8-12; John 15:12-15; 1 Jn. 3:16-18; 1 Cor. 13:1

Preparation for Morning Quizzes and Memory Verses:

There will be Bible readings and a memory verse from the life of Ruth each day at camp. You will do these readings with your camp group and practice the memory verses. You will be quizzed on the verse and the readings the next morning. Below is the list of readings and verses for the quizzes each day. We suggest that you memorize these verses and read over these readings before camp to help you in your preparation for the week. This year we will be reading a number of supplemental or 'read only' sections at camp. You will not be quizzed on these passages on the morning quizzes but they will help build on and reinforce the spiritual lessons from the book of Ruth.

Monday

Memory Verse: Judges 2:16 *"Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them."*

Readings: Judges 2:6-3:6; Ruth 1:1-5

Supplemental Readings: Matthew 6:33; 13:44-46; Acts 2:44-47; 4:32-35; 1 John 2:15-17; Romans 12:2; 1 John 5:4-5

Tuesday

Memory Verse: Ruth 1:16 *"And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."*

Readings: Ruth 1:6-22

Supplemental Readings: James 2:20-23; James 4:4; John 15:12-15; Proverbs 27:6; 27:17; 13:20

Wednesday

Memory Verse: Ruth 2:12 *"The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust."*

Readings: Ruth 2

Supplemental Readings: Leviticus 19:10, 33-34; 23:22; Deuteronomy 10:19; 24:17-22; Psalm 82:3-4; Isaiah 58:6-7; Matthew 25:35-36; James 1:27

Thursday

Memory Verse: Ruth 3:10 *"And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more kindness in the latter end than at the beginning..."*

Readings: Ruth 3:1-18

Supplemental Readings: Romans 1:16-17; 5:1-2; Galatians 2:20; 3:6-9; Hebrews 11:1,6,13

Friday

Memory Verse: Ruth 4:14 *"And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel."*

Readings: Ruth 4:1-22; Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Matthew 1:5-6

Supplemental Readings: John 15:12-15; 1 Jn. 3:16-18; 4:8-12; 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

Special Project:

Choose one of these to do either on your own or in pairs.

If appropriate, make a copy for your teacher, and copies for your classmates (about 40).

1. Investigate farming in ancient times. Make a poster or powerpoint presentation showing the crops that were grown and anything else you can discover about the tools and methods used to plant and harvest.
2. Create a short comic or picture book of the story of Ruth.
3. Plan a fundraiser for Agape in Action. Choose what you will raise funds for, set a goal, and make a plan for how, when and where you will go about it. Present your plan to your class. Here are a few ideas of what to raise funds for: **WIDOWS:** Building a Pit Toilet, Seeds for a Garden. **FAMILIES:** Mosquito Nets, School Bags and Books, Fruit for a Day, Shoes, T-Shirts. **IDEAS FOR FUNDRAISING:** Sponsored 30 hour famine, run, bikeride; Carwash, Lemonade Stand, Bake Sale, Movie Night, Collecting Recycling Bottles/Cans, Babysitting, Pancake Breakfast.
4. Write out and illustrate your favourite verse from this study.
5. If you have a different idea, check with Uncle Joe and Aunt Kate at: joeandkate41203@yahoo.ca

To complete your workbook you will need:

- a Bible
- a sharp pencil
- an eraser (just in case)
- a Strongs Concordance or access to E-Sword
- a Bible Dictionary

Don't forget to pray before you begin. Ask God to help you understand His word, and He will.

- Use a PENCIL so that it is easier to correct mistakes.
- Read the verses on the heading before you try to do the questions.
- Read everything in the workbook. Some questions will be easier to answer if you have read the information given to you throughout the book.
- If you are having trouble with a question, put a star next to it and move on to the next question. When you have completed the section, go back and try again. If you still can't get it ask someone for help or email me.

Providence:

Perhaps you think you know the story of Ruth very well – it is after all a pretty short story – only four chapters. However, when you look at any of the books of the Bible more closely, you can always learn something that will help you to love God more.

God's people are now in their own land after many years of fighting for it. The new generation hasn't directly experienced God being with them, as He was for their fathers in the long years wandering the wilderness with manna and water provided for them, and shoes and clothing that didn't wear out. They haven't seen the pillar of cloud or fire going before them. They haven't experienced God fighting for them as battle after battle is successful. But it does not mean that God is no longer there.

Look "Providence" up in a dictionary and write out the meaning(s) you find there.

Now we are going to find out what the Bible says about "Providence".

Look up the following verses and write out what each says God does:

Psalm 34:7 _____

Psalm 37:23-25 _____

Proverbs 3:6 _____

Daniel 4:25 _____

1 Corinthians 10:13 _____

Hebrews 12:6 _____

It is important to have an idea in your mind of how God works and often we can get clues to that from the way God has worked in the lives of the people of the Bible. We will be trying to see God's "Providence" in this study of Ruth.

Rahab

We are going to start back at the time when Joshua and the people of Israel were standing on the edge of the promised land, eager to start claiming it for their own.

