



DAILY BIBLE READING

# RADIANCE IN RUTH

*Tim Blagg*

Read. Ask. Live. Love

# Daily Bible Reading

## What?

Sometimes we find it hard to read the Bible, don't we? At church we hear it all the time: "*read the Bible more.*" But how? Some of the devotionals on offer seem to have less Bible than story. Some of the Bible reading plans seem too big to take on all at once; what should I think about? How can I possibly know what questions to ask as I read through God's word?

It's in light of these questions that these daily bible readings have come into existence! The aim is to help you read God's word for yourself and ask some of the questions to comprehend what God is saying to you today through his living and active word, with the hope asking these sorts of questions for yourself as you read through the Bible in bigger doses that this has to offer. It's a tool, and hence it's only as valuable as our use of it.

My prayer for you as you use these - whether by yourself or with your family around the dinner table - is that God will work through his word to grow you into the fullness of Christ and bring you joy as you come to know him through his word.

## How?

The way to approach it every day (as recommended) is:

- 1) Pray to God; it is his word we're reading, so ask him to help you understand it.
- 2) Read the passage once or twice.
- 3) Go through each question, looking back at the bible to think through them.
- 4) Pray about what you have learned, and live out the applications for today.

## Want more?

If you want more studies like these ones, check out our online database at [www.trinitycity.church/youth](http://www.trinitycity.church/youth) - just follow the links. Alternatively, if you're looking for more in depth bible reading plans, many can be found in study bibles or online. Chat to your bible study group leader or pastor for more information.

In Christ,

Tim

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## **Week 1 (Ruth 1)**

### **Day 1**

- Read Ruth 1:1-22

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 22 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. What does this passage describe God as doing? Write it down.

- Radiant for Today:

- One of the hardest things to understand in our world is why bad things happen. The book of Ruth answers this in some ways - that God can bring about good from bad/evil. We will have to wait and see what happens throughout the rest of the book, but for now - look at how Ruth allies herself to God's people. It is a radical, radiant change in her life. What is your response to God? Is it like Ruth - who risks her security in life and leaves behind everything she's comfortable with - or is it like Orpah - who returns to her gods and her people?

### **Day 2**

- Read Ruth 1:1-2

- Think through the following questions:

1. When did this happen? (Read Judges 21:25 to understand what these days meant).
2. Where was Elimelech, Naomi and their sons (Mahlon and Kilion) from?
3. Why were they going to Moab (for more info on Moab, read: Genesis 19:30-38, Numbers 22-25 and Judges 3:12-30)?

- Radiant for Today:

- Things were going pretty rough in Israel. Elimelech, trying to be a good father and husband, decided that they would take their chances in a different country. But more than that; he had stopped trusting God to take care of his family, and decided he would trust himself. We will see more of how this turns out (badly!) over the coming days. Who are you going to put your trust in - God, or yourself? Only God knows everything and how it all will end - we don't have the full picture of what is happening in our lives. Trust God today - talk to Him about it in prayer.

### **Day 3**

- Read Ruth 1:3-7

- Think through the following questions:

1. What happens to Elimelech, Mahlon and Kilion over the 10 years they are in Moab?
2. What did Naomi hear (v.6) while she was in Moab?
3. Where was Naomi going with her daughters-in-law?

- Radiant for Today:

- Yesterday we read that there was a famine in the land of Israel. Elimelech had chosen to go to Moab to keep his family alive, but sadly died. And not too long after, God provided food for Israel. God can be trusted to care for His people! Take some time to confess to God the times in your life when you don't trust Him or believe that He will take care of you, and ask Him to help you to trust Him.

#### **Day 4**

- Read Ruth 1:8-18

- Think through the following questions:

1. What did Naomi tell Ruth and Orpah to do?
2. How does Naomi feel that God has treated her/done to her?
3. What is Ruth's response to Naomi urging her to leave her?

