



RUTH LEADER GUIDE

A WORD TO THE LEADER

Ruth: Loss, Love, and Legacy is a video- and discussion-based Bible study. The weekly personal study along with the teaching videos will promote honest conversation as you study Scripture together. This study may be used in a variety of large or small group settings, including churches, homes, offices, coffee shops, or other locations. If you meet somewhere you can share a meal, we recommend doing so and have provided some recipes in the *Ruth* Bible Study Book for inspiration.

LEADER TIPS

PRAY: As you prepare to lead *Ruth*, remember prayer is essential. Set aside time each week to pray for the women in your group. Listen to their needs and the struggles they're facing so you can bring them before the Lord. Protect your personal time of prayer before each gathering. Encourage women to include prayer as part of their own daily spiritual discipline as well.

GUIDE: Accept women where they are but also set expectations to motivate commitment. Be consistent and trustworthy. Encourage women to engage with the personal study and attend the group sessions. Listen carefully, responsibly guide discussion, and keep confidences shared within the group. Be honest and vulnerable by sharing what God is teaching you throughout the study. Most women will follow your lead and be more willing to share and participate when they see your transparency.

CONNECT: Stay engaged with the women in your group between group meetings. Call, text, email, use social media, or send a quick note in the mail to connect with them and share prayer needs throughout the week. Let them know when you are praying specifically for them. Root everything in Scripture and encourage women in their relationships with Jesus.

CELEBRATE: At the end of the study, celebrate what God has done by leading your group members to share what they've learned and how they've grown. Pray together about what further steps God may be asking you to take as a result of this study.

LEADER PREP

TALK TO YOUR PASTOR AND/OR CHURCH STAFF: If you're leading this study as part of a local church, ask for your leaders' input, prayers, and support.

SECURE YOUR LOCATION: Think about the number of women you can accommodate in your designated location. Reserve tables, chairs, or media equipment for the videos and additional audio needs.



PROVIDE CHILDCARE: If you are targeting moms of young children and/or single moms, childcare is essential.

PROVIDE RESOURCES: Order the needed number of Bible study books. You might purchase a few extra books for last-minute sign-ups. Each Bible study book includes video access with a scratch-off code in the back of the book. A DVD set is also available for purchase if your meeting location doesn't have adequate streaming capabilities. Visit lifeway.com/ruth to purchase.

PLAN AND PREPARE: Become familiar with the Bible study resource and leader helps available. Preview the videos which you can access via the scratch-off redemption code printed on the card in the back of your Bible study book. Prepare an outline based on the leader guide to aid you as you lead the group meetings. Since each Bible study book comes with video access, you'll also want to decide if your group will be watching the videos together as you meet or on their own prior to each group meeting. Be sure to clearly communicate this plan to your group.

Visit lifeway.com/ruth to find free promotional resources for your study.

EVALUATE: At the end of each group session, ask: *What went well? What could be improved? Did you see women's lives transformed? Did your group grow closer to Christ and one another?*

NEXT STEPS: Even after the study concludes, follow up and challenge women to stay involved through another Bible study, church opportunity, or anything that will continue their spiritual growth and foster friendships. Consider how you can provide future opportunities for your group to encourage one another in the spiritual disciplines and hold each other accountable.



SESSION ONE: INTRODUCTION

WELCOME group members to the study and distribute Bible study books.


MEET AND GREET one another! Invite each woman to introduce herself and share basic get-to-know-you information.

For an icebreaker, ask each woman to briefly describe her dream vacation.

WATCH the video “Session One: Introduction” (18:35), encouraging group members to take notes on the Watch page (p. 9) as Kelly teaches.

DISCUSS Kelly’s video teaching, using these questions as a starting point:

1. What drew you to studying the book of Ruth?
2. Before you watched the first video, how familiar were you with Ruth’s story? If you knew any basic information, what was it?
3. What’s one thing Kelly said that stuck with you from the video?
4. Ask a volunteer to give a quick summary of the historical context for the book of Ruth, which Kelly described during the video. (Be prepared to do this yourself if no one volunteers!)
5. Read Ruth 1:1-5 to your group. Then ask: What one word would you use to describe the overall tone of the opening verses of Ruth?
6. Invite a group member to read Deuteronomy 23:5, which Kelly mentioned during the teaching. Then ask: What does this verse teach us about the character of God, which the Israelites in Ruth’s day were quick to forget?