What does God tell Joshua to do? (Joshua 1:9) _____

As soon as the time of mourning for Moses is completed Joshua sets to work bringing about what God has promised by sending two men into the land to spy it out, especially Jericho.

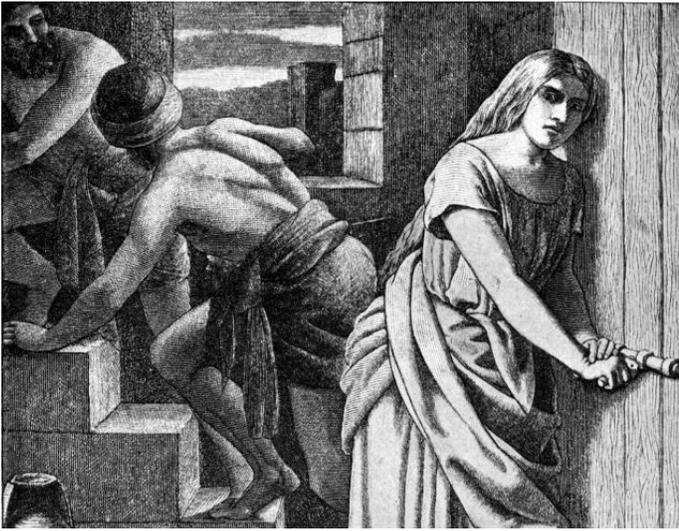
Who do the spies take lodging with? (Joshua 2:1) _____

Write down all the things you can find out about Rahab as a person (What she is said to be? Who is her family? Where does she live?)

What does Rahab mention that she had heard about the people of Israel? (Joshua 2:10)

What does Rahab say she has come to believe about the God of Israel? (Joshua 2:11)

What is it that Rahab feels she has shown the spies, and asks that it be shown to her? (Joshua 2:12)



Look up this word in a concordance and write out the Hebrew word and what it means:

What do the spies tell her she must do in order to be saved? (Joshua 2:18)

What did Rahab do as soon as she had let the spies go? (Joshua 2:21) _____

Look up the word for "line" (Joshua 2:21) in a concordance and write out the Hebrew word and what it means.

The people cross over the Jordan, which is flooded because it is springtime. In fact, it is the time to celebrate the Passover. What a perfect event to be reminded of before they go in to fight for the land God is giving them. This also means that it was the time of the barley harvest.

What happens when Jericho is taken? (Joshua 6:23) _____

How do you think Rahab showed the following: (Hebrews 11:31, James 2:25)

Faith: _____

Works (or obedience): _____

In this story, what part or parts do you think was the Providence of God? _____

Who did Rahab marry? (1 Chronicles 2:11, Matthew 1:5) _____

Who was her son? _____

The Judges (Read Judges 2:6-3:6)

God's people now have houses and land and are able to provide for themselves, and they began to think they could live as they wished. Back then people did not have their own Bibles to read from. Teaching the people the commandments and statutes of the Lord was the job of the Levites and Priests, and then the people were to put them in their hearts, talk of them constantly with their children, and write them on their doorposts and gates. It seems that this was not happening.

What happened after Joshua and the elders had died? (Judges 2:10-13) _____

What was the result of their choices? (Judges 2:14-15) _____

This was a sad state of affairs. God had brought them into this beautiful land and given it to them and instead of showing thankfulness to Him with love and obedience, they found the gods of the people around them more attractive. And yet, when things got tough, they cried to the God that they knew could save them, and He listened.

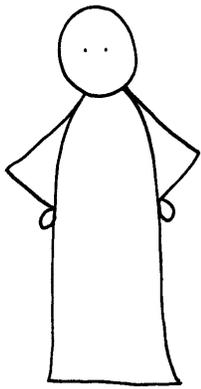
What did God do for them? (Judges 2:18-19) _____

Why did God not help them drive out the nations that were left when Joshua died? (Judges 2:21,22)

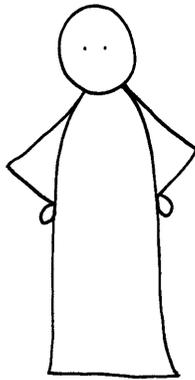
We have similar challenges today. It is almost always harder to do the right thing, and it requires commitment and discipline to stick to the ways of God when on every side there are those who do whatever the flesh wants to do. Sometimes it can be a little like the saying: The grass is greener on the other side of the fence. However, if we step back and look at the big picture, we can see clearly that no matter how tempting sinful ways can be, they end up ruining everything.

Can you imagine what would be different if God's people as a whole had been obedient and stuck with the covenant they made at the end of Joshua to serve the Lord and obey His voice?

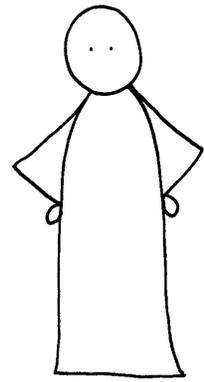
Find out a few facts about each of these Judges: What tribe did they belong to? Are relations mentioned? Who did they deliver the people from? Complete their portraits by adding any identifying weapons or characteristics.



