

# Ruth Study Guide

*A Simple Guide for Reflection and Preparation*

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## 1. PRAY

Begin with prayer. Ask God to... *“Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.” — Psalm 119:18*

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## 2. READ

Read the whole book (it’s only 4 short chapters). Read it multiple times and in different ways:

- Alone and with others
- Silently and aloud
- In one sitting and chapter by chapter
- In more than one translation

The more you read it, the more you’ll notice!

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## 3. REFLECT

Grab a pencil and paper and note down what you’ve observed.

The following are some example questions to help you get started:

### A. Setting – Time, Place, and Circumstances

- When is this story taking place in Israel’s history?
- What’s life like in Bethlehem and Moab?
- What challenges do widows, women, and foreigners face?
- What role does a “kinsman redeemer” play in the story?

### B. Characters – *Who’s in the story?*

- List the major characters.
- Who seems to be the “main” character?
- Who speaks the most? Who acts the most?
- Who reminds you of Jesus, and how?

### C. Plot – *What happens?*

- Is this a story that leads to sadness or joy?
- What crisis or dilemma starts the story?
- What are the major turning points?
  - Who makes decisions?
  - Why do they choose what they do?
  - What are the consequences of their decisions?

### D. Themes – *What are the big ideas?*

- Note repeated words or phrases in the book that stand out.
- Note anything surprising or unexpected. Where do you see someone doing something out of the ordinary? Good or bad.
- Note things that the people in this account make much of.
- As you think through those things... what would you say are the key concepts the book of Ruth is about?

### E. Application – *What does it mean for me?*

- What does this account teach you about God?
- Which characters do you relate to and in what way?
- Which characters inspire you and how?
- How does the story of Ruth invite you to trust God more deeply in the ordinary, difficult, or uncertain seasons of your life—and to reflect His kindness and faithfulness to others in those same places?