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7. In the video, Kelly said the book of Ruth “is a bright beacon of light in the middle of darkness and chaos and unrest during the time of the judges . . . And that should give each one of us courage and encouragement in our own dark places that God is still working today.” How does this land with you today? Why is it good news for you that God is still working?

 8. Share one thing you hope to receive from our study of the book of Ruth over the next six sessions.

CLOSE the session with prayer.

PRAYER REQUESTS



SESSION TWO: TWO JOURNEYS

WELCOME group members to Session Two of *Ruth*.

DISCUSS the previous week's personal study, using the following questions as a guide.

1. Read Ruth 1:1-18. Then ask: Which day of personal study meant the most to you? Why?
2. Discuss a time in your life when you were tempted to leave the place God had you in for something easier or more attractive (think about Elimelech and Naomi leaving the land of Bethlehem for Moab).
3. Read aloud Psalm 16:1-6 from Day Two. Discuss the ways you can see these verses played out in your life. And if it's not as clear to you, be honest with that.
4. How has the word *hesed* enriched your understanding of love and loyalty (Day Three)?
5. What's an area in your life where you had to choose a long obedience in the same direction (Day Four)?
6. Discuss what you learned about the power of words (Day Five).
7. What was your biggest takeaway from this week of study?

WATCH the video "Session Two: Two Journeys" (31:53), encouraging group members to take notes on the Watch page (p. 36) as Kelly teaches. If your group isn't watching the video together, supplement your time by selecting some of the personal study questions to discuss together.



DISCUSS Kelly's video teaching, using these questions as a starting point:

1. What's one thing Kelly said that stuck with you from the video?

2. Review the main points Kelly made during her teaching:
 1. The sound of God's grace can be heard even in the farthest and darkest places.
 2. God is not limited by our impossible circumstances.
 3. We don't have to wait for a "calling" to be used by God; we need only follow Him.
 4. Weeping will come, but the direction we weep is what makes the difference.

3. Has a certain hardship in your life caused you to turn around in your weeping or to weep going forward? Discuss.

4. How does Ruth's loyalty to Naomi encourage you to show this same type of committed loyalty to a friend or loved one who might not always be the easiest to love?

PRAY, thanking God for His grace that reaches even the darkest places.

PRAYER REQUESTS



SESSION THREE: ARRIVING

WELCOME group members to Session Three of *Ruth*.

DISCUSS the previous week's personal study, using the following questions as a guide.

1. Read Ruth 1:19–2:9. Then ask: Which day of personal study meant the most to you? Why?
2. In what areas have you been angry with or disappointed in God? Were you honest with Him this week (Day One)?
3. Ask someone to read Psalm 126:1-6 for the group. How does this psalm encourage you to keep sowing in the middle of difficult times, and how can you practically do this (Day Two)?
4. Read Ruth 2:1-3. Then encourage a few women to share their responses to this question from Day Three: Can you think of a time when you were faithfully going about a routine task or job and you “happened” upon someone or something special?
5. What did you learn about God's providence this week, and how does this help you rest in life's wacky circumstances (Day Four)?
6. How did Boaz's kindness to Ruth encourage you to show extravagant kindness to others (Day Five)? I really hope you can discuss specific ways of showing kindness to the poor and vulnerable around you—even the difficult to love.
7. What was your biggest takeaway from this week of study?

WATCH the video “Session Three: Arriving” (36:39), encouraging group members to take notes on the Watch page (p. 66) as Kelly teaches.



DISCUSS Kelly's video teaching, using these questions as a starting point:

1. What's one thing Kelly said that stuck with you from the video?

2. Review the main points Kelly made during her teaching:
 1. **Our circumstances are not our truest indicator of God's heart toward us.**
 2. **Ruth didn't allow her suffering to *define* her but to *refine* her.**
 3. **God's people are God's answer for the poor, the foreigner, and the forgotten.**

3. Ruth was a Moabitess in Israel. What circumstances or family history make you feel less accepted in God's family? How does this week's study and teaching speak into that feeling?

