

Ruth

Week 2 Discussion: Ruth 1-5 (ESV)

To prepare for group discussion, please do the following four steps

1. Read the scripture passage uniquely to absorb what it says, i.e., slowly, with voice inflection, hand actions, etc.
2. Read again for observation, marking the text.
 - Underline any words that create a **comment** or **question (to study)** in your mind.
 - In the margin space between sentences or on the blank Scripture Journal page or notebook, reference the verse and **write your comment** or **study notes** about the underlined text.
 - Highlight Categories found in the text using the Ruth Color Coding chart.
3. Meditate on the things you observed.
 - If, like me, you find it hard to be still, write prayer thoughts about what you relate to in the text, then summarize them into a prayer.
4. Pray the summarized prayer and/or simply reread the text. Contemplate God's Word while quieting yourself and listening for the Spirit to speak to you.

Below is NOT an assignment. It is an optional resource that provides for those looking for direction or ideas about how and what to study.

- Read Judges 19, 21:25. What were “the days” like referred to in Ruth 1:1?
- Write the meaning of the following words found in the text
 - Bethlehem
 - Judah
 - Moab
 - Ephrathites
- Write the meaning of the following names
 - Elimelech
 - Naomi
 - Mahlon
 - Chilion
 - Orpah
 - Ruth
- Using the blank Map of Israel and a study resource, write the location of Bethlehem and the location of Moab on the map. Draw a north route (versus a south route) that Elimelech, Naomi, and their sons may have traveled from Israel to get to Moab. The more research you do, the more exact the route line may become. Remember, this is your study. Do only what time allows YOU.
- Who were the Moabites? Where did they originate from? Read Numbers 25:1-2 to see why God specifically forbade intermarriage with Moabites.
- Read Joshua 23: What kind of relationship were the Israelites to have with the Moabites and other surrounding peoples?

Step # 2 Example: Below is an example of what my scripture journal text page looks like showing “how to” mark the text. Note that my observation of **comments** are shown in orange and the things I want to **Study** are in green. I am also exemplifying the highlighting of categories as provided for on the Ruth color coding chart.

1 ^{Read Judges 19, 21:25} ^{Who/what were judges} In the days when the judges ruled, there was a **famine in the** ^{Highlight color for God's Providence}
land, ^{Meaning} and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the ^{Highlight color to look up parallel versions}
country of Moab, ^{Meaning} he and his wife and his two sons. **2** The name of the man was Elimelech ^{Meaning} and the name of his wife Naomi, ^{Meaning} and the names of his two sons were Mahlon ^{Meaning} and Chilion. ^{Meaning} They were ^{Who are they, origin?} Ephrathites ^{Using the blank map, draw a route between Bethlehem and Moab} from Bethlehem in Judah. ^{Did Elimelech disobey God by leaving Israel?} They went into the country of Moab ^{Origin?} and remained there. **3** But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. **4** These took ^{Read Numbers 25:1-2} Moabite wives; ^{Meaning} the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. ^{Consider why they stayed so long} They lived there about ten years, **5** and both ^{Highlight color for God's Providence} **Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.** ^{Imagine life, the responsibility, the weight, as a woman, in this era, forced to be the family Patriarch}

Scripture Prayer thoughts

Step # 3 Example:

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a

Thank you Lord that you gave me life in a place abundant with food, clothing and shelter

man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he

Thank you Lord that of the 3 states I've lived, Christianity is accepted and practiced in 2 of them.

and his wife and his two sons. **2** The name of the man was Elimelech and

the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon

Thank you Lord for my 2 sons. I continue to pray for their return to you.

and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went

Just as the Ephrathites, I am founded (though grafted) in You Lord!

into the country of Moab and remained there. **3** But Elimelech, the

husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. **4** These took

Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other

Thank you for Lorena, who gave me 2 grandsons, and Kaylynn, who remains loyal to my son in marriage.

Ruth. They lived there about ten years, **5** and both Mahlon and Chilion

died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

I pray Lord to never loose my husband and sons before their normal life expectancy.

Prayer thoughts summary:

Thank you, Lord, for the physical provisions You've given me in my life.

Thank you for taking me out of a pagan land where you are not worshiped.

Thank you that I am now surrounded by believers who love your name.

You know the deep desires of my heart for my two sons to turn their hearts

and minds back to you, to know the truth. I thank You, Lord, that I have

been grafted into your family, that my roots are founded in You, that I know

who I am in You. Thank you for my daughters-in-law, Lorena, who birthed

my two grandsons with Dustin, and Kaylynn, who loves Michael and

remains faithful to him and their marriage. Bless my son's households,

Lord. Keep our family members, including Jessica, our "23&me" found

daughter unified, faithful, and safely held in Your hands. I pray, Lord, to

never lose my husband and sons or daughters before their normal life

expectancy, feeling the pain of the loss as Naomi did. I ask you to protect

their health, guard their steps, and grant us many peace filled years

together.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Step # 4 Example:

If you did not write prayer thoughts and summarize them, simply read the scripture text again, then get quiet and listen for what the Spirit may say to you. Tip: Set an alarm for a few minutes; decisively stay quiet for that time.

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. **2** The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. **3** But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. **4** These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, **5** and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.