

READING PLAN + STUDY QUESTIONS

Ruth

READING PLAN OVERVIEW

- RUTH 1-4
 - RUTH, NAOMI, + BOAZ

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

- 1. READ THE GENRE + BOOK OVERVIEWS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES**
- 2. READ THE CHAPTERS IN THE BIBLE FOR EACH SESSION**
- 3. READ THE CHAPTER SUMMARIES ON [EVERYDAYSCRIPTURE.ORG](https://everydayscripture.org)**
- 4. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS + REFLECT ON THE READING**

This study encourages going at your own pace, allowing each session to be a day, a week, or however long you need. Each session contains questions to be used for individual reflection or small group discussion.

This study was made to be used alongside Bible reading. Although we have created chapter summaries, there is no substitute for reading God's Word.

QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED

- What type of literature is this book of the Bible? Does that affect the interpretation?
- Who is the intended audience of this book? What purpose does it serve?
- What does this passage of Scripture reveal about God's character?
- What can I learn from this Scripture passage? How does it apply today?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Everyday Scripture: Ruth](#)
- [Everyday Scripture: Old Testament History](#)
- [The Bible Project: Ruth Overview Video](#)

GENRE OVERVIEW: OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

The books of Old Testament History follow the story of the Israelite people. Immediately following the books of Old Testament Law, these books highlight the aftermath of the Israelites' disobedience to God's commands.

Joshua, the successor of Moses, led the Israelite people into the Promised Land of Canaan. Once they were settled, the Israelites appointed leaders and judges to rule over the land. Although God provided righteous judges and priests, the Israelites wanted to be like the other nations who were led by kings. Despite the warnings of God and the prophet Samuel, the Israelite people appointed a king named Saul.

Saul started out as a promising king but ultimately failed the Israelites. After Saul came an unlikely king, David, who had previously been a lowly shepherd and musician. God loved David and promised to send Jesus from his line of ancestors (the line of Judah).

David's son Solomon succeeded him as king and was one of the wisest and wealthiest men who ever lived. Like his father, Solomon had many moments of both righteousness and failure. David wrote most of the Psalms, and Solomon wrote a portion of wisdom literature during this time (Old Testament Poetry).

Following Solomon was king Rehoboam. Because of Rehoboam's poor leadership and unrighteousness, the Israelites rebelled against him and instead followed another leader, Jeroboam, which split the nation in two. Two tribes (Judah and Benjamin) remained loyal to Rehoboam. These tribes became known as the southern kingdom of Judah. The other ten tribes, led by Jeroboam, became the northern tribes.

Throughout this time period, God sent prophets to warn the Israelites that their rebellion and deviation from God's law would cause them to be removed from their land. After many messages of warning and opportunities for repentance, the Israelites did not turn back to God. Because of this, they were taken into captivity by different world powers and did not return to Canaan for seventy years.

After the captivity, a faithful remnant of Israelites returned to Jerusalem, the capital city of Judah. God helped establish the people and influenced the rebuilding of the temple. The books of Old Testament History show how God worked to restore and redeem the Israelite people.

BOOK OVERVIEW: RUTH

The story of Ruth is one of loyalty, bravery, and humility. Despite Naomi's lonely and brutal life, Ruth bravely left her home, joined her mother-in-law, and adapted to her Israelite lifestyle. Through the faithfulness of Boaz, Ruth and Naomi's family was restored. In this story of redemption, the characters dutifully trusted God and allowed Him to use unlikely people to accomplish His ultimate plan.

The events described in the book of Ruth took place during the time of Judges. Throughout the book of Judges, the nation of Israel failed repeatedly and grew further away from God. Understanding the context of the Israelites during this time allows one to see the unique kindness and faithfulness of both Ruth and Boaz.

RUTH 1-4

RUTH, NAOMI, + BOAZ

- How was Ruth faithful and loyal to her vulnerable mother-in-law, Naomi (Ruth 1:16-18)?
- Look up the meaning of the names Naomi and Mara. Which name do you think best suited Naomi's situation?
- Read Leviticus 19:19. How did Boaz follow this law in Ruth 2? How did the law benefit Ruth and Naomi?
- According to Ruth 2:8-13, why did Ruth find favor with Boaz?
- What did it mean for Boaz to redeem Ruth's family? Why did he suggest that another relative fulfill this role?
- Ruth 4 records the descendants of Ruth and Boaz. Which significant biblical figures are listed?
- Matthew 1 contains the genealogy of Jesus. Read Matthew 1:5. Who from the story of Ruth is included in Jesus' heritage?
- Do you relate more to Ruth, who was steadfast and faithful, or to Naomi, who mourned her circumstances and doubted? How did God redeem both of their stories despite their responses?