



# RUTH

THE BOOK OF RUTH NWH JOURNAL | 2021



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The Book of RUTH Study Journal  
Northwest Hills Community Church 2021

## WELCOME TO THE RUTH JOURNAL

This fall, we are going to be growing together as we study the Book of Ruth over the next 10 weeks. This series launches our new ministry theme to *Full Send to Make Him Known!* Ruth is often assumed to be just a love story but as we unpack this book, we'll see a significant number of themes including obedience, kindness, hope, redemption, gender roles; friendship and commitment; families; tragedy, suffering and hardship; race; origins of scripture and the reliability of scripture; and our will and God's will all as it pertains to making Jesus known. We will resonate with the Book of Ruth as we see a picture of how God is working behind the scenes through our own obedience and his faithful call to follow him.

As we study this book together, this journal is going to be an incredible resource to take your understanding of this book to a deeper level. By working through this journal each week and reflecting on specific passages from Ruth, we are asking the Holy Spirit to show us where we need to grow in our walk with him as we consider how we, as individuals, are called to make Jesus known.

The following pages will share how to get the most out of the Ruth Journal during this series as well as deepen our commitment to practice the spiritual disciplines with a monthly spiritual discipline focus and a charge to integrate these practices into our daily lives.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>8</b> Introduction to Ruth	<b>34</b> Week Six (October 24)
<b>11</b> September Spiritual Discipline Focus: Bible Reading	<b>38</b> Week Seven (October 31)
<b>12</b> Week One (September 19)	<b>42</b> Spiritual Discipline Reflection
<b>16</b> Week Two (September 26)	<b>43</b> November Spiritual Discipline Focus: Meditation
<b>20</b> Spiritual Discipline Reflection	<b>44</b> Week Eight (November 7)
<b>21</b> October Spiritual Discipline Focus: Confession	<b>48</b> Week Nine (November 14)
<b>22</b> Week Three (October 3)	<b>52</b> FINAL WEEK: Week Ten (November 21)
<b>26</b> Week Four (October 10)	<b>56</b> Spiritual Discipline Reflection
<b>30</b> Week Five (October 17)	<b>57</b> Final Ruth Reflection

## WHAT IS IN THIS JOURNAL?

This journal has been put together by NWH to help guide us through the Book of Ruth in our own personal study throughout the week. This journal shouldn't replace the Sunday gathering but rather serve as a helpful, supplemental resource to engage more deeply both in God's word and with the spiritual disciplines. This fall we will be focusing on bible reading, confession, and meditation.

## RUTH JOURNAL STRUCTURE EACH WEEK

We will be taking a deep dive into the Book of Ruth this fall and work through its four chapters throughout a 10-week period. Soak in the text each week and understand the deeper themes and application that you may not have noticed before when reading this short narrative.

At the beginning of each week, there is space to take notes during the Sunday message. Then, Monday through Friday, meditate on the week's passage using the H-E-A-R Bible study method.

**H-E-A-R** is a great method of Bible reading and journaling. It encourages us to create an atmosphere to hear God speak.

### H – HIGHLIGHT

After reading the passage of scripture, highlight each verse that speaks to you by copying it out in your journal.

### E – EXPLAIN

Explain what the text means. By asking some simple questions, with the help of the Holy Spirit, you can better understand the meaning of a passage or verse by engaging with the text and wrestling with its meaning.

Consider:

- Why was this written?
- To whom was it originally written?
- How does it fit with the surrounding verses?

### A – APPLY

Application is at the heart of the process. How can you apply what you learned from today's verse(s) to your life? Is there a command to obey? A sin to confess? Or a promise you can claim? Answer a series of questions to uncover the significance of these verses to you personally:

- How should this passage change me?

- What does this mean today?
- What is God saying to me?

### R – RESPOND

Your response to the passage may take on many forms. You may write a call to action. You may describe how you will be different because of what God has said to you through His Word. You may indicate what you are going to do because of what you have learned. You may respond by writing out a prayer to God. For example, you may ask God to help you to be more loving, or to give you a desire to be more generous in your giving. Keep in mind that this is your response to what you have just read.

There will be space for each part of this Bible study method to write out your thoughts and reflections.

Before diving into the Word each day, prayer is an important first step. Ask God to open your eyes to the things that he has for you to learn and grow in as you meditate on the text. Then jump into the passage and see what he unfolds.

