

# RESCUE AND REST



A Devotional Bible Study  
on the Book of Ruth  
by Sue LeBoutillier

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❧ *Rescue and Rest* ❧  
*Lessons from the Book of Ruth*

Dear Friend,

The book of Ruth is my favorite story in the Bible. Oddly enough, the timeframe in which it takes place is my least favorite part of the Bible — the time of the Judges. That was a very dark period in Israel’s history. God’s people had turned from Him, they had embraced the surrounding culture of idols, and they reaped the unfortunate consequences. But, I believe the highlight of God’s rescue mission in Ruth shines even brighter against the dark backdrop that those days produced.

**Historically**, this book details God’s timely rescue of one ancient Moabite woman, who, in turn, found herself in the lineage of Israel’s great King — David.

**Spiritually**, this short work illustrates God’s rescue mission for each one of us, as He graciously guides us to just the right place, where we might know and understand His love, and ultimately find the rest that our souls crave through the redeeming power of His Son.

The journey through Ruth could truly be described as, *“The Romance of Redemption.”* This tender and engaging love story of Boaz and Ruth is what we all crave and cheer for, as we read it. And the love story that it symbolizes — the Gospel of Jesus Christ — is just as tender and engaging, and we honestly crave that as well!

As you begin your Bible study each week, here are some suggestions as to how to approach this study of God’s Word:

- **Pray** for God to enlighten your mind and minister to your heart, as you approach the Scriptures.
- **Read** the passage indicated for that day — sometimes reading aloud is a good strategy to learn familiar Scriptures in new ways.

- **Write** the verses assigned for that day in a journal or notebook. The act of handwriting is one of my favorite techniques to slow us down and help us process each word we write. AND we also end up with a copy of the book of Ruth (all 85 verses) written in our own hand.
- **Answer** the simple questions in your Study Guide and apply the challenges and thoughts to your own life. These will be a great resource in your small group discussions.
- **Participate** in a discussion group, if possible — even if it's just you and a friend. Sharing with other women, as you communicate your thoughts and listen to their discoveries and perspectives, is an important part of community life.

Wherever you are or whatever type of a group you are gathering with to study together, I pray that the Lord will richly bless you, as you learn to know Him better through His Word—

*Sue LeBoutillier*

sue@ccontario.com

To watch the video teachings for this Bible Study go to:  
 ccontario.com or  
 YouTube.com/calvarychapelontario

\*The best translation of the Bible to use is the one you understand the most easily—and using more than one translation can be a great aid to study! This study guide was created using a combination of the NIV (New International Version) and the ESV (English Standard Version), both of which may be helpful tools as you work through your study.



## Week One — Introduction Ruth 1:1-2

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Use these pages for note-taking with the introductory teaching video.  
([www.ccontario.com/wow-ruth](http://www.ccontario.com/wow-ruth))

If you are studying in a group, the questions on page 6 may provide some good discussion starters following the video.

### Ruth 1:1-2 —

Who was the author of Ruth?

In what time period of history did these events happen?

List the family members, introduced in **v.2**, on the lines below and draw little stick characters to depict each one:

\_\_\_\_\_

What was the family's place of residence before the famine?

\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
(town) (tribal area)

Where did they head due of the famine? \_\_\_\_\_  
(country)

### Names and their meanings:

Elimelech \_\_\_\_\_

Naomi \_\_\_\_\_

Bethlehem \_\_\_\_\_

Judah \_\_\_\_\_

Moab \_\_\_\_\_



## Questions for Thought & Discussion

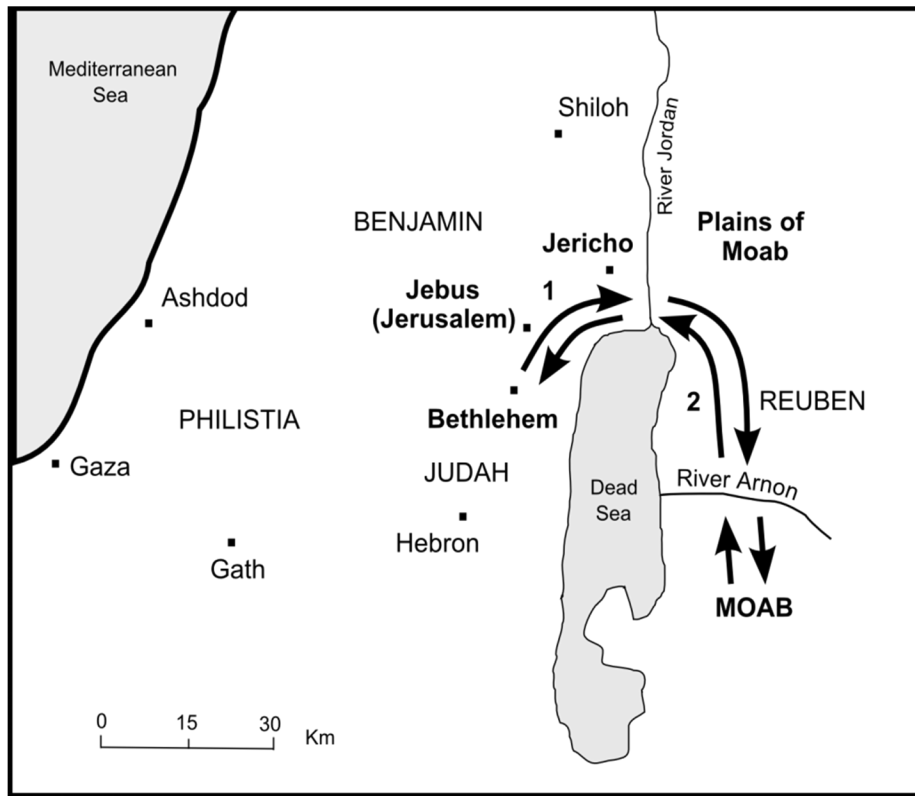
### **For Fun:**

- If you had to relocate somewhere for exactly one year--where would you sojourn?
  
- What is one thing in your life that you couldn't live without?

### **For Serious** (to share or just ponder):

- What one thing, if found lacking in your life, might tempt you to distance yourself from the Lord?
1. Naomi and Elimelech lived during the time of the Judges. How was the complexity of that culture similar to yours?
  
  2. What was lacking in Naomi and Elimelech's life that caused them to leave the land God had promised and given them?
  
  3. What do you think may have kept Elimelech from crying out to God, and trusting God for provision during the famine?
  
  4. We too face difficulties, trials, and setbacks — these can prevent us from going to the Lord as well. What causes you to delay in asking God for help and how can you change that?