- Radiant for Today:

- What do your decisions show about what you think is important? Naomi tells both Ruth and Orpah to go back to their homeland, in order that they might find 1/ a new husband, 2/ have children and 3/ have a new home, in which they will find rest. Orpah decides to go back to that, whereas Ruth refuses to leave; she values something else far more - she aligns herself with God's people, even if it isn't the most obvious choice. And what about your decisions - the way you choose who you do or don't sit with or talk to. How you decide what to use your money for. How you spend your time. What are you valuing in your decisions?

#### **Day 5**

- Read Ruth 1:19-21

- Think through the following questions:

1. Where did they go?
2. Do the people take any notice of Ruth?
3. What does Naomi say she should be called? Why?

- Radiant for Today:

- Naomi (which means "pleasant") insists on being called "Mara" (meaning "bitter") because she is very upset with her situation - she blames God entirely on her misfortune. Certainly God is sovereign behind all - good and bad - but Naomi doesn't think she has any responsibility. And yet, she and her husband had

moved to Moab (and away from the land of God's promise - Israel!). She had lived in Moab for 10 years! Her sons had married non-Israelite women, deliberately defying God's commands (Deuteronomy 7). Is Naomi in any way responsible for offending God? And what about today - many people think that it would be unfair for God to judge them. Would it be wrong for God to judge? Or are we responsible for offending Him too?

## Day 6

- Read Ruth 1:1,21-22

- Think through the following questions:

1. Why did the man (Elimelech) and his wife (Naomi) leave Bethlehem?
2. What was happening in Bethlehem when Naomi and Ruth came back?
3. Naomi claims (v.21) that she left Bethlehem full, and returned empty. However, she left Bethlehem when there was a famine and returned during the harvest. What does she mean by saying she left full and returned empty?

- Radiant for Today:

- Is it always bad if God takes away "good" things, or things we'd like? Naomi is deeply distressed over losing her husband and sons - we can understand that! As hard as that is to cope with, because she lost them she returned to Bethlehem - she returned to God's people in His promised land! She returned to a life where God would be very important, as opposed to not important at all. In this case, we even see that because God brings her back, He achieves some great things through her descendants! And what about us? God might take away something that seems really important in our lives to make us more godly. There might be something that causes you to sin, which unless God takes away, you could be at risk of stopping being a Christian! Pray about this today - ask God if there is anything in your life that might be getting in the way of your relationship with Him. And courageously ask Him to deal with it.

## Day 7

- Youth/Bible Study/Church - Passage Covered:

- What was the Talk about?: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- What do I need to change? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **Week 2 (Ruth 2)**

### **Day 8**

- Read Ruth 2

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 23 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. How does God treat “strangers” - people who aren’t Christians? Write this down, and look back at it throughout this week! \_\_\_\_\_

- Radiant for Today:

- Everyone in Bethlehem doesn’t seem to be treating Ruth well! In Ruth 1:18, Naomi doesn’t talk to Ruth for the whole journey back to Bethlehem from Moab. In Ruth 1:20-21, Naomi says that God has made her life very bitter; that she has come back from Moab “...empty.” She doesn’t even value Ruth! And in Ruth 2:6, the foreman doesn’t even call her by her name. And yet, Boaz treats her incredibly kindly. How has God treated us? 1 John 4:9-10 is a pretty good indication of some of how God has treated us. Pray in light of this, and remember God’s kindness to us!

### **Day 9**

- Read Ruth 2:1-3

- Think through the following questions:

1. What was the name of the relative on her husband - Elimelech’s - side?
2. What did Ruth say she would do (v.2)?
3. Where did Ruth end up doing this?

- Radiant for Today:

- The practice of “gleaning” in the Old Testament - of picking up the left-over grain behind the main harvesters - was introduced by God (check out Leviticus 19:9-10!). Why did God tell the Israelites to leave left-overs? It was because He cares for the foreigner and the poor in the land! And being a widow and from Moab, Ruth falls into both categories! How does God’s law show He cares for all people?

### **Day 10**

- Read Ruth 2:4-7

- Think through the following questions:

1. Who arrives at the field?

2. Who does he ask the foreman of his harvesters about?
3. How is she described by the foreman?

- Radiant for Today:

- Boaz's greeting to his harvesters tells us a couple of things. 1/ He cares about God, and honours Him in everything he does. 2/ He cares about his harvesters; he greets them, and they respect him in their response. How about your relationships with others? Would someone be able to look at how you interact with other people and see that you care about God? Would they be able to say that you honour God in all you do? And would they be able to tell that you care for others? Talk to God about this today - ask Him to help you be radiant in your love for Him.

