

Ruth - Study Companion

A printable guide for tracing grief, loyalty, chesed, gleaning, redemption, providence, and ordinary faithfulness across all four chapters

Don't take my word for it - Open your Bible.

READ • OBSERVE • ANSWER • COMPARE • TEST • INTERPRET

Use this Companion beside an open Bible and the full Ruth study at OpenYourBible.org. Read the assigned passage first. Record what you actually see before consulting commentary. The questions mirror the authoritative study manuscript so your notes stay aligned with the teaching.

Name: _____

Date started: _____

Study completed: _____

Study Progress

Session	Passage	Done
1. Before You Read Ruth	Ruth 1-4	☐
2. When the Story Begins With Loss	Ruth 1:1-5; Judges 21:25	☐
3. Love That Releases	Ruth 1:6-14	☐
4. Your People Will Be My People	Ruth 1:15-18; Deuteronomy 10:12-20	☐
5. Call Me Mara	Ruth 1:19-22	☐
6. Yehovah's Instruction at the Edge of the Field	Leviticus 19:9-10; Deuteronomy 24:19-22	☐
7. As It Happened	Ruth 2:1-7	☐
8. Power Used to Protect	Ruth 2:8-16	☐
9. More Than Enough	Ruth 2:17-23; Leviticus 25:23-25	☐
10. Faithfulness in a Risky Place	Ruth 3:1-5	☐
11. Spread Your Wing Over Your	Ruth 3:6-13; compare Ruth 2:12	☐

Session	Passage	Done
Servant		
12. Waiting After You've Done What You Can	Ruth 3:14-18	☐
13. The Redeemer Who Says No	Ruth 4:1-8; Leviticus 25:23-34; Deuteronomy 25:5-10	☐
14. The Outsider Becomes Family	Ruth 4:9-12; Genesis 38	☐
15. From Empty to Full	Ruth 4:13-17	☐
16. The Genealogy Changes the Scale	Ruth 4:18-22; Matthew 1:1-6	☐
17. What About Ruth Being a Moabite?	Deuteronomy 23:3-6; Ruth 1:16-17; 2:11-12; 4:9-22	☐
18. Open Your Bible - The Whole Book	Ruth 1-4	☐

How to Use the Faithfulness in the Ordinary Lens

After each major session, pause long enough to name four things: the ordinary circumstance the person is living in, the faithful choice available inside that circumstance, what that choice protects or provides, and what the person cannot yet see about the outcome. Do not force every scene into a happy ending. The point is to practice noticing faithful obedience before the genealogy is visible.

Session 1 - Before You Read Ruth

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Ruth 1-4

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. What themes or images appear more than once when you read Ruth straight through?

2. What do you notice about food, land, harvest, family, and offspring?

3. Which characters possess the most social or economic power, and how do they use it?

4. Where does the narrator explicitly mention Yehovah acting?

5. Where does the story invite you to consider providence without describing a spectacular miracle?

6. What changes in Naomi between chapter 1 and chapter 4?

7. What questions arise for you concerning Ruth's Moabite identity?

8. What parts of the story seem to assume earlier scriptural instructions or family customs?

9. Before studying the details, what do you think the book is saying about faithfulness?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice
What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see

Session 2 - When the Story Begins With Loss

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Ruth 1:1-5; Judges 21:25

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. What historical period does Ruth identify?

2. Why does Elimelech's family leave Bethlehem?

3. Does the narrator explicitly call the move to Moab sinful?

4. Does the narrator explicitly say the deaths are punishment for the move?

5. What should that caution us against assuming when suffering follows a decision?

6. What losses does Naomi experience, and what losses do Ruth and Orpah experience?

7. Beyond grief, what practical vulnerabilities might widowhood create in this setting?

8. What changes when Naomi hears that Yehovah has given His people food?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice
What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see

Session 3 - Love That Releases

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Ruth 1:6-14

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. What does Naomi ask Yehovah to give Ruth and Orpah?