# The Journey of Elimelech and Naomi



- 1) The journey of Elimelech's family from Bethlehem to Moab
- 2) The journey of Naomi and Ruth from Moab to Bethlehem
- 2) The journey of Joshua and the children of Israel into the Land of Promise

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,  
and I will give you *rest* —  
You will find *rest* for your souls!  
— Matthew 11:28-29 (ESV)

## Week Two — Ruth 1:3-13

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Every good storyteller or playwright carefully arranges the *opening* and *setting* of their story so that the audience's imagination will make the narrative come to life. By the time any dialog or drama happens, the reader has a pretty solid understanding of the time, place, economic status, and perhaps even values of the main characters.

The writer of the book of Ruth only gave us a few names, places, and details but, since we possess a wealth of supporting Biblical context, (particularly from the book of Judges), those first two verses have already laid a solid foundation from which to build upon this week.

### Day 1:

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🔗 **READ** and **WRITE Ruth 1:1-5** in your journal.

During the days when the Judges ruled, when Israel turned from God and turned to idols, God would strengthen the hand of her enemies. Israel's life became difficult. God intended for His people to turn to Him, to cry out and seek Him, so He could rescue them.

Sometimes, God used other difficulties than merely surrounding enemies. In fact, He promised that He would use a variety of adversities to get their attention if they turned away from Him.

Read **Deuteronomy 28:1-6, 15, 38-40**. Summarize God's promised blessings and curses:

- How do you think the current famine fit into that promise?

We just got familiar with this family and tragedy struck — Elimelech died! Naomi became a widow, completely dependent on her two sons, who both took wives from the women of Moab, after Dad died.



Read **Deuteronomy 7:1-4**. Explain the disconnect between this family's decisions regarding marriage and God's Law:

Make a new diagram of figures (like last week) to represent the current family, as described through **v.4** (after one funeral and two weddings). List their names above the line and their country of origin below the line.

\_\_\_\_\_ Naomi \_\_\_\_\_

- How many years passed in Moab (**v.4**)?

More tragedy! Read **v.5** and then strike a line through the figures above to represent the remaining family members after 10+ years in Moab. Now, there are no male family members to lean upon. In any culture, this is unfortunate, but at a time when there were not readily available jobs for women, this must have invited desperation!

Five verses have taken us from a happy family, called by God's name, living in Bethlehem (the House of Bread), to a trail of death and hopelessness. Maybe Naomi wasn't all *for* the Moab decision, or maybe she'd been the one pushing her husband to *do something—anything!*

As we move through this Bible Study, we'll take time to process your own journey, as we're inspired by the various characters in this story.

For example:

- Have *you* experienced a difficult turn of events in your life?
- Have *you* ended up in a situation you never thought you'd face?
- Have *you* been the one to turn from God's blessing, only to discover, like Naomi, that life had turned harsh, tragic, and lonely?

You will have an opportunity to compose your own *Story of Redemption* by the time we finish our seven-week study together.

## Day 2:

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📖 READ and WRITE Ruth 1:6-7 in your journal.

Naomi still had her two daughters-in-law but v.5 said, “*the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.*” Because of the deaths of all of the men in her family, she had lost all basic provision in life, as well as a sense of belonging.

- When the text said, “*she had heard in the fields of Moab,*” what does that hint about what Naomi was doing and where?
- What *news* did she receive regarding Judah (v.6)?
- Write Naomi’s current location and where she decided to head to:

\_\_\_\_\_ —> \_\_\_\_\_

They say *you can never go home!* I suppose that means it’s never the same, the *home* you once knew, isn’t the same *home* when you return. There is some truth to that, but in this case, it was worth a try!

- Describe some of the emotional challenges you imagine Naomi must have faced as she made the decision to return:

The root word of *return* is *turn*. Return basically means *to turn again*.

That is such a beautiful reminder of our journey with God,  
He always allows another *turn*.

In Naomi's case, her feet were moving in the right direction, but we'll find that her heart, emotions, and motives were not always in total agreement. That's okay! There's something commendable when one takes the proper steps (literally in this case), even if their heart isn't completely on board, even if there are emotional reservations.

- List everyone who started off from Moab to Judah (v.7):

## Day 3

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 READ and WRITE Ruth 1:8-9 in your journal.

Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah were all headed on the road to Judah — their backs turned on their tragic life in Moab.

- Suddenly, what did Naomi suggest these girls do (v.8)?
- She recommended that they return to Moab and find \_\_\_\_\_ in the house of \_\_\_\_\_. Basically, she told them to find new men and do what (v.9)? \_\_\_\_\_

This seems like a sudden departure from her original plan and makes us wonder why. Why didn't she want the girls to return to Judah with her? Wouldn't they have a better life with her? Wouldn't it be a positive thing for them to be surrounded by people who worshiped the one true God, rather than the idols of their homeland?

Let's make a short list of some possible reasons Naomi might not have wanted the girls to accompany her back to Judah:

- How much do you think she was looking forward to introducing her son's *Moabite* widows to her friends and family?
- How easy do you think it would be for *Moabite* women to even find husbands in Israel? (To answer that question, you may want to review **Numbers 25**, which chronicles Israel's season of sexual immorality which had been fanned into flame by *Moabite* women.)

What about you? Perhaps, you also have some lingering reminders of a past season in your life. Maybe you can relate to emotional roadblocks.

- How often do you like to be reminded of how someone else's disobedience has affected your life?
- How fond are you of carrying around permanent reminders of a personal season of disobedience?

Living with the past is one thing, but parading those reminders in front of family and friends can really bruise our pride.

Read **Romans 8:28**. How does this Scripture speak to our past issues?

- How have you dealt (either positively or negatively) with these types of lingering reminders that are part of your life? Explain.

## *Day 4:*

 **READ** and **WRITE Ruth 1:10-13** in your journal.

- After Naomi's initial appeal, what was the answer from both ladies about returning to Moab (**v.10**)?
- What did Naomi mean in **v.11-12**?

Naomi clearly had fragile emotions at that point. From **v.13**:

- What was her description of how she felt inside?
- Whom did she blame for her current set of circumstances?
- Why do you think she was able to shift the blame in that way?

We can all end up in situations that tempt us to become bitter. We can relate to her words. But, of the three ladies on the road that day, Naomi was the ONE who at least knew about God — maybe we expected a bit more from her.

- How did her emotions affect her current opportunity to lead Ruth and Orpah to know God, and to trust Him?
- What potential benefit could have happened if she had been able to overcome her self-inflicted bitterness?

We said before that Naomi's feet were pointed in the right direction, but her heart was calloused. Has that ever been your experience? Read these verses and journal how they might relate to your life:

**Psalm 32:1-2**

**Psalm 51:17**

You have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.  
— Psalm 16:5-6 (NIV)



## Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Can you personally relate to Naomi's experience of being a prodigal? If you are willing, share with your group.
2. Are you praying for someone, who seems to be on the journey from Judah to Moab? In what way are you praying for them?
3. God had told His people not to intermarry with the pagan nations around them. Read **2 Corinthians 6:14-16**. What does this passage mean for New Testament Christians?
4. Explain what may have happened among the people of Judah that caused God to *visit His people and give them food (v.6)*:
5. What would be your advice to someone hesitant to return to church because they had been in prodigal land and might be *returning* with scars?
6. How can the Body of Christ respond to people who are *returning*, to create the best possible environment for them to flourish?