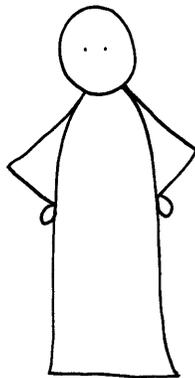
Othniel
Judges 3:9-11



Ehad
Judges 3:15-30



Jephthah
Judges 11

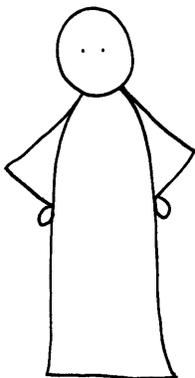


Barak

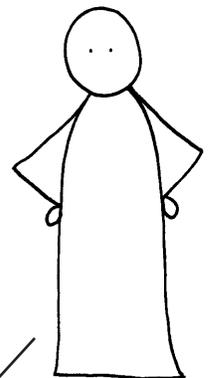


Deborah

Judges 4



Gideon
Judges 6



Samson
Judges 13-16

Write out how you think you can do what it says in Romans 12:2?

Write out the words that enclose the last few chapters of Judges (17:6, 21:25)

Read Deuteronomy 12:10-14. What were they not to do? _____

What place did God choose? (Joshua 18:1) _____

What was "doing right" in the eyes of God? (Deuteronomy 12:1-5) _____

Where were they to go if they needed advice on what was the right thing to do? (Deuteronomy 17:8-13) _____

What was supposed to remind them of the right things to do? Numbers 15:38-41 _____

What were they to do with those who chose to serve other gods? (Deuteronomy 17:2-7) _____

The last few chapters of Judges are very sad stories about people who decided to do what was right in their own eyes. The first is the story of Micah, who stole money from his mother and then when she became angry he returned it to her. Instead of disciplining him in any way, she blessed him and then tried to give it back. When he wouldn't take it, she gave some of it to be made into a graven image and a cast image and Micah set up a house of gods and made his son a priest.

Later on a wandering Levite came to his door and Micah convinced him to stay with him and be his priest. A Levite should have known that this was absolutely the wrong thing to do, but somehow he felt this was right.

How did Micah think God would feel about this? (Judges 17:12-13)

Then the tribe of Dan came along, stole all Micah's gods and convinced the Levite to come away with them and be a priest unto a whole tribe instead.

Another Levite went after his wife who had been unfaithful to him and left him. On his way back home, he stops for the night in the city of Gibeah, of the tribe of Benjamin. No one offers him a place to stay for the night, even though hospitality in ancient times was extremely important.

What was God's instructions regarding a Levite? (Deuteronomy 14:27)

What are God's instructions regarding strangers? (Exodus 22:21)

An old man, who is a sojourner himself, finally takes him in only to have the men of the town visit that night and demand that the Levite be sent out to them. They were not nice men and the old man, in a similar manner to Lot many years ago in Sodom, refused. Perhaps he was hoping these evil men would be struck with blindness as those in Sodom had been. Instead the Levite's unfaithful wife was sent out and she was treated so badly that she died.

All of this resulted in the other tribes of Israel in a war with the tribe of Benjamin until thousands had been killed on both sides.

All of these actions were abhorrent to God: stealing was wrong, making graven images was wrong, setting up one's own tabernacle and consecrating one's own priests was wrong, married people were to remain faithful to one another, the Levite was to be respected as a minister of God, hospitality was to be offered to strangers, and men who abused others were to be killed.

These attitudes and actions are all contrasted in the book of Ruth with faithfulness, generosity, kindness, humility, grace, and obedience to the commands of God.

Write out Proverbs 21:2 -

What lesson for us do you think comes from the book of Judges?

Famine



Look up the word "famine" in a dictionary.
What does it mean?

What sorts of things can you think of that would cause a famine?

Most of us have no idea what it really means to be hungry or experience famine. Did you know that today poor nutrition causes nearly half of deaths in children under five? One in every four people are undernourished in sub-Saharan Africa. Asia has over 500 million hungry people! Famines in various parts of the world have caused millions of deaths over the past 100 years.

Look up the word "famine" in a concordance and find five other times when there was a famine in the land, and note what the people concerned did about it.

Read Deuteronomy 11:10-15. What did the people have to do in order for God to keep His promise to them of a land of plenty?

What does God say would bring about famine? (Deuteronomy 11:16-17)

There is another kind of famine. Read Amos 8:11. What happens in this kind of famine?

Since most of us do not live in a way that is directly connected to the land (i.e. growing our own food, or only consuming food grown locally), we may not consider leaving our home if there were local crop failures, but how would you feel if food suddenly became really expensive and your parents could not afford to buy enough to keep you from being hungry? How would you feel about God's promise to be with you? Would you blame God? or would you endure it and trust Him?