2. What does she say they have already shown toward her and the dead?

3. What future does Naomi believe she cannot provide for them?

4. Why might remarriage represent rest or security in this setting?

5. Does the narrator criticize Orpah for returning?

6. Why should we resist making Orpah a villain?

7. What does Naomi's willingness to release both women reveal about her love?

8. Where do you see chesed already operating before Ruth makes her famous declaration?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice

What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see

Session 4 - Your People Will Be My People

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Ruth 1:15-18; Deuteronomy 10:12-20

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. What commitments does Ruth make to Naomi?

2. Which commitments concern place, people, faith, and death?

3. What does Ruth explicitly say concerning Naomi's God?

4. What might Ruth be leaving behind in Moab?

5. What does Naomi promise Ruth in exchange?

6. Why is the absence of a guaranteed reward important to understanding Ruth's loyalty?

7. How is Ruth's commitment different from temporary emotion?

8. What might this passage teach about faithfulness when the outcome remains unknown?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice
What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see

Session 5 - Call Me Mara

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Ruth 1:19-22

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. Why does Naomi ask to be called Mara?

2. How does Naomi interpret what has happened to her?

3. Does the narrator immediately correct her interpretation?

4. What has Naomi genuinely lost?

5. Who is standing beside her when she says she returned empty?

6. Why should Ruth's presence not be used to minimize Naomi's grief?

7. What does this passage teach about the way grief can shape perception?

8. What detail closes the chapter, and why might barley harvest matter to two widows with little economic security?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice
What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see

Session 6 - Yehovah's Instruction at the Edge of the Field

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Leviticus 19:9-10; Deuteronomy 24:19-22

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. What are landowners instructed not to do in Leviticus 19 and Deuteronomy 24?

2. Who is specifically meant to benefit from what remains?

3. Does Yehovah's instruction require the owner to maximize every possible unit of personal profit?

4. What work is still required from the person who gleans?

5. In how many of the vulnerable categories named by Scripture does Ruth fit?

6. What does this reveal about Yehovah's concern for people without ordinary economic security?

7. How might we apply the underlying principle without pretending our modern economy is identical to ancient Israel's?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice
What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see

Session 7 - As It Happened

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Ruth 2:1-7

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. What does the narrator tell the reader about Boaz before Ruth meets him?

2. How do different translations describe Boaz in verse 1?

3. What does Ruth plan to do?

4. What does she hope to find in the eyes of the landowner?

5. How does the narrator describe Ruth's arrival in Boaz's field?

6. Why should we distinguish possible providence from treating every coincidence as a divine sign?

7. What are Boaz's first recorded words, and what might we cautiously infer from the greeting between Boaz and his workers?

8. Where do ordinary human choices and the possibility of providence intersect in this scene?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice
What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see

Session 8 - Power Used to Protect

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Ruth 2:8-16

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. What protections does Boaz provide for Ruth?

2. What provisions does he give beyond merely allowing her to glean?

3. In what ways does Boaz possess more social or economic power than Ruth?

4. How does he use that power?

5. What has Boaz heard about Ruth?

6. What image does he use for Ruth's relationship with Yehovah?

7. What connections do you see between Boaz's prayer for Ruth and his own actions toward her?

8. Where might we pray for Yehovah to meet a need while overlooking our own ability to participate?

9. What does Boaz teach us about the difference between merely avoiding exploitation and actively protecting someone vulnerable?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice
What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see

Session 9 - More Than Enough

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Ruth 2:17-23; Leviticus 25:23-25

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. What does Ruth bring home, and why does Naomi seem surprised by the amount?

