

## Faith: Trusting, Walking, Living

*A Study in Ruth & Galatians*

### Ruth 1:22—2:23 (Part B)

Read Ruth 1:22—2:23.

1. What beautiful image does Boaz use in blessing Ruth? (2:12)

What does this image communicate? (Ps. 91:4; \* Ps. 36:7; 57:1)

2. At the end of the day, Ruth lugs home an ephah of barley—approximately 29 pounds, or a half-month’s wages.<sup>1</sup> Describe Naomi’s reaction to Ruth’s big haul. (2:19–20)
3. In verse 20 Naomi gives us a crucial new piece of information about Boaz: as a “close relative,” he can serve as a “kinsman-redeemer.” Write down a few of the responsibilities a kinsman-redeemer might be required to perform in ancient Israel:  
Lev. 25:25:

Lev. 25:47–49:

Deut. 25:5–10:

4. What is Naomi beginning to learn about the ways of the Lord?

\*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

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<sup>1</sup> Robert L. Hubbard, *The Book of Ruth*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1988), 179.

5. Carolyn Custis James writes, “God’s people lived with the assumption that God’s hand is behind everything.”<sup>2</sup> Based on chapters 1 and 2 of Ruth, how does believing that reassure you?

Again, considering chapters 1 and 2, does believing that in any way make you uncomfortable?

6. Significantly, it is suffering Naomi who reminds us of God’s essential quality of *hesed* (1:8; 2:20). The Hebrew word *hesed* means many things, all at the same time: kindness, love, loving-kindness, mercy, grace and loyalty. Because *hesed* is fundamental to God’s character, God himself includes it as part of his name. Write out Exodus 34:6–7a and keep it in mind as you answer the following questions.

a. How has God shown Naomi *hesed* through Ruth?

b. How has God shown both Naomi and Ruth *hesed* through Boaz?

c. Relate a time when God showed you *hesed* through one of his people.

7. What was the ultimate revelation of God's *hesed*? (Eph. 2:12–13, 19; Titus 3:4–7)

8. Would verse 23 make a satisfying end to the story of Ruth?

Why or why not? What loose ends remain? (see, for example, 1:9; 2:20c)

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<sup>2</sup> Carolyn Custis James, *The Gospel of Ruth: Loving God Enough to Break the Rules* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008), 127.