## Week Three — Ruth 1:14– 22

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This week we'll walk side-by-side with those three ladies along the dry, dusty road from Moab to Bethlehem. In my mind, it was hot, there was sweat, there were tears, there were words, there was drama. Road trips seem to have a way of either bonding or breaking us, and that's exactly what happened.

### Day 1:

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✞ READ and WRITE Ruth 1:14-15 in your journal.

What a desperate moment for these women as they were undoubtedly still moving through stages of grief. There weren't great choices facing any of them, either way they turned, as they each had to make their final decision — Bethlehem or Moab.

- Describe their general emotional state (v.14):
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What words in v.15 confirm the spiritual climate of the pagan culture this family had lived among?
  - Like Naomi and Ruth, Orpah *set out on the road* to Judah, just a little closer to the God of Israel with each step.
  - Like Naomi and Ruth, she was *weeping* and hurting and in need of comfort.
  - Unlike Naomi and Ruth, she stopped short of her destination and *returned* to Moab and her gods.

It's sad. We would have wanted to see Orpah finish the journey, arrive in Bethlehem, come to know the God of Israel and graft herself into the covenant people — like other foreigners before her. But she stopped short of that destination and returned to Moab.



Not everyone who begins, finishes well. We might even find some similarities between *Orpah on the path to Judah* and the *parable of the farmer sowing seed* on the path of life.

Read **Mark 4:3-8, 14-20** and list any similarities that you find:

## Day 2: \_\_\_\_\_

🌀 **READ** and **WRITE Ruth 1:16-18** in your journal.

Unlike Orpah, Ruth clung to Naomi and remained steadfast on the entire journey to Judah. If we were to parallel Ruth's decision with one of the seed types from our parable yesterday, how would you characterize her?

Read **Isaiah 56:6-8**. How does this passage speak to Ruth's situation and her decision to accompany Naomi to Bethlehem?

**Verses 16-17** could be titled *Ruth's song*. We find these words on wedding invitations and wall art — they flow in such an elegant

manner that it almost inspires us to search for a melody to match.  
List each of Ruth's declarations to Naomi from those two verses:

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- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

I think the most compelling phrase is, "*...and your God, my God!*"

Read **Deuteronomy 23:3-6**.

- Did our Moabitess know she would be excluded from Israel?
- Did she know the Law was against her?

Read **Ephesians 2:12**.

- Do WE understand that God's Law excludes us from His presence in the same way?
- Explain how our dilemma runs parallel to that of Ruth:

Read **Ephesians 2:4-6**.

- Explain God's remedy that allows us to be included:

## Day 3:

📖 READ and WRITE Ruth 1:19-21 in your journal.

We've examined both Orpah's and Ruth's decisions on that road — one moving forward toward the people and God of Israel, and one returning. Now we're going to explore Naomi's thoughts and actions!

- What type of a reaction was produced by Naomi's return to the town of Bethlehem (v.19)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What was Naomi's response to their comments (v.20)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Can you guess what the name *Mara* means based on Naomi's usage? (After you guess, you may look it up in a Bible Dictionary.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- In v.20-21, Naomi responded to her old friends by itemizing how God had dealt badly or unjustly with her. List the phrases:
  - 
  - 
  - 
  -

She was quick to point out to everyone what her life was like when she left Judah all those years ago, compared to her return (v.21):

*I went away \_\_\_\_\_.*

*The Lord brought me back \_\_\_\_\_.*

So, that was how she chose to characterize God's hand in her life — everything was HIS fault! Remember, God didn't distance Himself from Naomi; she and her husband were the ones who had created a distance from God and His people.

Someone could have tried to point out the obvious: *'But, Naomi, you were the one who left...this wasn't God's fault!'* But she wouldn't have heard it because the loudest voice that day was her own heart.

Read **Jeremiah 17:9**. What do you learn about the reliability of your heart (which informs your emotions)?

Read **Luke 6:45**. Why is it important to deal with our emotions, like anger and bitterness?

Read **Psalms 107:4-9**. How could meditating on a Psalm like this change our emotional outlook?

"Do not be afraid to tell God exactly how you feel,  
He's already read your thoughts anyway.  
Don't tell the whole world.  
God can take it--when others can't.  
Then listen for His answer."  
— Elisabeth Elliott

## Day 4:

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📖 READ and WRITE Ruth 1:22 in your journal.

- In v.22, we're told of an agricultural event happening at the same time as Naomi's re-entrance to Bethlehem. What was it?

This is fascinating — while Naomi was nursing bitterness toward God regarding her past misfortunes; God was crafting the perfect environment to bless Naomi! And the blessing would extend past Naomi, to Ruth and ultimately to all of the peoples of the earth.

Let's consider all the implications of the barley harvest:

- It was a sure sign that the famine was indeed over! The rains had come, the crops were successful and now the people in Bethlehem (in the House of Bread) would have bread.
- It was a promise of work for these ladies, since they could glean in the fields after the workers. This would mean food on their table.
- The barley harvest meant it was almost time to celebrate Pass-over. For Naomi, this meant they had arrived just in time to remember God's miraculous deliverance of her people from the land of Egypt.

Naomi also needed something miraculous about now, but she couldn't anticipate God's blessings because of her own internal pain.

We sometimes face the same struggle in our own lives — God is providing and blessing but we can't perceive it because we are angry or bitter.

Read **Psalm 34** and note spiritual advice for Naomi and for YOU!

For Naomi

For Me



## Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Which of the three women on the road back to Judah do you currently identify with the most? Which of them might you have related to, previously in your life?
2. Why do you think the enemy tempts Christians to blame God for the difficulties in our lives? What could be the collateral damage if he is successful?
3. Simply heading to Bethlehem was no guarantee that Ruth or Naomi's stories would turn out well. In what way have you had to make a decision to move forward by faith, trusting that God truly would provide and care for you?
4. What Scripture would you share with someone who confessed to being angry with God due to their circumstances?
5. What actions can a Christian woman take NOW to prepare spiritually for any future set of misfortunes that she may encounter?

Comfort for all who mourn...for those you grieve in Zion,  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and  
a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.  
— Isaiah 61:2-3 (NIV)

## Week Four — Ruth 2:1-23

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We're halfway through our Bible study, and we finally get to meet our hero this week. I've mentioned that this book could really be called *The Book of Boaz* since he is the rescuer — and now we meet him, we observe him, and we learn about his character. Not only do we meet the hero, but so does Ruth — in a most providential way!

### Day 1:

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🔗 READ and WRITE Ruth 2:1-7 in your journal.

As we begin chapter two, we have an entirely new *setting*, and we're introduced to an important new *character*. From v.1-5:

- What did Ruth decide to do to ensure their survival (v.2)?

