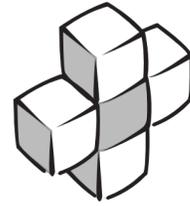




SMACC
Making Disciples of Jesus Christ



Bible Study Series:

Ruth



Our Mission:

To glorify God together in response to his grace

by making disciples of Jesus Christ

About These Studies

These studies were written by various SMACC leaders for use among young working adults and university students. You are most welcome to use and adapt these studies for your own context. Where you do so please provide the following acknowledgment.

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Study 1: “Where is God in this world of pain?” (Ruth 1)

Getting Started

1. What things happen in this world that make you wonder whether God is there and in control?

2. How do the following verses help us understand the setting of Ruth?

Ruth 1:1-2

Judges 21:24

Leviticus 26:3-4

Read Ruth 1.

3. Identify the main scenes and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Digging In

1. How should we evaluate Elimelech’s decision to go to Moab? What are the short and long term consequences? (Deut. 23:3-6, Judges 3:12-15, 26-30)

2. Why does Naomi return to Bethlehem?

3. Compare the responses of Ruth (16-17) and Naomi (v20-21) to the tragedy.

	Ruth	Naomi
Who's in control of these events		
Attitude to God		
View of Future		

4. How should we evaluate their responses?

Thinking It Through

5. What is the main thing this passage teaches us?

6. How does this passage apply to us?

7. What questions do you still have?

Study 2: “The Unexpected Kindness of God” (Ruth 2)

Getting Started

1. What recent event has reminded you that God is sovereignly working for your good?

2. Summarise the main story of Ruth so far. What has it taught us about God and suffering?

Read Ruth 2.

3. Identify the main scenes and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Digging In

4. How is Boaz introduced to us (v1)? What is the significance of this? (v20)

5. How do we see Boaz’s kindness to Ruth and Naomi in these verses?

6. How do we see God’s kindness to Ruth and Naomi in these verses?

7. What is Naomi’s response (v17-22)? How does it compare to chapter 1?

8. How does verse 11-12 help us understand God's kindness in these verses?

Thinking it Through

9. What is the main thing this passage teaches us?

10. How does this passage point forward to Jesus Christ?

Application

11. In what ways is God's kindness and blessing expressed to Christians, who have taken refuge "under his wings"?

12. How should we respond to God's kindness as Christians?

13. What implications does God's kindness in Ruth 2 have for Christians who are suffering?

14. What does your behaviour say about the God that you believe in?

Prayer

Pray that God would enable us to see his kindness to us in Christ, and to respond with lives of faith, thankfulness and godliness.

Study 3: “Finding Fullness” (Ruth 3)

Getting Started

1. What things do people look to, to give them a sense of purpose in life?
2. Summarise the main story of Ruth so far.

Read Ruth 3

3. Identify the main scenes and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Digging In

4. What does it mean that Boaz is a redeemer? (Leviticus 25:23-25, Deuteronomy 25:5-10)
5. How has Naomi’s attitude in 3:1-5 changed from 1:20-21? What has caused the change?
6. Compare Boaz and Ruth’s words in 2:11-12 and 3:9-10. What is Ruth asking Boaz to do?
7. How is Ruth described in 3:11? How does it compare to Boaz (2:1)?

8. Given the godly character of Ruth and Boaz why does Naomi encourage Ruth to attempt this risky midnight meeting?

9. What is it so important that Boaz sends Ruth home with six measures of barley? (15-18)

Thinking it Through

10. What is the main thing this passage teaches us?

11. How does this passage point forward to Jesus Christ?

12. What questions do you still have?

Application

13. What empty and futile ways do you see people in our world living?

14. Why is life outside of Christ empty and how does Christ's death redeem us from this?

15. In what ways today are you tempted to follow the empty, futile ways of the world, instead of living the new life in Christ?

16. Ruth trusted God and entrusted her life into the hands of her redeemer. What makes you afraid to wholly entrust your life to Jesus?

Prayer

Thank God for sending a redeemer to save us from our emptiness. Pray that we may turn away from our empty ways, and throw ourselves at his mercy, depend on his mercy alone to save us.

Study 4: “Reversing the Curse” (Ruth 4)

Getting Started

1. “If there was a God, he’d do something about the suffering of our world”. Why is this question so common and how would you respond?

2. Thinking back on Ruth 1-3. How have we seen God’s sovereignty and goodness so far in the lives of Ruth and Naomi?

Read Ruth 4.

3. Identify the main scenes and give them a short title

Verses	Title

Digging In

4. Why does the other kinsman-redeemer give way to Boaz? (1-10)

5. Ruth and Leah were Jacob’s wives, the ancestral mothers of Israel. How is Ruth like them?

6. How have the prayers of Naomi and Boaz been answered? (13-15, cf. 1:9 and 2:12)?

7. How is Ruth's son, Naomi's son? (16-17)

8. Why does the book of Ruth end with a genealogy? (18-22)

9. What is the significance of a Moabite being the great-grandmother of David?

Thinking it Through

10. What is the main thing this passage teaches us?

11. How does this passage point forward to Jesus Christ?

12. What questions do you still have?

Application

13. "If there was a God, he'd do something about the suffering of our world". How does Ruth 4 help us to answer this question?

14. In what ways is our story similar to that of Ruth?

15. What have you learned from the book of Ruth about God's:

a) Faithfulness

b) Kindness and Willingness to Bless

c) Sovereignty

Prayer

Thank God for redeeming our world from the curse of sin through Christ. Thank God that through trusting in Christ, that people of all nations may enter God's kingdom and be part of the New Creation.