## EACH MONTH

Each month we, as a church, will be highlighting one spiritual discipline to put into practice.

Here at NWH we are committed to engaging in the disciplines and to practice them in such a way that they become a natural part of our life as we grow in our faith and walk with Jesus.

At the beginning of each month, we will focus on one of the disciplines. We encourage you to write out a plan for how you want to try to incorporate this discipline into your daily life throughout the month. We also encourage you to look at additional resources for these disciplines to learn more about how to practice them. Check out our resource list at the end of this Introduction for some of our favorite books and helpful study materials.

If you have never practiced any of the disciplines, it is okay to take "baby steps" and start small. Commit to creating a cadence to incorporate that discipline into your life that month.

Our prayer is that through this series in the Book of Ruth and actively engaging in the use of the Ruth Journal each week, we will be inspired to obey God's individual call for each of us, to reach your family, community, neighborhood and beyond with his love. We want our lives to be transformed in such a way that we can't help but share our transformation with those around us as an outflow of our passion and love for Jesus!

## INTRODUCTION TO RUTH



### Author, Date, and Recipients

The story of Ruth takes place in the time of the judges (after the conquest of Canaan and before c. 1050 B.C.). No author is named, but the mention of David and his genealogy (4:17–22) places the writing sometime after David became king (2 Samuel 2) in c. 1010 B.C.

### Theme and Purpose

Ruth shows how God's people can experience his sovereignty, wisdom, and covenant kindness. These often come in hard circumstances and are expressed through the kindness of others

### Key Themes

**I. Kindness.** Ruth shows kindness to her mother-in-law, Naomi, by leaving her homeland to care for her (1:16–17; 2:11, 18, 23). Boaz shows kindness to Ruth as he welcomes her to Israel, acts as her kinsman-redeemer (4:9–10), and marries her (4:13). Human kindness reflects the Lord's kindness toward his people (see Ex. 15:13; Deut. 7:8–9; Psalm 136).

**II. Redemption.** Redemption is linked to kindness and is at the heart of the story (2:20). The book of Ruth describes two legal practices combined into one: property redemption by a near kinsman, and levirate marriage. Property redemption by a relative assured that land would not remain outside the family (see Lev. 25:23–25). Levirate marriage involved a childless widow marrying her husband's brother to provide an heir for the deceased husband (Deut. 25:5–6). Boaz, a close relative of Ruth, redeemed the family property for her (Ruth 4:9), married her (4:10, 13), and fathered Obed (4:13, 17), who became heir to the property of Ruth's deceased first husband.

Ruth and Naomi's desperate conditions changed for the better (4:13–17) when Boaz agreed to be their kinsman-redeemer (4:9–10). This resulted in blessing for Ruth (marriage and motherhood; 4:13) and for Naomi (happiness in her old age; 4:14–15). Redemption also brought blessing to the community (4:11–12) and, through David, to the nation (4:14, 17). Ultimate redemption would finally come through David's "son," Jesus the Christ. In him, redeemed people of all nations, no longer strangers and aliens, become fellow citizens in God's household (Eph. 2:11–22).

### Outline

- I. **Introduction:** Naomi's Family Dies (1:1–5)
- II. **Scene 1:** Naomi Returns to Bethlehem with Ruth (1:6–22)
- III. **Scene 2:** Ruth Gleans in Boaz's Field (2:1–23)
- IV. **Scene 3:** Ruth, at the Threshing Floor, Asks Boaz to Marry Her (3:1–18)
- V. **Scene 4:** Boaz Arranges Redemption at the Gate (4:1–12)
- VI. **Conclusion:** Naomi Blessed with a New

### The Setting of Ruth

A famine in Judah forces Naomi and her husband to leave Israel and move to Moab, where their sons marry Moabite women. When Naomi's husband and sons die, she decides to return to her home in Israel, and her daughter-in-law Ruth chooses to go with her. Ruth lived during the time of the judges.

Introduction to Ruth. "ESV Bible", Crossway, [www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-ruth/](http://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-ruth/)

### HELPFUL RESOURCES WHILE STUDYING RUTH:



- BibleProject Videos: [bibleproject.com/learn/ruth](http://bibleproject.com/learn/ruth)
- *Ruth for You: Revealing God's Kindness and Care* by Tony Merida
- *The Book of Ruth (New International Commentary on the Old*



























































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