If you are interested in some historical background on gleaning—Read **Deuteronomy 24:19-22**.

- Describe the new setting Ruth found herself in:
  - What words were used to describe our new character — Boaz?
  - What was his family history, and where was he from?



- Describe Boaz's actions and inquiries as he approached his territory that day (**v.4-5**):
  
- There is a phrase smack dab in the middle of **v.3** that draws attention to what some call *coincidence*, but what the Bible calls *providence*. What is that phrase?

In our own life, we can sometimes be oblivious to divine appointments. In this case, the sovereign God of Naomi's people, not only inspired Ruth to go into the barley field to glean, but directed her steps to one particular field, on one particular day, as one particular man came to check on the progress of his harvest.

## *Day 2:*

 **READ** and **WRITE Ruth 2:8-13** in your journal.

- What were the instructions that Boaz gave Ruth in **v.8-9**?
  
- Here he addressed Ruth as his *daughter*, and back in **v.5**, he inquired about the *young woman*. What do you think this implies about their age difference?

- In **v.9**, what social boundaries did Boaz enforce to ensure Ruth's safety?
- In **v.10**, Ruth responded to Boaz's gestures of kindness with grace and humility. How might she have expected to be treated by the boss?
- In **v.11-12**, what observations did Boaz tell Ruth he had made about her actions and, therefore, her character?

Here is **v.12b**, quoted from the NIV...

*"May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge." (NIV)*

I hope Boaz's statement will become one of your favorite phrases from this study because the Bible actually has a lot to say about God Himself being our *shelter* and our *refuge*, and ultimately our *rest*.

Read the following passages, and meditate on the significance of sheltering in God's care. Note anything the Lord points out to you:

- **Psalm 17:6-9**

- Psalm 27:4-6
- Psalm 36:7-10
- Psalm 61:1-4
- Psalm 91:1-4
- Isaiah 25:4

### Day 3:

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 **READ** and **WRITE** Ruth 2:14-16 in your journal.

- Summarize the special kindness Boaz showed Ruth in these verses:

Read **Matthew 25:35-36, 40**. How do Boaz's actions throughout this chapter line up with exactly the type of compassion Jesus expressed in these verses?

Well, this story has been developing into a unique romance! Boaz and Ruth first laid eyes on each other in the morning, and now they're enjoying their first date at lunch!

- Ruth has taken note of Boaz's care, protection, words of comfort and kindness; and
- Boaz has assessed Ruth's diligence, and discernment that had pointed her in the direction of *the God of Israel* in the first place.

Boaz and Ruth were real people, who lived during a real time period of history. Every love story is interesting —but the greater love story of personal redemption, expressed in this book, is compelling because the people and situations are *types* of a greater spiritual reality!

On the chart below, note any representations that may apply to the different elements of this story (Ruth is given as an example):

<u>Actual Person/Place/Thing</u>	<u>Representation/Symbol of</u>
Ruth	A believer (maybe specifically a Gentile)

Boaz

Boaz's Field

Boaz's Workers

The Grain

In the same way that Boaz instructed his men to make Ruth's gleaning easy (**v.15-16**)—God also goes to great lengths to make His plan of salvation easy for us to understand and receive. He has given us natural signs and symbols to help us.

- Read **Psalm 19:1-6**. What is God's daily reminder for us, in order that we may know and understand Him as our *Creator*?
- Read **Ephesians 5:31-32**. What has God established for us, in everyday life, that helps us to know and understand Him as our *Redeemer/Husband*?

## Day 4:

📖 READ and WRITE Ruth 2:17-23 in your journal.

- What was Naomi's reaction when Ruth returned at the end of the day with her bundle of grain (v.19)?
- The abundance of grain was so great that Naomi suspected it had less to do with Ruth's gleaning skills and more to do with whom?

As Ruth told her mother-in-law about her amazing day, gleaning in the field of **Boaz**, we heard a glimpse of a positive attitude change in Naomi. Even though our story line highlights the *rescue* of Ruth, the parallel story of *restoration* in Naomi is equally compelling.

- What part of Naomi's response in v.20 indicates that her hope is being restored?

### *Preparing Your Own Personal Redemption Story*

If you are a born-again child of God, you too have experienced rescue and rest, and there's a story that goes along with it.

In each of our lives, God has chosen us, revealed Himself to us and given us the opportunity to choose Him back.

Read **Isaiah 43:1**

Read **Ephesians 1:4-7**

If you have chosen to say *yes* to Jesus, *what* were the circumstances of *your* story of redemption? Turn to p.56 in this study guide and read Part One, which will help you think through your own love story in preparation of putting your testimony into words that will be easy to share with others.

If you're not sure that you truly belong to God — this is the perfect time to make sure! Talk with your group leader or reach out to me, and we'll be more than happy to pray with you so that you *are* sure!



## Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Have you experienced a divine appointment similar to Ruth stepping into the field of Boaz? What were the circumstances, and how did you know that God had arranged things for you?
2. Boaz's actions toward Ruth in the field went past the requirements of the Law. His genuine kindness expressed to Ruth (and therefore Naomi) came at a time when they were most vulnerable. How do his actions inspire you to treat people as you go about your daily life?
3. Has there been a time in your life when you needed a fresh promise of hope as badly as Naomi? How did God bring that hope into your life?
4. With what words and Scriptures would you encourage a friend who thinks God has forgotten them?
5. The safest place for Ruth (physically) was to stay in the field of Boaz. Share some reasons why the safest place for a Christian (spiritually) is to remain in a Bible-teaching church.

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,  
"In returning and rest you shall be saved;  
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."  
— Isaiah 30:15 (ESV)

## Week Five — Ruth 3:1-13

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This week, we'll find some precious insights in our Scriptures as God's rescue plan moves forward in Ruth and Naomi's life. This story is about real people, who were faced with real life needs; but it also illustrates spiritual realities and spiritual solutions for all people.

### *Day 1:* \_\_\_\_\_

✞ READ and WRITE Ruth 3:1-5 in your journal.

- How did Naomi express her desire for Ruth's well-being (v.1)?
- What do you think the words '*seek rest*' meant?
- List the things Naomi told Ruth to do in v.3-4:
- Write out Ruth's response to Naomi in v.5:

Here, Naomi described Boaz as '*our relative*.' In chapter two, she said he was a '*close relative of ours*', and '*one of our redeemers*'. Let's investigate the purpose in God's Law for a *relative—redeemer*.



Read **Deuteronomy 25:5-10**. Summarize the Law for redeeming the name of the dead:

Read **Leviticus 25:23-28**. Summarize the Law for redeeming property:

- Explain how both Naomi and Ruth qualified for these provisions under the Law.

## *Day 2:*

 **READ** and **WRITE** Ruth 3:6-7 in your journal.

Boaz was the one who had approached Ruth in the grain field, while she was gleaning, by introducing himself.