Write out Jeremiah 17:5-8 and illustrate it below.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the student to write out the text of Jeremiah 17:5-8 and provide an illustration of the passage.

What route do you think Elimelech and Naomi would have followed to get to Moab? Draw it on here.

The Great Sea
(Mediterranean sea)



Moab

Who were the Moabites descendant of? (Genesis 19:36-37)

What did God say about the land of Moab? (Deuteronomy 2:9)

Who did the King of Moab hire to curse Israel? (Numbers 22:1-6)

What did he do instead? (Numbers 23:11,12)

How did Moab find a way to hurt the people of Israel? (Numbers 25:1-3)

What did God have to say about the Moabites? (Deuteronomy 23:3-4)

Look up the gods of the Moabites and Ammonites, Chemosh and Molech in a Bible Dictionary. Find out what you can about them.

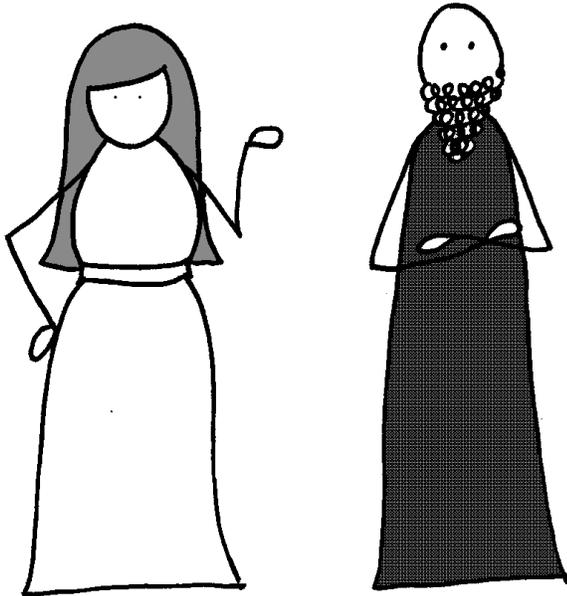


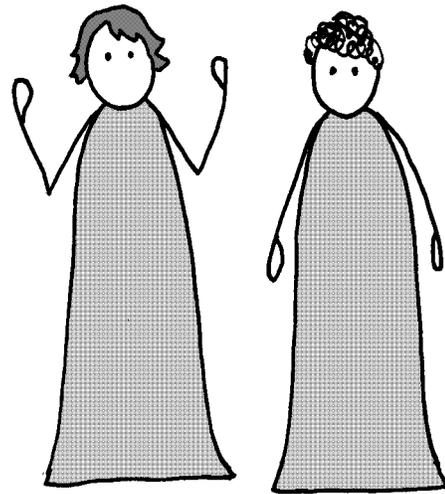
Leaving (Read Ruth 1:1-5)

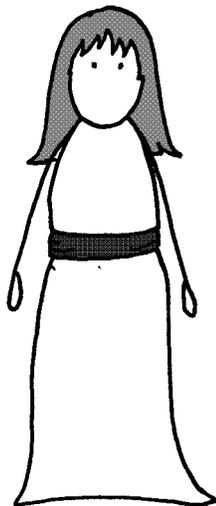
Look up Bethlehem in a concordance. What does it mean? _____

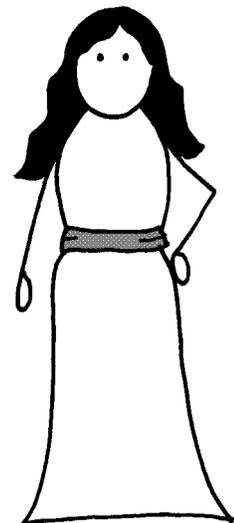
Bethlehem was one of the oldest villages in Palestine. Its name at first was Ephrathah or Ephrath and was the place where Rachel was buried. From the village, the fertile hills of Moab could be seen and perhaps looked greener than those of Israel.

Identify the six characters mentioned in this section. Write out their names and find out what their names mean by looking in a concordance.









Given that there was a famine in the land, think up 3 options that Elimelech may have considered when thinking of the welfare of his family:

If everyone had done as Elimelech did, the land would have been desolate. God had brought them into the land He had promised them and therefore they should not have left. Leaving not only dishonoured God, but it set a bad example. *“It is an evidence of a discontented, distrustful and unstable spirit to be weary of the place in which God has set us, and to be for leaving it when we meet with any uneasiness or inconvenience in it.”* (Matthew Henry’s Commentary)

What happened to Elimelech? (Ruth 1:3) _____

What do you think Naomi’s choices were when Elimelech died? _____

Perhaps her sons were old enough to refuse to leave even if Naomi had wished to. It seems that they had become fond of Moabite women as they were married fairly quickly after the death of their father.

What happened to the two sons? (Ruth 1:5) _____

Naomi is now left alone – or so she thinks. She has been chastened by the LORD and now she has to make a decision – will she continue to take refuge in Moab or will she return to the LORD?

