

Major Event: SETTLEMENT

Lesson 5: Devotion of Ruth

Scriptures: Ruth Chapters 1 and 2

Central Text: Ruth 1:15-16

15 Then she said, "Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods; return after your sister-in-law." 16 But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. *Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.*

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

- The story begins in the times of the Judges. Elimelech took his wife Naomi along with his two sons, Mahlon and Chilion to Moab to escape the famine. Mahlon and Chilion both married Moabite women named Orpah and Ruth. All the men of the family died and the women of the family were left alone. Notice that leaving the land and foreign marriages were forbidden for God's covenant people. (Ruth 1:2-5)
- Naomi returns to Judah after hearing the famine is over. She asks Orpah and Ruth to return to their families, but they initially refuse. Notice that Naomi finally recognizes the hand of the Lord is against her and she needs to return the promised land. Is Ruth bitter towards the Lord or is she returning to the Lord in recognizing her situation? (Ruth 1:6-13)
- Ruth's devotion to God and to Naomi are revealed when she refuses to leave Naomi's side and return to her family. Naomi and Ruth return to Judah and stay in Bethlehem. Ruth was now a Jew and worshipped the One and only God, she had no place back with her unbelieving Moabite family. (Ruth 1:14-18)
- Naomi confesses her sin and says her name should be "Mara" for bitterness because she left out full and returned back to Israel empty. (Ruth 1:19-22)
- Boaz is introduced. Ruth knowing that through Levitical law they have the right to glean the fields, asks Naomi for permission to glean after the barley harvest. Ruth gleans the fields and enters the fields of Boaz, a sign of God's providence over our lives. (Ruth 2:1-3)
- Boaz meets Ruth. Boaz has already heard of her devotion to Naomi and is already impressed with her. Again another sign of the providence of God in our lives. (Ruth 2:4-7)
- Boaz blesses and provides for Ruth. Notice the similarity of how the Lord blesses and provides for us. (Ruth 2:8-23).

Suggested Attributes for Teacher to Cover:

1. Of God: Righteousness, Holiness, Grace
2. Of Man: Dependence on God, Lack of Faithfulness, Pride

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home: Judges 1, Leviticus 23, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Deuteronomy 32

Notes: The Law found in Leviticus 23:22 is shown in the book of Ruth (Ruth 2:1-3).
22 *When you reap the harvest of your land, moreover, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field nor gather the gleaning of your harvest; you are to leave them for the needy and the alien. I am the LORD your God.*
Ruth, although being a Gentile, knew she had a right to glean the field after the harvest.
Boaz was a righteous man and was following the Law by not gleaning the field.