- In **v.7**, who approached whom?

We often say that God's rescue mission in our lives has two parts:

- The first part is when **God chooses us** — that's when we become aware of our sin, aware of who God is, aware of our need to be made right with Him.
- The second part is when **we choose God back** — we need to want Him in our life. That's what we see played out in the drama of redemption in this chapter. Ruth chose Boaz back!

Read **Matthew 11:27-28**. Note the phrases: *Whom the Son chooses to reveal*, and *Come to me*. Share similarities you find between Jesus' words in Matthew, and Boaz and Ruth's relationship in chapter three?

Under the Law of Moses (which we read yesterday), we learned that not just anyone could redeem. Someone in need of rescue needed to find a *qualified* kinsman-redeemer who had the lawful right to redeem. This man had to be related—of the same family.

For you or me to be spiritually rescued from the grip of sin and death, we need to find someone *related to us*, who has the *right* to redeem.

Read **Hebrews 2:11-15** and **Philippians 2:5-8**.

- What does the Bible explain about Jesus' relation to us, and His right to purchase us?

### *Day 3:*

✪ **READ** and **WRITE Ruth 3:8-10** in your journal.

In these beautiful (and romantic) verses, we're allowed a peek into the midnight exchange between Boaz and Ruth on a warm spring evening, right there at the threshing floor. I can create the whole scene in my imagination—can't you?

- What were Boaz’s first words to Ruth (v.9)?
- What was Ruth’s posture at this time (v.8), and do you think there was significance to it?
- What was Ruth’s request of Boaz (v.9)?
- What do you think she meant by *spread your wings*? (Consult some different translations.)
- What might be the significance of *being covered* — specifically by someone who was a redeemer? What was she really asking?

Read **Isaiah 61:10**. How does this verse further develop this same concept of *covering* in our own lives?

*The sculptor, Thors Walden, chiseled a glorious statue of Jesus Christ. Due to the position of His body, however, it is impossible to see His face. A sign next to the statue says this: “If you desire to see His face, you must first sit at His feet”. As you sit at the feet of that sculpture and look up, it is then and only then that you see His face.*<sup>1</sup>

## Day 4: \_\_\_\_\_

🔗 READ and WRITE Ruth 3:11-13 in your journal.

What was Boaz's gracious response to Ruth's request (v.11)?

Read John 6:37-40 and Romans 10:12-13. Compare Boaz's willingness to rescue Ruth with Jesus' promise to anyone who comes to him:

There are three powerful words in Boaz's response that we should note, underline, and personally take to heart — *'Do not fear'*.

- Have you ever experienced a sense of fear that kept you from approaching God? — that kept you at a distance?
- Have you wondered if He would indeed respond to you in a positive way? — maybe He would forgive others, but not you?

Well, some of God's favorite words are *'Do not fear.'* Read the following passages, and note how they encourage you to resist that temptation to fear God's reproach or rejection:

- Isaiah 41:10

- Lamentations 3:55-57
- Zephaniah 3:16-17
- 1 John 4:18

Everything has been moving along splendidly with Ruth and Boaz until we read **verse 12!** If this were a movie, the music would have turned ominously minor, we might have noticed a cloaked stranger in the background, and then — there would be a cut for a commercial break.

- What did Boaz mean by *a redeemer nearer than I?*
- Is that even possible?

We thought he was the perfect redeemer. We really got to liking this guy. We thought he was symbolic of Jesus Christ Himself!

- How can there be someone in line nearer to rescue Ruth?
- How could there be someone in line nearer to rescue us?

Well, we're about to find out — but we will have to wait for that commercial break — or at least, until the next chapter, when we get Ruth back to town.

### *Your Own Personal Redemption Story:*

Now is the time to begin **Part Two** of your **Personal Redemption Story**. Hopefully, you read and pondered **Part One** last week, and now you're ready for this next step, which can be found on p.59.

Believe me, I know how much time and thought a project like this takes. If you get a little episode of *writer's block*, just go take a walk, let it rest for a bit. If necessary, do a little work on your story in the wee hours of the morning when the house is quiet. It *is* worth it!



## Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Naomi said she was *seeking rest* for Ruth. Share what physical rest looks like for you. Share what spiritual rest looks like for you.
2. The process of redeeming a thing happens when that thing, of little or no value, is transformed into a thing of great value. Explain how this is the Gospel of our salvation in a nutshell.
3. You've probably seen a sign, a meme, or heard the expression, '*You are enough.*' Explain how that phrase is exactly the opposite of God's plan of rescue and the opposite of the story of Ruth.
4. Read **Galatians 4:4-5**, and explain how that passage expands our understanding of this topic of redemption.
5. What might cause people to fear approaching God and even asking for salvation?
6. What Scriptures would you share with someone hesitant to approach God and ask for His forgiveness of sins?

Return, O my soul, to your rest;  
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.  
— Psalm 116:7 (ESV)

## Week Six — Ruth 3:14-4:10

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You've heard it said, '*Actions speak louder than words*'. Well, Boaz had a knack for both actions *and* words! Not only did he assure Ruth with his verbal promise, but he also physically demonstrated that he meant business by sending her home with a *tangible* gift!

### Day 1:

---

🔗 READ and WRITE Ruth 3:14-18 in your journal.

- What exactly was the gift that Boaz sent home with Ruth from the threshing floor?

We could describe this gift using three synonyms:

- A deposit on his intended transaction.
- A pledge that he would fulfill his vow.
- A guarantee of future provisions.

Read those underlined words again. In that gesture, Boaz's actions deepen our understanding to the parallels we see between Ruth's and his relationship and our own spiritual journey.

Read **Ephesians 1:13b-14**, and explain what God gives us as a deposit, pledge, or guarantee for our future inheritance in Christ:

We've read two detailed accounts of Ruth bringing grain back to Naomi.

- In **Ruth 2:17-18**, how did she acquire the grain?
- In **Ruth 3:15**, how did she acquire the grain?
- What do you think might be spiritually significant about those two different methods of obtaining grain?



Let's peek into the home of Naomi as Ruth comes back.

- What did Naomi ask her?

There is really more to this question than a mother wanting to know how a date went. There's a very interesting repetitive inquiry into her identity in this chapter. Let's dig a little to uncover it.

- Write out Boaz's question to Ruth back in **v.9**:

Compare this with Naomi's question to Ruth in **v.16**. In the ESV, it reads, "**How did you fare?**" but, in both KJV and ASV, it reads, "**Who art thou?**" This *twin question*, "Who art thou?" serves a purpose. Each one of us needs to honestly answer the same question in our lives — before Jesus and after Jesus. Take a look at the order of these questions:

Boaz to Ruth:	<i>Who are you?</i>
Ruth to Boaz:	<i>Someone in need of covering!</i>
Naomi to Ruth:	<i>Who are you now?</i>
Ruth to Naomi:	<i>Someone who has been covered!</i>

And that is when Naomi assured Ruth that Boaz, "**will not rest until the matter is settled today.**"

## Day 2:

 **READ and WRITE Ruth 4:1-4** in your journal.

Finally, the Scripture begins to reveal this mystery nearer-kinsman, who was foreshadowed in the previous chapter. In this chapter, there is another new setting — from these opening verses of chapter 4...