Psalm 1:1 says “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.” Naomi and Elimelech went to Moab to “sojourn”, then they “continued there”, and finally they “dwelled there”. What lesson do you think there is for us in this?

A Widow

In ancient times, a woman who lost her husband would be in very difficult circumstances and this was only made worse if she also had no children. Men were usually the breadwinners for the family and land was connected to the family of the man. Losing this support, they often became the poorest of the poor and were vulnerable to being taken advantage of by cruel people (Isaiah 10:1,2) . God had allowed his people to feel the helplessness and oppression by others during the years of slavery in Egypt, then He had showed Himself to be their Saviour and brought them into their own land. They were always to remember this in their treatment of others especially those who were unable to provide for themselves.

What was God's promise to the widow? (Deuteronomy 10:17-19) _____

Although there was no king at this time, what were the duties of a good leader? (Psalm 72:4, 12-14)

How were the common people to treat a widow? (Exodus 22:21-22)

What could they not do to a widow? (Deuteronomy 24:17)

In the verses above, what other groups of people are mentioned along with widows?

Write out Proverbs 14:31 -

Here are some ideas of how you and your family can have mercy on the poor today:

- Live simply so that you have the time and the money to give to others.
- Buy FairTrade items, especially coffee, chocolate, sugar and clothing as these are often produced by child labour, bonded labour and slavery.

- Support your local food bank – give items, money or time.
- Contribute school supplies in a backpack for kids who can't afford them.
- Help out at a dinner for the homeless in a shelter, or do a sandwich run for homeless people on the street.
- Pray for the less fortunate.
- If there are any widows in your meeting you could visit them regularly maybe to do the Bible readings and see if there is anything you could help them with, or send them cards to encourage them.
- Help out a widow or poor family with Agape in Action. This is from the Agape in Action website:

With no support systems provided by the government and usually few family members alive, widows in Kenya do not have an easy time. To make matters worse, it is not uncommon for in-laws to come and take anything of value following her husband's death, leaving the widow with nothing in the way of material possessions. We can scarce imagine the hardships they face on a daily basis as they struggle to provide for themselves and sometimes their children or grandchildren. Many will own a 'jamba' (a short handled hoe) and they will go out looking for work on someone's land. If they are fortunate, they will bring home a few shillings or some food to feed the family for the day. Some of the widows are just too elderly to work, relying on the generosity of others in order to survive. When everyone is poor, they can easily slip through the cracks.

In January 2010, Agape in Action launched the 'Upendo Wanjane' (love for the widows) Program. Under the supervision of two coordinators, the older girls residing in Kimbilio were matched with needy widows from the ecclesia. They make regular visits. On their visits they do Bible readings, deliver a care package of food and other essentials (such as clothing, a blanket, water, seeds etc...) and help out with any chores around the home.

What other ways can you think of to help those who do not have enough:

Returning (Read Ruth 1:6-13)

What had Naomi heard about her people? (Ruth 1:6) _____

Look up each of these verses and write down what happened when God "visited"

Genesis 21:1 _____

Exodus 13:19 _____

1 Samuel 2:21 _____

Luke 1:68 _____

Naomi sets out for Bethlehem and her two daughters-in-law go with her. It says something about the character of Naomi that these two women were prepared to leave their families behind and go with this lonely woman back to a place and people that were unfamiliar to them.

Along the way Naomi tries to convince them both to return to their families. She did not wish them to come only on her account. They needed to seriously think about what it would mean to leave their families and country behind and go with Naomi when she had nothing physical to give them. They needed to make their own deliberate choice.

What blessing did Naomi give her daughters-in-law? (Ruth 1:8,9)

When a woman's husband died, and she was left childless, there was a provision in the law for her to marry her husband's brother. This would allow her the possibility of having a child that would take the place of the man that died. Naomi, however, had no other sons and no husband, so she felt that she was without hope of a redeemer.

Look up the Hebrew word for "hope" (Ruth 1:12). Where have you seen it before in this study?

Write out Psalm 71:5. We should never lose hope!

What phrase in Ruth 1:13 tells you that Naomi recognized the Providence of God in her life over the past few years?

What specifically do you think she was referring to? _____

When things go badly in our lives, and it feels like God is against us, it is always good to give a thought to our way of life. Naomi was able to review her choices and she recognized that in her case taking refuge in Moab was abandoning God. She accepted the consequences that came from that action as just and returned to God. Bad things do not necessarily mean that God is punishing us because we are doing something wrong, but they are always meant to make us turn to God as our refuge.

Cleaving (Read Ruth 1:14-18)

What do Naomi's daughters-in-law decide to do? (Ruth 1:14)

Ruth: _____

Orpah: _____

Look up the word "clave" in a concordance. What is the Hebrew word and what does it mean?



There is a specialness about this word. It is used of a man and a woman when they get married. It is like superglue, and it speaks of faithfulness as it is not possible to cleave to more than one person. It is not used just of people, however. This is what God expected from His people.