4. Kelly closed the video by challenging us to be a Boaz in someone else's life. Who came to mind when you heard that challenge? Who is it that God has called you to extend this kind of loving kindness to?

PRAY, asking God to give you a heart for others modeled after His own.

PRAYER REQUESTS



SESSION FOUR: AN ENCOUNTER

WELCOME group members to Session Four of *Ruth*.

DISCUSS the previous week's personal study, using the following questions as a guide.

1. Read Ruth 2:10-23. Then ask: Which day of personal study meant the most to you? Why?
2. Ask a volunteer to read Isaiah 58:6-12 aloud. How does this encourage you to show kindness, self-sacrifice, and loyalty to those in need, especially to your family?
3. Discuss humility (Day Two). How did this impact you? In what area of your life is showing humility specifically challenging for you?
4. After reading about Ruth and Mephibosheth's invitation to the table, how did this help you more deeply appreciate your own invitation to the wedding feast of the Lamb? If this is a new concept for you, feel free to discuss your questions and feelings in your group (Day Three).
5. On Day Five, we learned Naomi and Ruth had not been left without a kinsman-redeemer, reminding us that God has not left us without Christ, our Kinsman-Redeemer. How does the picture of Naomi and Ruth make you further appreciate that God has not left us without a Redeemer?
6. What was your biggest takeaway from this week of study?

WATCH the video "Session Four: An Encounter" (31:23), encouraging group members to take notes on the Watch page (p. 94) as Kelly teaches.

DISCUSS Kelly's video teaching, using these questions as a starting point:

1. What's one thing Kelly said that stuck with you from the video?



2. Review the main points Kelly made during her teaching:
 1. **God doesn't merely love you; He sees you.**
 2. **God does not forget your faithful service to Him; He remembers, and He rewards.**
 3. **In no uncertain terms, God cares for the vulnerable, the foreigner, the grieving, and the lonely.**
 4. **Boaz could offer opportunity, protection, nourishment, and dignity, but only God could pull off redemption.**
3. What piece of information about a kinsman-redeemer meant the most to you and why (especially as it relates to Christ as our Kinsman-Redeemer)?

4. How have you found shelter under the wings of the Lord? Share specific examples with one another to help encourage each other's faith.

PRAY, giving group members an opportunity to voice their own prayers of praise and gratitude to God for the refuge found in Him.

PRAYER REQUESTS



SESSION FIVE: A PROPOSAL

WELCOME group members to Session Five of *Ruth*.

DISCUSS the previous week's personal study, using the following questions as a guide.

1. Read all of Ruth 3 together. Then ask: Which day of personal study meant the most to you? Why?
2. Did this week open your eyes to anything you've been clinging to that has been holding you back (bitterness, unforgiveness, anger, disappointment, hopelessness, and so forth)?
3. In Day Two, you read Ephesians 4:22-24 and were challenged to come up with some specific ways to put those verses into practice. Invite group members to share what they came up with and encourage one another.
4. Ruth had to wait through the night for an answer from Boaz. What have you learned about waiting this week?
5. Discuss the principle of Christ being our supply of what we're to deliver and lavish on others (Day Five). How does this relieve you of carrying everyone else's burdens? How does it empower you to love?
6. What was your biggest takeaway from this week of study?

WATCH the video "Session Five: A Proposal" (34:07), encouraging group members to take notes on the Watch page (p. 126) as Kelly teaches.

DISCUSS Kelly's video teaching, using these questions as a starting point:

1. What's one thing Kelly said that stuck with you from the video?



2. Review the main points Kelly made during her teaching:
 1. Are you willing to participate with God in the new thing He is doing in your life?
 2. *Hesed* always seeks more than fulfilling the letter of the law.
 3. We can rest because we know God is always at work on our behalf.

3. If you feel comfortable, share about a time in your life when you've taken off your "mourning clothes" and moved forward in obedience.

4. We see a lot of Ruth's character and determination in this part of Ruth's story. What about her or her story has drawn you in the most? What has her story revealed to you about your relationship with the Lord and His work in you?