- Describe the setting:

- Who were the men involved (v.2-3)?
- What was the purpose of the gathering at the city gate?
- What did Boaz suggest this nearer-kinsman do?
- How did the man respond to this offer to purchase Naomi's land?

THIS created a big problem. The nearer-kinsman wanted to exercise his right and responsibility to redeem. Quite honestly, none of us wants the story to go that direction! This has the potential to mess up our entire romance.

Are you also a little confused about Naomi "*selling the parcel of land that belonged to our relative Elimelech.*" (v.3)? That's a bit perplexing. If she had land to sell all this time, why were these ladies considered so poor that they had to glean in the fields?

*In the case of Ruth and Naomi, Elimelech's property had either been sold or was under some kind of mortgage, and the rights to the land had passed to Ruth's husband, Mahlon, when Elimelech died. This explains why Ruth was also involved in the transaction. She was too poor, however, to redeem the land.*

— Warren Weirsbe, *Bible Exposition Commentary* <sup>2</sup>

Whether Naomi even knew she had land to sell or not. Whether the parcel was even large enough to make a financial difference is not relevant. The main point is that the mention of this land was but a lure or a pawn in the game that Boaz was skillfully playing to get the nearer-kinsman to be thinking of assets and profit margins before he announced the *other part* of the transaction that would be required.

## Day 3:

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✞ READ and WRITE Ruth 4:5-6 in your journal.

In a shocking turn of events, this nearer-kinsman agreed to purchase the field belonging to Naomi, *until* Boaz informed him that something else, or *someone else* came along with that transaction.

- Who was the bonus to be acquired along with the field (v.5)?
- What would be expected on the part of the redeemer (v.5)?

As soon as the man learned that Ruth from Moab was part of the purchase, and would be included in the transaction (v.6):

- What was his response?
- What was his reason?
- What did he offer Boaz?

Redeeming was multi-faceted under the Mosaic Law:

- ◇ Redeeming the liberty—buying someone out of slavery.
- ◇ Redeeming the property —buying back their land sold due to hardship, bad business, etc.
- ◇ Redeeming the blood—bearing a child to continue the name of the deceased relative.

We're suggesting here that the nearer-kinsman is a picture of **The Law of God**. The Law came first, it actually has the first right to rescue — if it only *could* — but it cannot and will not.

With this in mind, read these passages and note how the Law is unable to rescue us from our dilemma of sin:

**Romans 8:3**

**Galatians 3:23-25**

**Hebrews 7:19**

The nearer-kinsman would not redeem Ruth because her Moabite nature would mess up his established estate. Because of this, he could not draw her near to himself and offer her rescue.

We're all in a similar situation as Ruth in that we're born with Moab in our blood. We're born into a sinful human race, and have an innate sinful nature. Even if we followed every aspect of the Law, it still could not accept us because of who we have been from birth. The Law, which came before Jesus, would have to lower its standards to include us. It is incapable of that, therefore incapable of rescuing us.

## *Day 4:* -----

✎ **READ** and **WRITE Ruth 4:7-10** in your journal.

The theme of Ruth is *rescue* and *rest*, but chapter four in particular, points our attention specifically to the transaction of *redeeming*.

- Read **verses 1-10** again, tallying how many times you encounter transaction words like *redeem*, *buy*, *purchase*: \_\_\_\_\_
- Look up the word *redeem* in a regular dictionary:

- Would you make any adjustments for a spiritual definition? Write out your spiritual definition of *redeem*:
  
- Boaz's transaction to purchase Ruth was done in a very public place and method. How does this parallel Jesus redeeming us?
  
- Boaz purchased the land (including Ruth) out of his own resources — his own wealth. How does this parallel Jesus' payment for us?

Write the last five words of **v.10**: \_\_\_\_\_

---

The transfer of ownership to redeem Ruth took place in front of witnesses. It was made clear to all that Ruth now belonged to someone new. If you have transferred the ownership of your life to Jesus Christ, have you been intentional about making sure there are witnesses that KNOW something has changed in your life? This is why we are working on our own personal story of redemption.

### ***Your Own Personal Redemption Story:***

Now is the time to begin **Part Three** of your **Personal Redemption Story**, which can be found on p.60. This is such a good fit for our concluding phrase above because we want to communicate our journey with the Lord in a very clear way for anyone to know and understand.



## Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. The title of our study is ***Rescue and Rest***. Explain how Boaz accomplished *rescue* for Ruth. Explain how he provided *rest* for her.
2. Explain the same parallels of *rescue* and *rest* through Jesus Christ.
3. In what erroneous ways do people attempt to achieve *rest* from the Law? What is the result?
4. Have you had, or do you have people in your life, who entice you to be in a relationship with the Law (nearer-kinsman) more than with Jesus (Boaz)? How do you resist those suggestions?
5. Rules, principles and laws can be an accurate reflection of Who God is and what He is like, but they will never rescue us from sin. How can a Christian keep that in its proper perspective?
6. If you have transferred ownership of your life to Jesus Christ, what do you think God might have you do right now to make your surrender to Him more clear or more public?

## Week Seven — Ruth 4:11-22

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Do you remember where we left off? Boaz was still at the city gate, finalizing his transaction in front of all who had gathered in order for his intentions to be made abundantly clear. The picture in my mind has Boaz holding the nearer-redeemer's sandal over his head, as he turned from face to face, calling out, "*YOU are witnesses this day.*"

And now, for the conclusion of our story...

### Day 1:

---

**✞** READ and WRITE Ruth 4:11-13 in your journal.

Boaz asked the people that day to be *witnesses* to his intentions. He communicated those intentions clearly enough that they affirmed his declaration by saying together, "*We are witnesses.*" And the crowd even took it one step further. They blessed him!

- Although the word *bless* is not used in v.11-12, what is the blessing that is conveyed toward Ruth?
  
- What is the sentiment conveyed toward Boaz?
  
- Although the historical reference to Tamar and Judah can be confusing, what were the women wishing upon this household?

I love blessings! I love when people say, *The Lord bless you!* I love how we read many blessings one to another throughout the book of Ruth.



Review these passages and note some of those blessings.

2:4

2:12

2:20

3:10

Don't you think we could all use a little more of the *blessing* mindset in our conversations? Maybe we should consciously decide to replace *Good luck* and *Best wishes* with *The Lord bless you!*

"If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God...so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 4:11 (NIV)

## Day 2:

 **READ** and **WRITE** Ruth 4:14-15 in your journal.

A bit of time has passed now since the *wedding* day. Ruth has given birth to a son, and the hearts and mouths of the women of Israel continue to pronounce blessings.

