



PORTRAITS of FAITH

Community Group Discussion Guide

March 20, 2016

Week 3 | The Courage of Ruth
Ruth 1-4

Introduction: We're in week three of a 3-week series we've titled *Portraits of Faith*. This short series tracks with the 365 reading in Scripture. It looks at three individuals in three books: Joshua from the book of Joshua, Gideon from the book of Judges, & Ruth from the book of Ruth.

Questions for Study

1. In Ruth 1:1 we discover the setting for the story that makes up this short book. The events recorded took place “in the days when the judges ruled.” Have someone summarize, from the book of Judges, what those days were like.
2. Read Ruth 1:1-5 and summarize in a sentence or two what has taken place.
3. Read Ruth 1:8 & 1:16-18. What has happened that offers hope in what seems like a hopeless situation for Naomi?
4. Look at Ruth 1:19-21. How would you describe Naomi and her assumptions about her circumstances?
5. Ruth ends up gleaning in the field of Boaz, who treats her favorably. Ruth 2:20 tells us Boaz was one of their “guardian-redeemers.” What was the role of this redeemer, according to the following verses from the law of Moses?
 - Deuteronomy 25:5-6
 - Leviticus 25:23-28

- more questions on back -

Questions For Study (Cont'd)

6. Read Ruth 3:1-11. When Ruth goes to Boaz informing him that he is a redeemer, what is she asking of him, according to the Deuteronomy and Leviticus passages above?

7. Look at Ruth 3:12-18. What was Boaz's response to Ruth's request?

8. Read Ruth 4:16-22. How do these final verses provide the primary reason for which the Bible tells us this story of one family living during the time of the judges?

9. What do we learn in this story about the absolute life-changing power of friendship, seen between Ruth and Naomi?
 - What causes Ruth to stay with Naomi in the first place?
 - What other change does the love of Naomi lead to in Ruth's life?

10. What can you recall from the sermon about how God works (and gives signs of hope) even in the seemingly mundane circumstances of everyday life?

11. What are some of the incredible things that God has put in your life (or *kept* in your life) that you have been blinded to? How can you thank the Lord for these things more often?

12. Someone read aloud Ephesians 2:11-22. What key words or phrases jump out to you that describe Ruth and her experience? How does her experience help us to understand what our lives are like outside of Christ and what it means to be united to Him?