## **Day 11**

- Read Ruth 2:8-13

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does Boaz tell Ruth to do? How is he treating her?
2. Ruth describes herself as a mere foreigner. What has Boaz heard about her? (v. 11-12)
3. How does Ruth see herself when approaching Boaz? How does Boaz see her?

- Radiant for Today:

- When Ruth left behind Moab in chapter 1, according to Naomi she was leaving behind rest (or refuge) in the home of a husband. Here in Ruth 2:12, Boaz blesses Ruth, recognising her as a member of the community of Israel, and prays that she will find refuge in God. Boaz alone - none of the other Israelites - has recognised that God really cares for all people, and wants all to seek Him! He wants to help, not to hinder. Is there anyone in your life who you think God wouldn't want to save? Think again. The gospel of Jesus Christ is to be shared with all - not just with people who we like or think are better than others.

## **Day 12**

- Read Ruth 2:14-18

- Think through the following questions:

1. How does Boaz continue to be kind to Ruth?
2. How much does Ruth collect in total?
3. When Naomi left Bethlehem, it was a famine. Now, how much food does Naomi get?

- Radiant for Today:

- Boaz not only says kind words to Ruth, but he also follows it up with actions that show that he really does care! We can see why he is respected by his workers. He has welcomed Ruth into the community with open arms. How about you? Do you welcome the new person at school or church with open arms? Do you show them God's love? Or do you withdraw, preferring the company of people just like you? How did God treat us? (Read Luke 15:11-24). Are you showing the same love and welcome like God has to us through Jesus?

### Day 13

- Read Ruth 2:19-23

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does Naomi say about Boaz?
2. What advice does Naomi give to Ruth?
3. How long does Ruth work in Boaz's fields?

- Radiant for Today:

- In v.20, Naomi says "The LORD bless him" about Boaz. And because of this amazing abundance, she has realised that God is incredibly kind and loving; "He (God) has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." Naomi has realised something important: God isn't mean. He doesn't just cause suffering. God is very caring and loving, and is very able to provide for every need. In fact, God provides for our most important need - the need to be in right relationship with Him! Thank God today for providing for the most important need in your life.

### Day 14

- Youth/Bible Study/Church - Passage Covered:

- What was the Talk about?: \_\_\_\_\_

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- What do I need to change? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Week 3 (Ruth 3)**

### **Day 15**

- Read Ruth 3

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 18 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. What were Ruth and Boaz willing to risk for the sake of one another?

- Radiant for Today:

- We see something incredible happen in Ruth 3; we see Ruth - a noble charactered woman (v.11) - risking her life to seek refuge in Boaz. And we see Boaz risk his reputation and standing with people to “redeem” Ruth and Naomi. They were willing to risk quite a bit for one another. But this risk that Boaz takes points us to an even greater “risk” or sacrifice that another redeemer had to make. In Philippians 2:5-8, we see that Jesus - even though He was in heaven with God! - chose to make himself a man and come to earth to serve! Why? For redemption of His people; to bring them into a new life and relationship with God. Pray to God, giving thanks for our wonderful redeemer!

### **Day 16**

- Read Ruth 3:1-5

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does Naomi say she wants to find for Ruth?
2. Where did Naomi used to think Ruth should find it? (Ruth 1:9)
3. How does Naomi suggest Ruth does this?

- Radiant for Today:

- Naomi plans to care for Ruth by finding Ruth a husband and a house. These aren't necessarily bad things to want. But we also see that Naomi has a weird sounding plan; she wants Ruth to go to Boaz and to “throw herself at him”. Even though Naomi has good intentions, God cares about how we act. God cares about how we try to achieve His goals for us. As we see, Ruth doesn't completely obey Naomi (which is good!), and Boaz has a more noble character than Naomi thought. The fact is that Naomi still doesn't completely trust God to provide for her or Ruth. She wants to achieve it by any means necessary. And what about us? Do our actions show that we trust God and act as He would have us act? Or are we impatient, trying to get what we want regardless of what God thinks?

