

Ruth: The Greatest Love Story of All Time

Lesson 1: (18:00)

Opening Prayer

Introduce the Lesson

What is the Greatest Love Story of All Time? Do you have a candidate? By the end of the study, I believe I will have made such a strong case, that you will agree with me! We will dig into not only the biblical narrative, but also the prophetic story found in symbolism beneath the surface. Stay with it, because you will be amazed at all that the Holy Spirit put into this text!

Each of the four lessons will be a verse by verse study of one chapter of the Book of Ruth. You may wish to read the chapter before or after watching the video. Then, look up the scriptures listed below, and finally journal some of the questions that are interesting to you. Finally, there are some very short dramatizations for you to watch for each lesson, and sometimes a link for further study. Enjoy falling in love with Jesus all over again!

Scriptures: Ruth 1, Hosea 12:10,

Genesis 19:36-37 (Lot/Moab), Numbers 22-25 (Moab)

2 Kings 3:26-27 (Chemosh).

Verses for Israel as God's bride: Isaiah 54:4-8, Jeremiah 31:31-32, Hosea 2, Jeremiah 2:2

Verses for the Church as Christ's bride: Rev. 21:2, Eph. 5:25-27, Rev 19:7-9, Romans 11:17-24

Questions:

1. When things get hard in life, what is your response? Naomi and her husband fled the country and went to Moab. Do you think it was a good idea? Why or why not?
2. What should our response be in a time of national crisis?
3. Do you have a candidate for the greatest love story of all time? What story would it be?
4. What new thing stood out to you the most in studying chapter 1? What questions do you have?
5. Have you ever taken an oath, like the one that Ruth took, to stay with and care for Naomi? What was the oath?

Further Study: Who are the Moabites?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qM2aByYM1cM>

Part 2

In Chapter 2, we follow the narrative of Ruth gleaning in the fields of Boaz.
What field does God want you gleaning in right now? (18:13)

Scriptures: Ruth 2, Leviticus 9:9-10, 23:22,
Deut. 24:19-22 (Law of Gleaning),
Matthew 13:24-30 (Parable of the Wheat and the Tares),
Matthew 13:36-43 (Parable of the Wheat and Tares/Explained)

Questions:

1. What character traits of Boaz can be seen in the text in Chapter 2? What do we know about him already?
2. Do you think the Law of Gleaning would work in our culture today? Why or why not?
3. Boaz took notice of Ruth right from the first and began to care for her. What things did he do that showed his love for her right from the start? How do these things relate to how Christ cares for us?
4. What was Ruth's response to Boaz's attention? What were her attitudes and emotions? How can we tell?
5. Why did God prohibit marrying "foreign" women? Does God say anything about that in the New Testament? Was this only for Israel, or is it for us as well?
6. Has God ever left you "handfuls" of blessings? What happened? Were you surprised? What do you think Ruth is thinking at this point, when the reapers are leaving handfuls for her to glean? What is going through her mind now?
7. What field does God want you to be working in right now? Where is your focus?

Further Study:

To learn more about barley, click the link below.

<https://ww2.odu.edu/~lmusselm/plant/bible/Barley.php>

Part 3:

In Part 3, Patti discusses the threshing floor scene, found in Chapter 3. She also teaches about the Law of Levirate Marriage, and the Law of Redemption. (18:49)

Scriptures: Ruth 3, Deut. 25:5-10, Leviticus 25: 47-55

Matthew 3:12, Deut 22:30, Isaiah 61:10, Luke 8:40-48, 1 Samuel 24:4, Ezekiel 16:8, Ephesians 5:27, 2 Timothy 2:21, Romans 12:1

Questions:

1. Do you think there is anything significant about the fact that this narrative happens at the time of the spring harvest festivals, that is, Passover and Pentecost? (Feast of Unleavened Bread, Barley,, Feast of Weeks, (wheat)
2. Why do you think God wanted all of the land to "stay in the family."
3. How does learning about the Law of Redemption change your view of the concept of redemption?
4. What part of this lesson was the most interesting to you and why?
5. How does Boaz resemble Christ in this lesson?
6. Can you find any more examples of how our "types" match their roles in this lesson?
7. Think about this. What does it really mean to be redeemed personally by Christ?

Part 4

In Part 4, Patti completes her teaching on the book, sharing the scene at the city gate, in which Boaz agrees to become Ruth's Kinsman-Redeemer. Patti relates the love story as an example of what Christ does for us, choosing to become our Redeemer. She also teaches from Revelation 5, discussing how Christ is returning to redeem the earth. (24:00)

Scriptures:

Ruth 4, Genesis 3, Rev. 5: 1-9, Romans 8:23, Galatians 3:13, 4:5, Romans 8:3, Rev. 7:4-8, Rev 14:1, Zechariah 13:8

Questions:

1. Which part of this lesson stood out to you the most and why?
2. How does what Boaz did for Ruth resemble what Christ did for us?
3. How would you explain to a non believer what it means to be redeemed by Christ?
4. In the last days, Jesus Christ will be revealed to the earth as the rightful owner of the property. Why was Jesus the only one who was found to open the scroll? What was the scroll?
5. Who were the 144,000? What happens to them in the millenium?
6. What field is Jesus asking you to glean in right now? Why is it important to stay in that field and not try to glean elsewhere?
7. What does Jesus promise us if we indeed stay close to Him?
8. What is your greatest take away from this study?

Credits:

Much of the research and many of the concepts taught in this lesson come from the Commentary of the Book of Ruth by Dr. Chuck Missler. Other resources are listed by link on the website.