- Whom did they pronounce blessings upon in **v.14**?
- List some of the elements of their blessing:
- Whom were they crediting for Naomi's current happiness?

Write out **Romans 12:15**:

It's clear that the women of Bethlehem had responded with the same attitude that the Apostle Paul exhorted the Roman believers to have. This verse isn't always easy to obey. Sometimes, we are envious of other people's blessings — sometimes, we are reluctant to enter into other people's grief.

- Is there a situation in your life right now in which God may be nudging you to have one of these two attitudes? Describe the situation and your response:

#### **The Blessing of Children:**

Chapter four expresses an element of God's heart that is often minimized in our culture — the purpose and blessing of procreation in marriage. Not every marriage produces children, but we should view their addition as a blessing, rather than a burden.

Read **Genesis 1:27-28**, and explain God's first directive to His people after He created them:

Read **Malachi 2:15**, and explain how God intended His people to protect family legacy:

Finally, read **Psalm 127:3-5** and **Psalm 145:4**. Note further thoughts:

## Day 3:

🔗 READ and WRITE Ruth 4:16-22 in your journal.

If you happen to have a houseful of little ones in your current season of life — what do you think of v.16? Who wouldn't love a full-time nurse-nanny-grandma in your home to help? Glory be!

Even if you've already raised your children, you can certainly think back and appreciate how having extra hands may have made your life easier, *'If only I had a Naomi back in the day'*.

This little guy *Obed*, whose name meant *servant*, became something of a kinsman-redeemer to Naomi. He was to become the grandfather of King David, and through David's *greater* son, Jesus Christ became a kinsman-redeemer for us all. I love how God works things out like that!

The book of Ruth closes with the important family lineage of Obed — both backward and forward:

- Who did the author begin the lineage with (v.18)?
- Moving forward from Obed, where did the lineage end (v.22)?

*Genealogies were very important to the Jews, for without them, they could not prove their tribal memberships or their rights to inheritances. Matthew gave our Lord's family tree through His foster father, Joseph, while Luke gave Mary's lineage.*

*This "list of names" is a vital part of the Gospel record. It shows that Jesus Christ is a part of history; that all of Jewish history prepared the way for His birth. God in His providence ruled and overruled to accomplish His great purpose in bringing His Son into the world.*

—Warren Weirsbe, Bible Exposition Commentary<sup>2</sup>

Read **Matthew 1:2-6**. Did you notice Ruth's name listed in **v.5**? Read **v.2-6** again, and list the women mentioned in this genealogy:

- 
- 
- Ruth
- 

If you know a little about each of the women's circumstances in life—do you not think this genealogy illustrates God's wonderful grace?

### *Day 4:* \_\_\_\_\_

Our study is finished! I hope you now possess a complete copy of the book of Ruth written in your own hand—that is an accomplishment—Kudos!

There have been countless symbols of the gospel of Jesus Christ in these 85 verses. Two symbols in the recent chapter were:

- Boaz and Ruth, just like in every human marriage, were demonstrating a beautiful and yet mysterious drama, as they became a symbol of Christ and His Bride — the Church.
- Boaz and Ruth, just like in many human marriages, went on to produce fruit in keeping with their relationship. Their fruit was a son named Obed.

In God's Unfolding Story of Redemption, He desires for His people to enter into a spiritual union with Him, and go on to bear fruit for His Kingdom. Your Personal Story of Redemption is only the beginning of that two-part story — God desires that you would bear fruit and lots of it!

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.  
— John 15:16 (ESV)

### *Your Own Personal Redemption Story:*

One way to bear fruit for God's Kingdom is to be ready to share what God has done for you personally. Now is the time for **Part Four** of your **Personal Redemption Story**, which can be found on p.60.

I pray that the time you have invested in preparing your story, of how God transferred you from the kingdom of darkness to His Kingdom of light, will yield results in God's time and God's way. I'm sure it will be a powerful tool for the Holy Spirit to use as He chooses to draw others to Himself, and I'm glad we've done it together.

In the same way that Naomi and Ruth had very different stories of God's redemption, our stories are very unique. That's the beauty of it all. We represent a little army of God's women with unique stories. It will be fascinating to see how God will use your preparation in the coming year — to bear fruit for the Kingdom!

I trust that these chapters have been a blessing to you and that the Holy Spirit has informed your mind and enlivened your heart, as you have studied.

In preparation for your discussion group, reflect on the concepts or lessons that have been most useful to you throughout this book and note three of them below:

- 
- 
- 

May you be richly rewarded by the LORD,  
the God of Israel,  
under whose wings you have come to take refuge.  
Ruth 2:12 (NIV)



## Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Share some ways in which you can *speak a blessing* over others more often in your everyday life.
2. God is always in the business of restoring. Explain how Obed became a *restorer of life* for Naomi.
3. Even though every marriage does not do this well, explain the ways in which a marriage is supposed to be symbolic of the union between the Church and Christ.
4. In what specific ways can a Christian *bear fruit* for the Kingdom of God?
5. What barriers exist in our lives that prevent us from *rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep*? How can we overcome those barriers?
6. Share your three main insights on the entire Bible Study of Ruth from page 53.

## *Your Own Three-Minute Personal Redemption Story* *—Part One—*

We are all similar to the women we've been studying. Both Ruth and Naomi experienced a unique, life-changing encounter with God. If you are born-again, you too have a personal story to tell, and it is your most valuable asset when explaining to someone your faith and hope in God.

As part of this Bible study session, I want to guide you in preparing a brief personal testimony, so you will be "*prepared to give an answer for anyone who asks you for the hope that you have.*" (1 Peter 3:15)

### **Why Prepare Your Personal Testimony?**

- To encourage yourself by reviewing the Lord's work in your life.
- To use it for witnessing opportunities the Lord may provide.
- To prepare your story in a thoughtful and prayerful manner, as opposed to just '*winging it*' on the spot when opportunities arise.

### **Why Three minutes?**

- It causes you to eliminate things that are not necessary or effective in telling your story.
- It causes you to be sensitive to your listener's attention span.

As you begin to think about your own journey in knowing God, let me share some possible categories that many people fall into. These categories aren't meant to squeeze you into a mold, but rather give you some understanding as to the unique value of YOUR story.

- **Type A** — You became a Christian at a young age, and have generally continued to walk with the Lord.
- **Type B** — You became a Christian at a young age, but had a period of rebellion, immaturity, or worldliness.
- **Type C** — You became a Christian later in life.

Let's elaborate on these general categories:



### **Testimony Type A:**

Your testimony may be more easily understood by Christians, so your challenge will be to prepare it in a way that a non-Christian can relate. You may have a testimony of God's protection, faithfulness, or blessing. Don't feel like you've missed out because you haven't been wild! Be thankful for God's goodness, and share your story with thanks and joy!

