

## WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT RUTH AND NAOMI

**Pray** and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

**Read** the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

**Begin** to answer the questions using your own words.

*Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.*

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### Lesson 13 • January 23, 2013

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Delilah** has been helpful to you?

#### SECTION I: Read Ruth 1

2. In **V1-2**, who moves from Bethlehem to Moab and why?
3. In **V2-6**, what happens to the men, and why do the women decide to return to Bethlehem?
4. a) Compare and contrast Orpah's and Ruth's responses to Naomi's urging as you read **V8-18**.  
  
b) Why do you think Orpah went back to her old life, while Ruth clung to a new life?
5. Presumably both daughters-in-law had similar exposure to the God of Israel through Naomi's family yet had different responses. Have you experienced something similar within your own family (or circle of friends)?
6. Describe Naomi's homecoming including her response in **V19-21**.

### SECTION II: Read Ruth 2

7. In **V1-3**, “as it turned out” who owned the field from which Ruth gleaned the grain?
  
8. From **V4-14**, what character traits surface in:
  - a) Boaz
  
  - b) Ruth
  
9. According to **V15-16**, how does Boaz instruct his workers to treat Ruth?
  
10. How do Ruth and Naomi care for one another in **V17-23**, bearing in mind the revelation about Boaz?

### SECTION III: Read Ruth 3

11. In **V1-6**, Naomi makes a plan for Ruth’s future. What does it entail?
  
12. How does Boaz respond to Ruth in **V7-13**?
  
13. What further aspects of Naomi’s and Ruth’s character unfold in **Chapter 3**?

### SECTION IV: Read Ruth 4

14. In **V1-6**, why is Boaz able to redeem the land and marry Ruth, even though he is second in line? (For background into Jewish law on this subject, read **Leviticus 25:23-25**.)

15. Put into your own words the blessing of the elders to Boaz and Ruth in **V11-12**.
  
16. Re-read **1:20-21** together with **4:13-17**. Contrast the first chapter of Naomi's story with the last chapter and write a truth.
  
17. Connect **V18-22** with **Matthew 1:1, 5**. What amazes you about God as you track Ruth's first chapter as a Moabite widow to her ultimate chapter?
  
18. a) Which of these two women do you most identify with and why?  
  
b) God redeemed great pain in Ruth and Naomi's lives, turning their sorrow to joy. Write a prayer based on this hope.

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### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Compare God's instructions in **Deuteronomy 24:19-21** with what happened in the story of Ruth.
  
2. Read **Luke 2:36-38**. Contrast Naomi and Anna in how they responded to being widowed.
  
3. God has a history of caring for widows throughout the Bible. Read **1 Timothy 5:3-8, 16**. How are families and the church to care for widows?
  
4. Boaz was Ruth's kinsman-redeemer. Who is our Redeemer, and how did He redeem us according to **1 Peter 1:18-19**?
  
5. Suggested Memory Verse: **Jeremiah 29:11**