## Day 17

- Read Ruth 3:6-9

- Think through the following questions:

1. Why do you think Boaz was lying over the grain pile?
2. What does he ask Ruth when he wakes up?
3. Does Ruth completely obey Naomi's instructions?

- Radiant for Today:

- Ruth does something very different to what Naomi told her to do. Instead of waiting for Boaz to do anything, she asks him to effectively "be the answer to his own prayer"! In 2:12, we saw that Boaz prayed that God would reward her and repay her for what she has done, in that she has come to take refuge under God. And here in chapter 3, Ruth has asked him to marry her and to be an expression of God's refuge and protection. Read through Matthew 9:35-38. Right after this, Jesus sends His disciples out into the towns and villages to be harvesters/workers. Could you be an answer to this prayer as well? All Christians are called to be workers in the harvest field.

## Day 18

- Read Ruth 3:10-13

- Think through the following questions:

1. How does Boaz feel that Ruth is treating him?
2. What do all the townspeople know about Ruth?
3. What is the "problem" - the factor that means that Boaz cannot immediately redeem Ruth and Naomi?

- Radiant for Today:

- Boaz recognises Ruth's character; "...*you are a woman of noble character.*" (v.11) What is a woman of noble character like? Read Proverbs 31:30-31 and 1 Peter 3:3-5. Ladies: are you being a woman of noble character? Are you focusing on following God? Men: what are you valuing in women - in your sisters in Christ? Do you value them pursuing God? Do you value godliness above all else? How can you be showing you value these more?

## Day 19

- Read Ruth 3:14-15

- Think through the following questions:

1. Where does Ruth stay throughout the night?
2. Why do you think Boaz told her to leave before anyone else was up?
3. What does Boaz give Ruth to take back home?

- Radiant for Today:

- One of the big things that happens here is that Boaz continues to care for Ruth - to show her kindness and to protect her. He instructs her to leave before anyone else is up - solely to protect her from unwanted attention or advances as well as to protect her reputation (even though they were beyond reproach in how they acted). He provides her with more barley - about 37kg - to carry home. He is providing, but His provision will run out; it won't last forever! However, there is one provider who has more than enough to last you for eternity. Jesus. Check out John 4:13-14, and thank God for His provision.

## Day 20

- Read Ruth 3:16-18

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does Naomi ask Ruth?
2. Why did Boaz give Ruth the barley?
3. How long does Naomi say it will take Boaz to settle the matter?

- Radiant for Today:

- Some things in our lives we can put off, and take our time with to make a decision. But there are also other things which need more immediate action. A decision about God is the most important one of all of these. And every day, a prayerful and humble dependence on Him is an important thing that needs immediate action. Take time before the day gets on to talk to God, to tell Him you depend on Him and to ask that He will both forgive you and will pour His grace on you to help you live life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. (Philippians 1:27)

## Day 21

- Youth/Bible Study/Church - Passage Covered:

- What was the Talk about?: \_\_\_\_\_  
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- What do I need to change? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **Week 4 (Ruth 4)**

### **Day 22**

- Read Ruth 4

- Think through the following questions:

1. What are the things that “jump out” at you from this text - the things that are surprising or stick in your mind?
2. What questions do you have from reading these 22 verses? Write them down, pray over them and think through them over the next week.
3. God doesn’t always do things in the way that we would like Him to do them. Can you think of any times when choosing to follow God seemed to be a “silly” choice - whether it would cost you money, or friends, or reputation, etc.? Write it down now! \_\_\_\_\_

- Radiant for Today:

- In Ruth 4 the question that is raised is whether or not following God is worth the “cost”. Is it worth the cost to follow God - to follow His will? It doesn’t always look that way at the time - the nearer kinsman-redeemer didn’t think so anyway! But in the long run - in the bigger picture - it is always worthwhile. It is because Boaz follows God - even when it doesn’t make sense - that God makes his name great. Boaz receives a reward far greater than his sacrifice for following God. And in the same way, there is something far greater in store for us than *anything* we could miss out on in this life because we follow God. Eternal life with God. Our eternal home!