What were the benefits of cleaving to the LORD? (Joshua 23:6-13)

Ruth's words to Naomi are a bit like wedding vows. She is promising to stay with Naomi forever, so that she won't go back to Moab even if Naomi dies. She makes what she is saying even more meaningful by swearing an oath.

What five things does she promise Naomi? (Ruth 1:16,17)

Look up the Hebrew word for "steadfastly minded" in a concordance (Ruth 1:18) What does it mean?
How is this word translated in the book of Joshua?

Bitter (Read Ruth 1:19-22)

When Naomi and Ruth enter Bethlehem, it is clear that Naomi was well-known. The whole city is in an uproar. It seems, however, that they are surprised. Can this be Naomi? Where is your husband? Where are your sons?

What does Naomi ask them to call her now? (Ruth 1:20) _____

The root word which Naomi comes from can be translated "sweet" and she no longer feels this applies to her. What Naomi will learn is that although God can be severe with us, He is also a God of mercy.

What three things does Naomi say that God has done to her? (Ruth 1:21)

"There is a marvelous dramatic irony about this, for had she but known it, Naomi returned more full than when she went out. How could she realize that every word of God's glorious promises to Abraham was going to be fulfilled through this helpless but devoted stranger returning with her from Moab?" (MHC)

At what time of year did Ruth and Naomi return to Bethlehem? (Ruth1:22)

The Almighty

Naomi uses two terms for God: Yahweh and Shaddai. They are names that bring to mind different aspects of our God.

Look up these two words in a concordance and write out what the Hebrew word is.

The LORD: _____

The Almighty: _____

These different names for God represent different aspects of His character. When you see “LORD”, it is the memorial name of God (He who will be). This name emphasizes the eternalness of God who is the same in the past, in the present and in the future, and who is continually working out His purpose through people.

The Almighty is the name that emphasizes the power of God – His power in being able to do what He says so that He can be trusted. This is how He was known to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – as a mighty God who made amazing promises to them although they did not see them completely fulfilled. He is the mighty God who can give a child in old age, He is the mighty God who protects and defends those who trust in Him. But He is also the mighty God who chastens and destroys as in the book of Job.

What did Naomi use the term “Almighty” in reference to? (Ruth 1:20,21)

Look up the word “afflicted” in a concordance and write down what it means. (Ruth 1:21)

It seems that perhaps Naomi is admitting her mistake. In Joshua 24:20 the same word is used as a punishment for forsaking God. God has paid attention to her family’s choices and afflicted her. *“It is not the affliction itself, but an affliction rightly borne, that does us good.”* (MHC)

The Poor

Before we go on with the story, we are going to look at some of the ways that God made sure the poor were provided for.

Summarize what they were or were not to do for the poor:

Exodus 22:25-27 _____

Exodus 23:6 _____

Exodus 23:10,11 _____

Leviticus 19:9,10 _____

Deuteronomy 14:28,29 _____

Deuteronomy 24:19-21 _____

Mighty Man of Valour (Ruth 2:1-4)

Here we meet Boaz, of the family of Elimelech and he is described as a “mighty man of wealth”.

Look up the Hebrew word for the term “wealth” and write down what it means. (Ruth 2:1)

This term is often used for those who were wealthy, but it is more often used for soldiers who went out to fight for their people. This term occurs again in Ruth and you may be surprised to learn that it is used of Ruth in Ruth 4:11.

Can you find it? _____

Proverbs 31 is often thought of as a chapter for women, but there are some words in that chapter specifically for men as well.

Look up Proverbs 31:3-9 and write out what it says a good man should do.

Now that Naomi and Ruth are living in Bethlehem, they need to find a way to provide for themselves. Ruth asks to be allowed to go out and glean for them. This was not easy work. The fields would be hot and dusty, and it would take a long time to gather a sufficient amount of grain. And from what we know of the

time period of the Judges, it was not necessarily a safe thing to do. However, Ruth is willing to do what needs to be done.

Thinking of God's Providence, what do you notice about verse 3? (Ruth 2:3)

How does Boaz greet his field hands? (Ruth 2:4)

How do they reply?

What does this tell you about Boaz?

Barley was the first crop to ripen. It was cut with hand sickles and laid on the ground. Then the cut stalks were gathered into bundles and tied into sheaves which were set upright to dry, leaning against each other in order to shed any rain and keep the grains from sitting on the damp ground and becoming moldy. Men and women were involved in this activity and maybe sometimes even children – it was a family affair.



Rising Early (Read Ruth 2:5-7)

Boaz was quick to pick out a stranger in his field. He asks his servant about her and it seems that Ruth and her story are well known.

I do not know if it was a requirement for the poor to ask permission before they began to glean in a farmer's field, but Ruth has been careful to ask.

Look up the word "morning" in a concordance and find out what it means. (Ruth 2:7)

How do you feel about getting out of bed as the sun is getting up? Perhaps you have to anyways to get to school on time. Before electricity, people were probably more likely to go to bed and rise with the sun, but it still takes effort to be up and ready to work first thing in the morning. The Bible actually has a bit to say about this.