PRAY, thanking God for being at work in the details of Ruth's story, our stories, and ultimately His grand story.

PRAYER REQUESTS



SESSION SIX: REDEMPTION

WELCOME group members to Session Six of *Ruth*.


DISCUSS the previous week's personal study, using the following questions as a guide.

1. Read Ruth 4:1-13. Then ask: Which day of personal study meant the most to you? Why?
2. Discuss how this week's study has opened your eyes to looking for the "Ruths" God has placed in your life.
3. What do you think of being willing to be made willing?
4. How did studying Christ's willingness to redeem you further impact your understanding of His love for you?
5. How did Boaz's proclamation of redeeming "Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon's widow" in Ruth 4:10 impact you when you think of how Christ has redeemed us personally—with all our baggage, sin, mired pasts, and imperfections?
6. On Day Four, we looked at the idea of blessing. If you're up for it, consider having each person in the group share a biblical blessing over the person to her right or left.

WATCH the video "Session Six: Redemption" (35:51), encouraging group members to take notes on the Watch page (p. 154) as Kelly teaches.

DISCUSS Kelly's video teaching, using these questions as a starting point:

1. What's one thing Kelly said that stuck with you from the video?

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2. Review the main points Kelly made during her teaching:
 1. God doesn't ask us to do extraordinary things. He asks us to show extraordinary *hesed*.
 2. There is nothing in your life God cannot redeem.
 3. There are no second-class citizens in the kingdom of God, only daughters of the King with full access to all He is and all He has.

 3. In both the personal study and the video teaching, we learned about Rachel, Leah, and Tamar. Discuss your thoughts about how their stories give you a greater understanding of how Ruth fits into the bigger picture of Scripture.

 4. Where are you in the process of totally surrendering your life to the Lord? Are you holding certain things back? Are certain things scarier for you to offer Him than others? Even if just a few people share about this one, it will be encouraging for others to hear.

PRAY, giving the women in your group a chance to voice their own prayers of gratitude to God for His redemptive work in their lives.

PRAYER REQUESTS



SESSION SEVEN: LEGACY

WELCOME group members to Session Seven of *Ruth*.

DISCUSS the previous week's personal study, using the following questions as a guide.

1. Read Ruth 4:14-22. Then ask: Which day of personal study meant the most to you? Why?
2. At the end of Day One (p. 164) Kelly wrote: "Grace stuns our theories and carefully constructed notions of how things should go. It blesses those who don't deserve it, redeems names that would otherwise have disappeared, and sets glory in the bosoms of once-forsaken widows." How has grace "stunned" you?
3. Has someone recently refreshed your life as Obed refreshed and renewed Naomi's?
4. Were you surprised to see that Ruth was the great-grandmother of King David? How did this add to the richness of Ruth and Boaz's story for you?
5. What was your reaction to Rahab's story (Day Four)? Does it surprise you that so many marred women show up in the genealogy of Jesus Christ? How does this encourage you?
6. How did studying the genealogy in Ruth and Matthew help you further understand how Scripture ties together? Was this intriguing to you?
7. This week we studied Old Testament prophecies that point toward Christ (Day Five). How did they strengthen your faith?

WATCH the video "Session Seven: Legacy" (35:29), encouraging group members to take notes on the Watch page (p. 182) as Kelly teaches.



DISCUSS Kelly's video teaching, using these questions as a starting point:

1. What's one thing Kelly said that stuck with you from the video?

2. Review the main points Kelly made during her teaching:
 1. How is God renewing your life, even if it's different than what you expected?
 2. God can take what looks like emptiness to us and turn it into fullness.
 3. If God is not the Hero of our stories, we've put our hope in the wrong person.
 4. Normal choices result in a normal life, but godly choices result in legacy.

3. Which of the main points from this closing chapter resonates most deeply with you today?

4. How has our study through Ruth challenged and encouraged you in your relationship with Jesus?

CLOSE & PRAY: Wrap up the study by encouraging participants to share key truths they're taking away from the study. Be sure to discuss how they will apply what they've learned and how you can help encourage one another. Share your gratitude for their participation in the study and offer a prayer of blessing over your group as you close.

PRAYER REQUESTS