### **Day 23**

- Read Ruth 4:1-4

- Think through the following questions:

1. Where does Boaz go to?
2. Who does Boaz have sit with him and the nearer kinsman-redeemer?
3. When Boaz tells the nearer kinsman-redeemer that Naomi is selling the land, how does he respond? Why does he respond this way?

- Radiant for Today:

- Boaz chooses to tell the nearer kinsman Redeemer because it is the right thing to do. Boaz shows his integrity. What about you? Does the way you live and the way you act show that you care about showing others you love God, even when it isn’t convenient? Integrity. Do you live your life in a way that honours God even when it would be easier to ignore God? Think about this and pray to God about it today.

## Day 24

- Read Ruth 4:5-8

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does Boaz reveal to the nearer kinsman-redeemer that will come with the land?
2. What does the kinsman-redeemer decide to do in response to this new information?
3. What does the nearer kinsman-redeemer do in order to legalise the transaction with Boaz?

- Radiant for Today:

- The nearer kinsman-redeemer initially jumped at the opportunity to become more wealthy. He thought that he could just buy the land, and then could become more rich and famous in Bethlehem. But when he heard that the land wouldn't remain his - that it would instead become Ruth's future child's land - he decided not to help. The nearer kinsman-redeemer was more concerned with what was in it for him, not in helping others out. He was blatantly greedy. Read **1 Timothy 6:6-10**. How should we view money and wealth as Christians?

## Day 25

- Read Ruth 4:9-12 (and also read Genesis 38:11-30 for the account of Tamar and Judah)

- Think through the following questions:

1. What does Boaz announce to the elders and all the people?
2. Who's name is Boaz concerned with preserving?
3. Read through the story of Tamar and Judah. What are the similarities and differences between them, and Ruth and Boaz's relationship?

- Radiant for Today:

- The people of Israel pray three blessings on Boaz in v.11-12. The family line of Perez (son of Tamar and Judah) was famous throughout all of Israel's history (as we will see later this week!). It is an example of God achieving his plans *in spite of the sin of mankind*. What do you think is the greatest example in the Bible of God achieving his plans in spite of the sin of mankind? Give thanks to God for this!

## Day 26

- Read Ruth 4:13-17

- Think through the following questions:

1. Who was responsible for Ruth being able to get pregnant?

2. Early in Ruth, Naomi was devastated with all her losses. She had lost her husband, her sons and as a result was bitter against God. How has God filled her since Ruth 1?
3. What was special about the son that Ruth and Boaz had?

- Radiant for Today:

- We see here that, through Boaz, God has redeemed Naomi and Ruth! They are no longer struggling, they no longer are unprovided for; they now are firmly protected in God's covenantal community! Look at **Ephesians 1:3-14**. How has God redeemed us? Through Jesus' death; through Jesus' blood. We can be in God's people because of Jesus! We are God's people for the *praise of His glory*. Does the way you live line up with this purpose?

## Day 27

- Read Ruth 4:18-22

- Think through the following questions:

1. Who's son was Perez? (hint: look back over all of Ruth 4!)
2. Who was Boaz's great-grandson?
3. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13. What was special about Boaz's great-grandson?

- Radiant for Today:

- God worked through Ruth and Boaz to bring about the most important family line in the history of the world! Don't believe it? Look at Matthew 1:1-17. All throughout history, God was fitting the puzzle pieces into place. All of the line of Israel was always heading to the one most important person in the history of the world - Jesus Christ. All of the Bible - the Old Testament and the New Testament - is there to point to Jesus Christ. Even the really boring, long-winded parts about families and laws! They are all there to point us to Jesus. Whenever you hear the Bible or read the Bible, take the time to ask "*How is this pointing to Jesus?*"

## Day 28

- Youth/Bible Study/Church - Passage Covered:

- What was the Talk about?: \_\_\_\_\_

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- What do I need to change? \_\_\_\_\_

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