

Week 18: Ruth — Loyalty and Providence

A Sabbath Family Bible Study

Scripture Reading: Ruth 1:1–17; Ruth 2:1–12; Ruth 4:13–17 (KJV)

With Commentary Throughout

Ruth 1:16–17

“And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee... for whither thou goest, I will go... thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God...”

Commentary:

In a time of chaos (the time of the Judges), Ruth’s loyalty shines as a beacon of covenant faithfulness. Though a Moabitess by birth, she chooses the God of Israel and binds herself to Naomi and her people. This act of commitment reflects the heart of true conversion—**leaving behind the old life for the promises of God.**

Ruth 2:2–3

“And Ruth... said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean... and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz...”

Commentary:

Ruth’s diligence and humility in gleaning is honored by the unseen hand of God. What seems like chance is, in truth, **divine providence**. The Lord directs her to Boaz’s field, a relative and potential redeemer. God is never absent—He is guiding the details.

Ruth 2:10–12

“Why have I found grace in thine eyes...?” ... The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee...”

Commentary:

Boaz honors Ruth for her loyalty to Naomi and her trust in the God of Israel. He recognizes that

she has **sought refuge under the wings of the Lord**. Her reputation as a virtuous woman precedes her—reminding us that character, faithfulness, and humility are seen and rewarded by God.

Ruth 4:13–17

“So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife... and she bare a son... and they called his name Obed...”

Commentary:

God rewards Ruth’s loyalty with **legacy**. From the line of this once-widowed foreigner comes Obed, grandfather of King David, and ultimately, Jesus Christ. This story is a testament to God’s providence in the lives of ordinary people who walk in faith. **No act of loyalty is forgotten by the Lord.**



Discussion Questions for All Ages

Young Children:

- Who was Ruth loyal to?
- Why did Ruth go to a new land?
- Who took care of Ruth and Naomi?

Older Children & Teens:

- Why was Ruth’s decision to follow Naomi so important?
- What does this story teach us about loyalty and trusting God?
- How do we see God’s hand working behind the scenes?

Adults:

- How does Ruth’s faith contrast with the unfaithfulness seen in Judges?
- In what areas of life can you show loyalty like Ruth’s?

- How can your family trust God's providence even when the future is uncertain?
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Psalm Reading

Psalm 37:3–7 (KJV)

3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him...

Commentary:

This psalm reflects Ruth's life—trusting, doing good, waiting patiently, and ultimately receiving blessing. God honors those who commit their way to Him and remain steadfast in love and obedience.

Hymn: “Be Still, My Soul”

By Katharina von Schlegel (1752), translated by Jane Borthwick

1.

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2.

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

3.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.



Family Application Points

1. **Model Covenant Loyalty:**

Teach children to honor commitments—whether to family, church, or God. Like Ruth, loyalty in small things opens the way for great blessing.

2. **Trust God in the Mundane:**

Ruth wasn't called to a pulpit, but to a field. Remind your family that **God often works through daily obedience** in ordinary places.

3. **Honor the Role of Redeemers:**

Explain Boaz's role as a "kinsman-redeemer" and how it points to Christ, our Redeemer. Fathers can use this to illustrate their calling to protect and provide.

4. **See God's Providence in Hardship:**

Naomi believed she was forsaken—but God was writing a redemptive story. Encourage your family to **trust God's hand even when life feels bitter**.

5. **Celebrate the Generational Blessing:**

From Ruth came David, and from David came Christ. Remind your household that one righteous choice today can shape generations to come.



Closing Prayer

Gracious Father, we thank You for the story of Ruth—a woman of loyalty, virtue, and trust. Help us to walk as she did, clinging to You and choosing what is right even when it is hard. Teach us to recognize Your providence, even when life feels uncertain. May our home be filled with faithful love, quiet strength, and confident hope in Your promises. Bless our work, direct our paths, and build from our lives a legacy that honors You for generations to come. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

