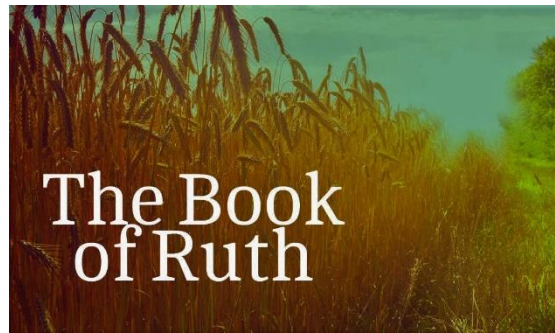




You're Welcome Here!



Series – Ruth

Study Guide 1: Introduction and Chapter 1

Week Commencing 30th June 2019

Please read **Ruth 1.1-13**

1. Why do you think Naomi had second thoughts about taking Orpah and Ruth back to Judah with her? What fears might she have had for the younger Moabite widows?

Please read **Ruth 1.14-18**

2. Ruth's decision to stay with Naomi would be costly and sacrificial for her - especially at a time where she is struggling with her own grief and vulnerability. Why does she do it?
3. Naomi urges the Moabite women to return home to their families. Orpah returns but Ruth will not. What do you think this passage reveals about Ruth's understanding of 'family'?
4. Ruth chooses to promise/ covenant herself to Naomi and to her God and to her people. Why is this significant for both Ruth and Naomi and their future together?
5. Ruth's decisions and attitudes towards Naomi (and her people) appear to be recorded to offer us a good example of God's ideals for His covenant people. How might we take inspiration from Ruth in our commitment to God's ideals today – especially towards 'family' and those in vulnerable need around us?

Please read **Ruth 1.19-22**

6. Why, in the middle of trouble or grief, is it tempting to feel the way that Naomi feels here about God and about herself as 'afflicted' by God?
7. As the story unfolds, in what ways does God reveal to Naomi that, despite her strong feelings of being afflicted, she is in fact being continuously loved by Him, and that He wants to bless her and not to curse her life and future?