Look up the following proverbs and note what it says:

Proverbs 6:9,10 _____

Proverbs 20:13 _____

Proverbs 31:15 _____

Grace (Read Ruth 2:8-12)

What does Boaz call Ruth? (Ruth 2:8) _____

What five things does Boaz instruct Ruth to do? (Ruth 2:8-9)



Ruth seems surprised by Boaz' words to her. Most likely she had no idea who Boaz was since she had just happened to end up in his field. Why would this man treat her so well when she was a foreigner? Perhaps one reason is because Boaz has foreign blood in his veins as well - his mother was a Canaanite.

Ruth has found grace in his eyes. Grace is a beautiful word – it is an expression of kindness and compassion.

Can you think of some other people who found grace in the eyes of God?

How can you find grace in the eyes of God and the people around you? (Proverbs 3:1-4)

What reason does Boaz give for extending grace to Ruth? (Ruth 2:11)

Who else had left their family and land of nativity? (Genesis 12:1)

Look up the words "recompense" and "full reward" and write down the meanings given. (Ruth 2:12)

Have you ever seen a chicken with chicks? When her chicks are possibly in danger, she calls them and they all run under her wings.



It is interesting that this imagery is in some of the Psalms that David wrote. Since Ruth was his great grandmother you can imagine that David knew her story well, and since the book of Ruth was probably written by Samuel, it is quite likely that David had access to a copy. Boaz was in effect telling Ruth that she was no longer a stranger. She had become one of the chicks under the wings of the God of Israel.

Write out Psalm 91:1-4 - this is a good bunch of verses to memorize.

Generosity (Read Ruth 2:13-19)

Have you ever moved to a different city, or province or country and left all your friends and family behind, and then tried to make new friends. It is not an easy thing to do. To have someone speak in a friendly, welcoming way is wonderful. Boaz has made Ruth feel at home. Although she is not one of Boaz' servants, he has treated her as though she belongs. To help her to feel completely at home, he invites her to share mealtime with them.

Boaz was a very generous man. How did he show his generosity in verse 14?

How did he show his generosity in verses 15 and 16?

Write down five things that you have learned from the example of Boaz about how you can make people feel welcome.

Ruth worked hard all day, right up until dusk, collecting stalks of grain from the field. But that wasn't the end of it. She then had to beat the stalks with a flail which would loosen the grains, which is also hard work. She had gone out in the morning empty, and now collects her full bag of grain and takes it home to Naomi.

I would expect that they would either grind the grain to make bread or cook it to make a porridge. In Exodus 16:16 an omer of manna for each person would be enough for one day.

If manna can be likened to grain, there are ten omers in an ephah, how long would what Ruth had gathered last for two people? (Ruth 2:17)

What else did Ruth bring back for Naomi? (Ruth 2:14,18)

Redeemer (Read Ruth 2:20-23)

Naomi had perhaps lost hope when she arrived back in Bethlehem, but now her hope is rekindled as she sees what the LORD has done. He has led Ruth to the field of a man who was a near relative.

Look up the word for "next kinsman" in a concordance and write down the meaning (Ruth 2:20).

The whole idea behind redemption is the kindness and mercy of God.

Read Leviticus 25:23-28.

Who did the land belong to? _____

Why would someone sell their land? _____

Who could buy back the land? _____

If there was no one to redeem it, what would happen in the year of Jubilee (every 50 years)?

You may wonder why keeping the land in the family was so important, but this land is special, it has been given to them by God as He promised. The land they live on would be a constant reminder of how God is faithful. The Law of Redemption would ensure that no family ever lost their inheritance because of circumstances they could not control. The only way they could lose their land was because of their own unfaithfulness.

Read Deuteronomy 25:5-10.

If a man dies and leaves behind a wife with no children, who was supposed to marry her?

If they had a child, whose name would that first child take? _____

What was the reason for this? _____

What was the widow to do if the man refused to do this for her?

A widow without a son was a woman without land since the land went with the man's family. If she was unable to find a redeemer then she would probably have to go back to her father's house or endure poverty.

For how long did Ruth glean in Boaz' fields? (Ruth 2:23) You could look up barley and wheat in a Bible dictionary and find out when they are harvested.

At his feet (Read Ruth 3:1-7)

Now that harvest-time had ended, and Boaz had still made no move to offer redemption for Ruth, Naomi decides it is time to do something about it. Ruth has cared for her tirelessly over the past weeks and Naomi is eager to return the kindness. She offered to seek a settled spot for Ruth so that she would be happy.

Look up the word "well" in a concordance and write down the definition. (Ruth 3:1)

Who does Naomi have in mind? _____

She tells Ruth to wash and anoint herself (probably in the same way that a woman today would put a little perfume on), and put on a nice dress and then get herself down to the threshing floor.

