



Bible
BOOK CLUB

December 2021 - Ruth

OPENING PRAYER

God of generations, our family stories are messy and complicated, filled with joys and sorrows. Give us the grace to hold our stories lightly. Keep us attentive to the gifts of life and relationships that strengthen and sustain us through seasons of change and disruption. Amen.

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

Who is the protagonist in this story?

If there is more than one, what role do they each play in the narrative?

Ruth makes a statement of commitment to Naomi in 1:16–17 that drastically impacted Naomi. How have you been impacted by others' commitment to you?

There is a lot about crossing geographical, social, cultural and religious boundaries in this story. When have you been challenged or surprised by crossing a boundary (traveling, making a friend from a different culture, trying something new, etc)?

What traditions or expectations around marriage make it hard for widows or single women to be successful on their own?

What systems do we have that keep women (and others) dependent?

What is the role of inheritance in this story?

What role does inheritance play in your context today?

When does it benefit others? Hurt others? Who does it tend to benefit?

What do you make of Boaz? In what ways does he challenge societal expectations?

In what ways does he limit himself to them?

Does he use his social influence to help Ruth willingly or reluctantly?

If you were able to interview Naomi, Ruth and Boaz about this period of their relationship, what questions would you ask them?

Continued...

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

What stereotypes about gender roles and relationship does this story challenge?
What stereotypes does it support?

How is this story a story of hope for different groups of people? (example; those who are grieving the loss of a spouse/partner, those who are moving to a new place, those who are in positions of influence, those who are economically disadvantaged)

Compare Naomi's words in 1:21 with the words about Naomi in 4:17.
What do you notice? How do other characters change throughout the story?

What role does God play in this story?

CLOSING PRAYER

Accompanying God, sometimes your presence in our lives is more evident in retrospect than in the moment. Give us faith to trust you are working in and through the complex realities of life to accomplish your purpose. Amen.

~ ~ ~

This month's resource was prepared by Deacon Michelle Collins.