2. What changes when Ruth identifies Boaz?

3. What does Naomi reveal about his relationship to the family?

4. What does Leviticus 25 teach about family land and redemption?

5. Why should we avoid assuming that 'redeemer' automatically means 'future husband'?

6. What does Naomi's concern about Ruth being harmed in another field reveal about Ruth's vulnerability?

7. How does Boaz's behavior turn Yehovah's instruction into actual protection?

8. Where do you see movement from Naomi's sense of emptiness toward provision?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice
What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see

Session 10 - Faithfulness in a Risky Place

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Ruth 3:1-5

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. What future does Naomi say she wants for Ruth?

2. What features make the threshing-floor plan risky?

3. What actions does the text explicitly say Ruth takes?

4. Does the narrator explicitly state that Ruth and Boaz have sexual relations?

5. Which conclusions would therefore belong to inference rather than textual statement?

6. Why is it important neither to sexualize the scene beyond the text nor sanitize away its vulnerability?

7. What makes Boaz's character especially important in this setting?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice
What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see

Session 11 - Spread Your Wing Over Your Servant

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Ruth 3:6-13; compare Ruth 2:12

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. What does Ruth ask Boaz to do?

2. How does the kanaf or wing imagery connect Ruth 2:12 with Ruth 3:9?

3. What reason does Ruth give for her request?

4. How does Boaz describe Ruth's action?

5. What does he say about Ruth's reputation?

6. Compare the hayil language used for Boaz in 2:1 and Ruth in 3:11. What do you notice?

7. What complication does Boaz reveal?

8. What does his willingness to honor the nearer relative reveal about his character?

9. How is Boaz using power differently from someone who would exploit Ruth's vulnerability?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice
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What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see

Session 12 - Waiting After You've Done What You Can

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Ruth 3:14-18

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. Why does Ruth leave early?

2. What does Boaz send with her?

3. Why should we avoid claiming a precise modern weight for the grain?

4. How does Ruth's return with provision echo earlier chapters?

5. What does Naomi believe Boaz will do next?

6. What has changed in Naomi's outlook since chapter 1?

7. What has Ruth done that is within her control, and what is now outside it?

8. Where in your own life might faithfulness require action, and where might it require waiting?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice
What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see

Session 13 - The Redeemer Who Says No

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Ruth 4:1-8; Leviticus 25:23-34; Deuteronomy 25:5-10

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. Where does Boaz conduct the transaction, and who witnesses it?

2. What issue does Boaz present first?

3. What changes when Ruth and preservation of the family line enter the discussion?

4. Why does the nearer redeemer decline?

5. Does the narrator explicitly call him wicked?

6. What differences do you notice between Ruth's situation and the precise brother-in-law situation described in Deuteronomy 25?

7. Why is it more accurate to speak of overlapping family-redemption responsibilities than one simple levirate-marriage command?

8. What does Ruth's narrator say the sandal signifies here?

9. Why might the public nature of Boaz's actions matter?

10. What responsibility does Boaz accept that the nearer relative declines?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice
What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see

Session 14 - The Outsider Becomes Family

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Ruth 4:9-12; Genesis 38

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. What does Boaz publicly declare?

2. What purpose does he associate with marrying Ruth?

3. Who serves as witness?

4. Which women and family lines are named in the blessing?

5. Why might Rachel and Leah be significant?

6. What similarities and differences exist between Tamar's story and Ruth's?

7. Does the book hide Ruth's Moabite background?

8. What does the community's blessing suggest about Ruth's place among them?

9. What might this scene teach us about the relationship between ancestry, allegiance, and belonging?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice
What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see

Session 15 - From Empty to Full

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Ruth 4:13-17

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. What action does the narrator explicitly attribute to Yehovah?

2. To whom do the women direct their blessing?

3. How do they describe the child's significance for Naomi?

4. What do they say about Ruth?

5. Why is 'better than seven sons' such powerful praise?

6. How does this scene answer Naomi's statement that she returned empty?

7. Why does restoration not require us to pretend Naomi's earlier losses never happened?

8. Who is Obed's son, and who is Obed's grandson?

9. Which acts of ordinary faithfulness earlier in the book now look different because you know where the story leads?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice

What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see
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Session 16 - The Genealogy Changes the Scale

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Ruth 4:18-22; Matthew 1:1-6

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. Why does the genealogy matter to the meaning of the book?

