

Lesson 1

5. Do you see a truth in Ruth 1 that stirs your heart? Was there something in the chapter that caused you to think about your own life and lifestyle? How has this portion of Scripture ministered to you today?

I was thinking about the book of Psalms and the many prayers that were recorded as songs that express faith in God. One of these is Psalm 40. Please end by reading this beautiful Psalm as an act of worship before the Lord your God, that you might proclaim His faithfulness to you in gratitude.

Day 5 – Ruth 1:1-14

1. Today's time in the word will focus on the first paragraphs of the book of Ruth. Begin your time in the word by **asking** God to help you receive from Him the blessing of spending time with Him, **asking** that His truth will make a difference in your heart. Now answer these **observation questions**.

- Make a simple family tree with the names given in Ruth 1:1, 2.

- Based on the verses given below, please look at Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah, describing who they were and what you learn about their relationship with God.

Information given to describe the women:	The women's relationship to God:
Naomi, whose name meant pleasant: Ruth 1:1-15	
Ruth, whose name meant friend: Ruth 1:1-17	

Information given to describe the women:	The women's relationship to God:
Orpah, the feminine word for the back of the neck or mane: Ruth 1:1-14	

- What did Naomi ask on behalf of her daughters-in-law in Ruth 1:8, 9?

2. The lessons will contain a study of some of the specific words that were used in the Scripture to help clarify your understanding of the meaning of the words. In order to save you the time of having to look up these words in reference books, the word studies will appear on a chart like the one that follows. Many books are available to help with word studies. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* is an excellent resource for looking at both the Old Testament Hebrew words and the New Testament Greek words. The definition column in the middle might also give the word as it is translated in other versions of the Bible. When another source is used in the definition column this is given in italics. A complete list of the references used for this study is found in the Bibliography in the Appendix.

In the first column you will find the Strong's number and the lexical form of the word, that is the word before it is changed grammatically to fit in its context. The second row will show the actual word that was used based on the grammatical use of the word. Sometimes these two words will be the same, and sometimes they are different. The third line has the biblical reference of the word from the lesson.

Included in the third column will be cross-references that will show you how the word was used in another passage of Scripture in a similar way. Words can have more than one meaning, and they can be defined by looking at their context. You might briefly summarize what you learn about the word from the cross-reference(s) given or just read the verse.

Please examine these word studies for some of the **key words** in this lesson.

Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's Concordance unless written in <i>italics</i> :	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
8199 shaphat hashop ^a Tiym Ruth 1:1	Judges , pronounce sentence (for or against); by implication, to vindicate or punish; by extension, to govern; passively, to litigate (literally or figuratively): avenge, that condemns, contend, defend, execute (judgment), judge (-ment), needs, plead, reason, rule	Judges 2:16; 3:10
458 Eliymelek 'Eliymelek Ruth 1:2	Elimelech , God of (the) king; Elimelek, an Israelite	Ruth 1:3; 2:1, 3 (Only used in the book of Ruth.)

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Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's Concordance unless written in <i>italics</i> :	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
2617 checed/hesed cheded Ruth 1:8	Gracious love <i>ISV</i> , kindness; by implication (towards God) piety: rarely (by opposition) reproof, or (subjectively) beauty: favour, good deed (-liness, -ness), kindly, (loving-) kindness, merciful (kindness), mercy, pity	Psalms 117:2
4496 menuwachah m ^a nuwchaah Ruth 1:9	Security <i>ISV</i> , rest <i>NASB</i> , repose or (adverbially) peacefully; figuratively, consolation (specifically, matrimony); hence (concretely) an abode: comfortable, ease, quiet, rest (-ing place), still	Psalms 132:8
3068 Yehovah Yahweh Ruth 1:13	LORD , (the) self-Existent or Eternal; Jehovah, Jewish national name of God: <i>Yahweh, written as YHWH by Israel, translated as "I Am," as God introduced Himself to Moses in Exodus 3:14. Written as LORD, in capital letters in Scripture.</i>	Exodus 3:14

3. The book of Ruth opens with the statement "Now there came a time of famine while judges were ruling in the land of Israel." Please read Judges 2:8-22 and answer the "5 Ws and an H" questions about the time of the judges. You might answer these questions: When did this take place? What were the circumstances in Israel? What was God's response to His people? Why were judges appointed? How did the Israelite's respond to the judges?