What does Naomi tell Ruth to do when Boaz lies down? (Ruth 3:4)

How does Ruth respond to this somewhat strange request of Naomi? (Ruth 3:5)

The harvest was complete and the bundled and dried sheaves had been taken to the threshing floor. This was a large flat area with a smooth surface usually on the top of a hill where the winds could help with the winnowing. A large amount of grain would be threshed by spreading it on the threshing floor and using oxen or carts to drive over it to loosen all the heads of grain from the straw. Next the threshed grain would be cleaned of its husk by tossing it up in the air with a winnowing fork and letting the wind blow the light chaff (bits of straw and the husk) away. The grain was then gathered and sifted and then bagged. The chaff was burned in bonfires and the community celebrated together. It seems that Boaz was celebrating a good harvest after the years of famine they had endured.

Look up the word "merry". Where else have you seen that word in this chapter?



Naomi's instructions may seem a little strange to us today, but you can imagine that over the past weeks, Boaz' kindness and protection has been discussed by Ruth and Naomi. There is every reason to believe that he will act this time too in a godly manner. Naomi does not instruct Ruth to make any demands but that she should be prepared to listen and do what he tells her.

Being at the feet of someone is putting oneself at their mercy.

Look up the following verses and note what is going on.

Deuteronomy 33:3 _____

1 Samuel 25:24 _____

2 Kings 4:37 _____

Matthew 15:30 _____

Mark 5:22 _____

Luke 7:38 _____

Luke 10:39 _____

Virtuous Woman (Read Ruth 3:8-18)

What happened at midnight? (Ruth 3:8)

There was another act of redemption that began at midnight. Can you think of what it was? Hint Exodus 12:29-32



What does Naomi tell Ruth to do when she comes home that morning? (Ruth 3:18)

City gates (Read Ruth 4:1-6)

Boaz doesn't make Ruth wait. He goes up to the city gates to get it all sorted. This was the place where people met to make important decisions.

Who happens to come by? (Ruth 4:1) _____

How many men does Boaz take to be witnesses of whatever happens? (Ruth 4:2)

Boaz starts off with a piece of land, possibly because redemption of land could be done by anyone who was of near kin, while redemption of a widow seems to have only been required of a brother.

How does the near kinsman respond to Boaz first offer? (Ruth 4:4) _____

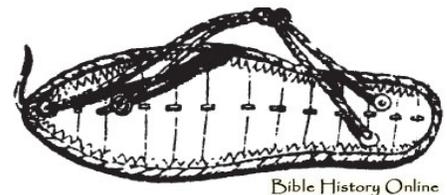
Next Boaz brings up the subject of Ruth, and that the redemption of the land goes along with raising up the name of the dead on the land.

How does the near kinsman respond to this? (Ruth 4:6) _____

If only he had known what he was giving up...

The Shoe (Read Ruth 4:7-12)

How were transactions like this confirmed? (Ruth 4:7)



It may seem like a very strange thing to do, and you may wonder how comfortably he would walk home, and what the other person would do with a single sandal... but the point was that whatever right he had to tread or go upon the land was transferred to the purchaser by giving him his shoe.

So Boaz becomes the owner of all that was Elimelech's, and Ruth becomes his wife with all the people in the gate being witnesses.

What three women did the people mention in their blessing on Boaz? (Ruth 4:11,12)

A Son (Read Ruth 4:13-22)

Naomi, who had returned to Bethlehem in defeat, thinking that her hope was gone, that her God was against her, now experiences the kindness of the LORD.

The idea of turning, the word “shub” is a common theme in this book. It is the same word that is often used for turning back to God. This is a lesson that was sorely needed in the times of the Judges. In the son that is born to Ruth and Boaz, Naomi has been turned back or restored to life.

Write out Isaiah 55:6-7

She is also never to fear famine again – this son will be a nourisher of her old age.

Here also is the first mention of love in this book, and it is the love of Ruth for Naomi. Perhaps love is not mentioned between Boaz and Ruth because this book is meant to be a contrast to the last few chapters of Judges. In those chapters every man did what was right in his own eyes, but here what is being emphasized is duty and obedience and what is right in the eyes of the LORD. During the times of Moses and Joshua, the people had been trained to have faith, to believe in the existence of the LORD. Now they needed training in obedience and this means not allowing our natural desires to rule us, but instead be willing to be obedient to the will of God.

Pro 25:28 He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

In the end, the reward was great. Naomi took the child and became it’s nurse.

Look up the word “nurse” and write down its definition. (Ruth 4:16)

Can you imagine the stories and lessons that Naomi would have to tell her little grandson?

What name did the neighbour women give to the child? (Ruth 4:17) _____

Look this name up in a concordance to see what it means (you may also want to look at the root word).

Now that you know so much about the character of Ruth and Boaz, do you think that was a good name for their little son?

Thinking back on all that has happened, how do you think Ruth showed the following:

Faith: _____

Works (or obedience): _____

What events in her life do you think was the Providence of God? _____

A Family Tree (from Matthew 1)

Use your imagination to get all the names from Abraham to David in the genealogy on the tree. You may have to zig zag around a bit to fit them all in. Highlight the ones from this story. Include who this genealogy ultimately points to.