As you prepare, you may want to think of a theme for your life — maybe how God has helped you deal with friendships, anxiety, bullying, goals in life, etc. Include specific incidents in which God's presence in your life made a difference. Explain how you still have problems like everyone else, but Christ in your life gives you hope. Make sure you communicate that, at some point (even if you don't remember the exact moment), you put your trust in Christ. Don't let them think you've always been a Christian (obviously you haven't).

### **Testimony Type B:**

Possibly begin with the story of your life during the time of your rebellion or immaturity. When you get to the part about how Christ changed your life, refer back to the time you had initially put your trust in Him. You might want to share briefly what caused you to slip from honoring God and how the Lord brought you back to Himself.

Remember, when we accept Christ, changes do occur (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). If you did make a decision early in life and nothing really changed, it could be that you were 1) not really converted at that point or 2) that your growth in Christ was stunted for some reason.

Becoming a Christian involves trusting in Christ for the forgiveness of sins and repenting of them, not just praying a prayer. Your testimony might be confusing to people, if it sounds like you became a Christian and nothing really happened. Don't hold on to the idea that you became a Christian at an early age, if there is no evidence of conversion. On the other hand, it is possible to be converted and go through times of rebellion or immaturity, due to remaining a babe in Christ.

### **Testimony Type C:**

You may be a person who came to a saving knowledge of Jesus later in your life. You may have been anti-God in your thinking, or perhaps you were part of a false religious system.

You may want to begin your story with your life, attitudes and interests before Christ.

- Was there a theme related to what you were seeking in life?
- How would others have described you?
- How did you view Christ and Christianity?

Consider sharing a specific incident that describes what you were like. Share about the events or persons that caused you to begin to show interest in Christ or understand the Bible. Share about your decision to trust Christ for forgiveness. Paint a picture that might help others see how they could do that also.

- Why did you make this decision?
- How did your life begin to change?
- Let them know you still have problems, but that Christ is there.

For any testimony, but especially the type-C, you may consider sharing how you are a different person since you have come to know Christ. A helpful three-point outline would be: **Before—How—After**

#### **Before I received Christ:**

- What was my life like?
- What were my attitudes, needs, and problems?
- Around what did my life revolve most?
- From what source did I get my security or happiness?
- How did those areas begin to disappoint me?
- In what ways were my activities unsatisfying?

#### **How I received Christ:**

- When was the first time I was exposed to true Christianity and heard the Gospel? How did it happen?
- What were my initial reactions? When did my attitude begin to change?

- What were the final struggles that went through my mind, just before I received Christ? Why did I decide to receive Christ?

**After I received Christ:**

- What are some specific changes Christ has made in my life, actions, and attitudes?
- How long did it take before I noticed the changes?
- How and why am I motivated differently now?

Now that you have read this far, think about your own journey a little, pray about how God would want to you to share the very unique and precious gift that is YOUR personal story.

***Your Own Three-Minute Personal Redemption Story***  
**—Part Two—**

Now, begin writing the first draft of your testimony. Remember, you're preparing your story to communicate with both individuals or groups. Here are some helpful insights as you begin:

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you as you prepare. (**James 1:5**)
- Keep within your time limit of 3 minutes.
- Write with a non-Christian listener in mind—later you can tweak it for a Christian audience.
- Try to write as you would speak.
- Begin with an attention-getting sentence or story.
- Consider weaving your story around a theme.
- Be positive from start to finish.
- Speak boldly about Jesus. He is the focus of your testimony.
- Present the Gospel to make clear how someone could begin a personal relationship with Christ.
- Be accurate, but remember you're not giving a play-by-play of your life. The goal is to communicate the Gospel and what God has done in your life.
- Write a closing that provides a finished and logical conclusion.

Once you have written this first draft, you may want to just leave it in your notebook or tuck it in your Bible for a day or two, and then after a little time, move to Part Three.

***Your Own Three-Minute Personal Redemption Story***  
**—Part Three—**

Now that you've written your first draft, ask yourself these questions:

- Is my testimony simple?
- Have I used any *churchy* words that a non-Christian might not understand (*walked the aisle, gave my heart to Jesus, converted*)?
- Have I used words that may need more explanation: sin (rebellion against God), faith (trust), quiet time (reading the Bible/praying)?
- Have I reflected negatively on any church, organization, people, or denomination? (It is not wise to make a negative reference about anything or anyone. Eliminate them.)
- Have I glamorized my sin? Be careful that you don't sound like you're proud of what you did or that it still sounds fun.
- Are there any parts that are still too detailed as I describe my sinful lifestyle? For example: You can say you were involved with drugs without listing all the types. You can say you were in some bad relationships without divulging your sexual history.
- Do I express assurance that I know I have eternal life, and do I clearly communicate how a person can receive Christ?
- Would someone caught in the grip of today's sexual sins understand God's forgiveness and see hope for a place in God's Kingdom?

Rewrite your story based on your reflection of those questions.

***Your Own Three-Minute Personal Redemption Story***  
**—Part Four—**

You're on the home stretch. All that's left is to actually practice sharing your testimony:

- Memorize what you have written.
- Practice sharing it with a friend, this will help you know if it's less than three minutes or not.
- Look for an opportunity to share—perhaps beginning with your Women of the Word group.

May the Lord bless you, as you have taken time to prepare to share the hope you have in Christ. I KNOW the Holy Spirit will provide ample opportunities to make use of your story!

## References

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### ESV Bible verses...

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### NIV Bible verses...

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## Women of the Word Bible Studies

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The following WOW Bible Studies, written by Sue LeBoutillier, are available through the **Calvary Chapel Ontario bookstore**, and through our online store at [www.ccontario.com](http://www.ccontario.com).

### Old Testament:

- **Genesis** —Divine Design, From Eden to Egypt
- **Exodus** —Divine Deliverance, From Egypt to Sinai
- **Numbers** —The Wilderness Way, From Sinai to the Jordan
- **Joshua** —The Path of Promise, From the Jordan into Canaan
- **Judges** — A Time of Turning
- **Ruth** — Rescue and Rest
- **1 Samuel** — The Coming King
- **2 Samuel**— The Reigning King
- **1&2 Kings (Part One)**— Solomon and the House of the Lord
- **Jonah** —The Call of Compassion

### New Testament:

- **The Way of Jesus** —The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew)
- **Simply Jesus** —The “I AMs” of Christ (John)
- **Acts** —Walking in the Spirit, The First Days of the Last Days
- **Galatians** —Finding Grace in a Demanding World
- **Philippians** —Finding Joy in a Disjointed World
- **Colossians** —Finding Stability in a Changing World
- **Titus** —While We Wait
- **James** —Real Faith for Daily Life
- **1 & 2 Peter** —Hope, Holiness and Humility in a Hostile World
- **1,2,3 John** —Light, Love and Logic

