

May Daily Readings



**BIBLE
SOCIETY**
Live light

The book of Ruth shows how things never get too bad for God to come and change them. In the dark days of the judges, a ray of sunshine breaks out through this story of love, faithfulness and redemption. Keep an eye out for the key themes: God’s remnant, God’s grace, God’s covenant love and God’s redemption. Be challenged by the relevance of the message for today: be open to learning about being patient, being redemptive in your actions, being committed, being trusting and being considerate.

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Day	Verses	Verse reference	Questions	Read more
1	In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab.	Ruth 1:1	What is the significance that an Israelite would leave the land of Israel?	Ruth 1:1-5
2	Now Elimelek, Naomi’s husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth...	Ruth 1:3-4	What does it reveal about Elimelek and his family, that his sons would marry Moabite women?	Judges 11:14-18
3	When Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there.	Ruth 1:6	How does Naomi respond when she has lost everything? Where does she turn?	Ruth 1:5-7
4	Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the Lord show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. May the Lord grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.”	Ruth 1:8-9	What is the hopelessness of Naomi’s situation, that she is unwilling to inflict on her daughters-in-law?	Ruth 1:8-15
5	But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.”	Ruth 1:16	How can we emulate Ruth’s commitment to Naomi in our relationships?	Romans 12:4-5, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Ephesians 4:3-16
6	“Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.”	Ruth 1:20-21	Do you think Naomi was right in her belief that God brought on her suffering and misfortune?	Ruth 1:16-22

May Daily Readings (continued)

Day	Verses	Verse reference	Title	Questions
7	So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.	Ruth 1:22	What characteristics does Ruth demonstrate in her actions towards Naomi?	Philippians 2:3-11
8	Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, “The Lord be with you!” “The Lord bless you!” they answered.	Ruth 2:4	What does the introduction to Boaz in the story show about his character? How is Boaz represented as one who stayed faithful to God, part of his ‘remnant’?	Genesis 45:7, 2 Kings 19:1-4, Ezra 9:5-15, Isaiah 10:20-22, Jeremiah 23:1-4, Romans 11:1-5
9	So Boaz said to Ruth, “My daughter, listen to me. Don’t go and glean in another field and don’t go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me.	Ruth 2:8	How does Boaz act towards Ruth?	Titus 3:1-2, James 3:13-18, 1 Peter 3:7
10	At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, “Why have I found such favour in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?”	Ruth 2:10	What was Ruth’s standing in Israel, as a Moabite?	Deuteronomy 23:3-6
11	Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before.”	Ruth 2:11	Boaz’s mother was Rahab. How might Ruth remind him of his mother?	Joshua 2, Joshua 6:22-25, Matthew 1:5
12	“May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.”	Ruth 2:12	How does Ruth, a Moabite, receive God’s grace through Boaz?	Romans 1:5, Ephesians 2:8-18
13	“May I continue to find favour in your eyes, my lord,” she said. “You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servants.”	Ruth 2:13	Ruth is very aware of her standing. How might she have been regarded by the other Israelites?	Nehemiah 13:1-3

May Daily Readings (continued)

Day	Verses	Verse reference	Title	Questions
14	“The Lord bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers.”	Ruth 2:20	Boaz was a redeemer for Naomi and Ruth, how is God our ultimate redeemer?	Exodus 6:6-8, Job 19:25, Isaiah 43:1-13
15	One day Ruth’s mother-in-law Naomi said to her, “My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours.	Ruth 3:1-2	What is the relationship between Naomi and Ruth like? What do you admire about it?	Ruth 2:21-3:8
16	“Who are you?” he asked. “I am your servant Ruth,” she said. “Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family.”	Ruth 3:9	What is Ruth asking of Boaz? How is Boaz similar to Jesus?	Galatians 3:13-14, 1 Peter 1:18-19
17	“The Lord bless you, my daughter,” he replied. “This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor.”	Ruth 3:10	What does Boaz recognise in Ruth’s character? What is admirable about the way Ruth made decisions?	1 Samuel 16:7
18	And now, my daughter, don’t be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character.	Ruth 3:11	How might Ruth have gained the reputation which Boaz attributes to her?	Proverbs 31
19	Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your guardian-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the Lord lives I will do it. Lie here until morning.”	Ruth 3:13	Given Boaz’s esteem for Ruth, how may he have felt that he didn’t have first claim to her? Yet what does he choose to do, and why? What can we learn from his approach and actions?	Ruth 3:9-18
20	Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, “Sit here,” and they did so. 3Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek.	Ruth 4:2-3	What do we learn of Boaz’s character and standing in the town?	Ruth 4:1-3

May Daily Readings (continued)

Day	Verses	Verse reference	Title	Questions
21	"I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line." "I will redeem it," he said.	Ruth 4:4	What qualities is Boaz showing in this situation?	Proverbs 8:34, Isaiah 64:4, Hebrews 6:15, James 5:11
22	Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property."	Ruth 4:5	Boaz shows a thorough understanding of the Law. What does it reveal about his character that he is still willing to redeem Naomi and Ruth?	Genesis 38:8-9
23	At this, the guardian-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it."	Ruth 4:6	What does the attitude of the other man highlight about Boaz's intentions and character?	Exodus 3:7-10, Deuteronomy 4:32-40, Psalm 34:22
24	Then Boaz announced "...I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!"	Ruth 4:10	Boaz chooses to act in redemption of Naomi and Ruth as well as his kinsmen. How are his actions reflective of the God whom he followed?	Isaiah 41:10-14, Jeremiah 50:34, Luke 1:67-75, 1 Peter 1:18-19
25	Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.	Ruth 4:11	In what manner did Boaz make his decision towards Ruth and Naomi? What role does the community play?	Genesis 29:31-30:24
26	Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah."	Ruth 4:12	How do the elders view Boaz, and what is their prayer for him?	Genesis 38:1-30
27	The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!"	Ruth 4:14	How has God shown his grace and faithfulness towards Naomi?	Ruth 4:13-14

May Daily Readings (continued)

Day	Verses	Verse reference	Title	Questions
28	“He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth.”	Ruth 4:15	How important was trust in God in Naomi’s story?	Psalm 40:1-5, Psalm 84:5-12, Jeremiah 17:5-8
29	The women living there said, “Naomi has a son!” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.	Ruth 4:17	By the end of the story, how has Naomi’s entire life been restored by God?	Ruth 4:15-17
30	Salmon the father of Boaz, Boaz the father of Obed, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.	Ruth 4:21-22	What do we know about the men in this genealogy? What characteristics of this men are worth emulating?	Ruth 4:18-22
31	“This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham... Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.”	Matthew 1:1, 5-6	For what are Ruth and Boaz remembered throughout the ages?	Ruth 4:11-12