Some information about the city of Bethlehem:

- ❖ The word Bethlehem is a compound word from the Hebrew word *beth* that means house and *lehem* meaning bread or food, hence the name for town of Bethlehem means the house of bread.
- ❖ Bethlehem was given to the tribe of Judah when Joshua distributed the Promised Land to Israel. 1 Samuel tells us that David's family lived in Bethlehem.
- ❖ Micah 5:2 prophesied that from Bethlehem would come the ruler of Israel. Many of Israel's religious leaders believed that Micah's words were prophesy about the coming Messiah.
- ❖ Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem for the Roman census and Jesus was born in Bethlehem according to Luke 2:4-6.

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- ❖ Hadrian as the Emperor of Rome who served around 100 A.D. had a statue built in Bethlehem as a tribute to the Roman god Juniper. Hadrian erected Jupiter's statue to insult the Jews who had rebelled against Rome. This statue remained until the reign of the Roman Emperor Constantine in the 4th century.
- ❖ Soon after Christianity became the accepted religion of the Roman Empire, Jerome was commissioned by the church in Rome to translate into Latin the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament (as determined by the Nicene Council in the early 4th century). Jerome and his widowed assistant Paula chose Bethlehem for their work. Paula paid for the building of two monasteries in Bethlehem, one for men and the other for the women who helped with the church. Paula also purchased the manuscripts for the translation work as the church could not afford these documents. The Vulgate became the Bible used by the church for centuries, although during the Reformation translations in the spoken languages of the people became available.
- ❖ Today Bethlehem is under the control of Palestinians, although they often allow tourist buses to enter the city to see the church that is "occupied" by the Greek Orthodox Church on one side and the Roman Catholic Church on the other. At one end of the church a "shrine" was built over what is believed to be the site where Jesus was born in a "cave" that was used to stable animals. Another part of the Bethlehem church is the site where the church claims that Jerome and his assistant Paula translated the Vulgate Scriptures into Latin.

4. Now please look at information concerning the land of Moab, Ruth's homeland. From reading the Scriptures below, answer the following questions to help you understand Ruth's people. How was the nation founded? How did this country interact with Israel? What was God's treatment of these people?

a. Genesis 19:30-38

b. Numbers 25:1-11

c. Joshua 24:5-11

d. Hosea 9:10 (Baal-Peor was the city in Moab referred to in Numbers 25:1-5.)

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5. Read the following verses and look at how the word LORD was used.

a. Ruth 1:6

b. Ruth 1:8

c. Ruth 1:9

d. Ruth 1:13

Now think about what you learned about the faith of the author of the book of Ruth and about Naomi from these verses.

a. Evidence of the author's faith in God:

b. Evidence of Naomi's faith in God:

In closing, read what is declared about the LORD in Psalm 117. This Psalm uses the same word for love that Naomi used in Ruth 1:8, which is sometimes translated as mercy or lovingkindness. Allow this short Psalm to encourage your spirit as you come to an end of first lesson.

I was thinking of the temptation that comes to us to dwell on our sorrow and allow times of mourning to keep us from worshiping our Lord. If you know this beautiful hymn, you might close by singing these words, or simply read these words of praise, asking the Lord to encourage your heart as you announce who He is through these words.

“O Worship the King”

O worship the King, all glorious above, and gratefully sing His power and His love; our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of His might, O sing of His grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space; His chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form, and dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light; it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail; Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end! Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.

By Robert Grant and J. Michael Haydn