2. Which ordinary decisions now appear more significant because David stands at the end of the genealogy?

3. Does Ruth know the eventual significance of her choices while she is making them?

4. How does the genealogy change the way you understand providence?

5. What later canonical connection does Matthew make with Ruth?

6. Why should we allow Ruth's Davidic ending to speak before rushing immediately to later conclusions?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice
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What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see
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Session 17 - What About Ruth Being a Moabite?

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Deuteronomy 23:3-6; Ruth 1:16-17; 2:11-12; 4:9-22

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. What does Deuteronomy 23:3-6 actually say, and what reason does the passage give?

2. What facts does the book of Ruth give us about Ruth's allegiance, reputation, marriage, and place in the genealogy?

3. Why should one passage not be used to make the other disappear?

4. Which proposed explanations have you heard, and which parts are text versus later interpretation?

5. What would a satisfactory interpretation need to account for from both passages?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice
What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see

Session 18 - Open Your Bible - The Whole Book

OPEN YOUR BIBLE Ruth 1-4

Read the passage before answering. Record the evidence first. Let Scripture interpret Scripture, and distinguish what the text states from what requires inference.

1. How does Naomi change from chapter 1 to chapter 4?

2. Where does Ruth make faithful decisions without knowing the outcome?

3. Where do you see Boaz living according to Yehovah's instructions?

4. Where does Boaz go beyond minimum compliance?

5. How do the gleaning instructions shape the story?

6. What does the book teach about the treatment of foreigners, widows, and the poor?

7. How does Boaz use power, and what contrast do you see between exploitation and protection?

8. Where do you see chesed in Ruth's actions?

9. Where do you see chesed in Boaz's actions?

10. How do Yehovah's providence and ordinary human decisions interact?

11. Why should Ruth not become a method for declaring every coincidence a divine sign?

12. What does Ruth 3 actually say about the threshing-floor encounter, and what conclusions go beyond the text?

13. How do family redemption and levirate-marriage concerns overlap without being identical?

14. What does the nearer redeemer's refusal reveal, and what does the narrator not say about him?

15. Why does Boaz's public handling of the matter at the gate matter?

16. Why does the narrator continue identifying Ruth as a Moabite?

17. How should Ruth and Deuteronomy 23 both remain in our interpretation?

18. Why does the genealogy matter?

19. How does knowing that Obed becomes David's grandfather change the way you see earlier ordinary decisions?

20. Where in your own life are you tempted to believe ordinary faithfulness cannot matter because you cannot see a larger result?

21. What is the next faithful thing Yehovah has placed in front of you?

Faithfulness in the Ordinary

Ordinary circumstance	Faithful choice
What it protects / provides	What the person cannot yet see

Whole-Book Theme Trace

Use the final reread to trace the threads that hold Ruth together. Write the verse references and a short observation beside each theme.

Theme	Observations / References
Emptiness / fullness	
Food / harvest	
Chesed / kindness / loyalty	
Foreigner / belonging	
Refuge / wings	
Land / redemption	

Power / protection	
Family / offspring	
Yehovah's explicit action	
Ordinary providence	

My Conclusion

After reading the whole book, write your own answer before returning to Sasha's Final Thought: What does Ruth teach about faithfulness when you cannot see the ending?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with ten horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary-ruled notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

One next faithful thing Yehovah has placed in front of me:

Further Study

What Is Torah? → [/what-is-torah](#)

Faithful in the Ordinary → [/faithful-in-the-ordinary](#)

Use these only after completing the Ruth passages for yourself. The goal is not to replace the text with another teaching; it is to keep following Scripture after you have recorded your own observations.