

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Ruth

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1:1-5

Background: This book is about a non-Israelite woman named Ruth. It tells how she came to join the people of Yahweh. The book also explains how Ruth became an ancestor of King David.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ In the time of the judges, there was a famine in the land. [1:1]
- ☐ Because of the famine, Elimelek and his wife Naomi and their two sons went to live in Moab. [1:1-2]
- ☐ Naomi's husband died and she was alone with her two sons. [1:3]
- ☐ The sons took Moabite wives and lived there for ten years. [1:4]
- ☐ The sons died and Naomi and her two daughters-in-law were left alone. [1:5]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. During what period of time in Israel's history did the story of Ruth occur? [1:1]
It occurred in the days when the judges ruled.
2. Why did Elimelech move to Moab with his family? [1:2]
He moved because there was a famine in Judah.
3. What happened to Naomi's husband in Moab? [1:3]
Her husband died, leaving her alone with two sons.
4. What did Naomi's sons do in Moab? [1:4]
Her two sons married women and lived there about ten years.
5. What happened to Naomi's sons? [1:5]
Her two sons died, leaving her with her two daughters-in-law.

Comment Section:

1:6-22

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Naomi and her two daughters-in-law left Moab and started to return to Bethlehem. [1:6-7]
- ☐ Naomi encouraged her two daughters-in-law to return to their homes, and she hoped each one would find another husband. [1:8-13]
- ☐ Orpah kissed her mother-in law goodbye, but Ruth stayed with Naomi. [1:14]
- ☐ Naomi begged Ruth to return to her family, but Ruth insisted that wherever Naomi would go, Ruth would go with her. [1:15-16]
- ☐ Naomi and Ruth traveled to Bethlehem and arrived at the time of the barley harvest. [1:22]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Naomi decide to return to Judah? [1:6]
She heard that Yahweh had given food to the people of Judah.
2. What did Naomi and her two daughters-in-law do and where did they go? [1:7]
They left the place where they were and walked down the road toward Judah.
3. What did Naomi say to her two daughters-in-law? [1:8]
She told them to return to their mothers' houses and asked that Yahweh would bless each of them for the kindness they showed to her.
4. What did Naomi want her two daughters-in-law to do? [1:9]
She wanted them to find other husbands.
5. How did they respond to Naomi's requests for them to go back home? [1:10]
They said, "No! We will return with you to your people."
6. What did Naomi ask her daughters-in-law? [1:11]
She asked why they wanted to go with her, and then asked if they thought she could bear them more sons to marry.
7. Why do you think Naomi asked these questions? [1:11]
Perhaps she wanted them to think carefully about staying with her. She was saying that there was no reason for them to stay with her since she could not provide husbands for them.
8. What other things did Naomi tell them? [1:12]
She told them to turn back and that she was too old to have a husband.
9. Who did Naomi believe was the source of her trouble? [1:13]
She believed that Yahweh had turned against her.
10. Why do you think Naomi thought this? [1:13]
Since her husband and sons had died, she probably thought she was cursed, and God was angry with her for some reason.

Ruth 1:6-22 continued

11. What was the daughters-in-law's response? [1:14]
They both cried aloud, then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth held on to Naomi.
12. What did Naomi say to Ruth? [1:15]
She reminded her that her sister-in-law had gone back to her people and told Ruth to return to her people.
13. When Ruth stayed with Naomi, what promise did Ruth make to Naomi? [1:16]
She said, "Where you go, I will go; and where you stay, I will stay; your people shall be my people, and your God shall be my God."
14. When Ruth stayed with Naomi, what other promise did Ruth make to Naomi? [1:17]
She said, "Where you die, I will die and there I will be buried."
15. What happened to Naomi when she saw that Ruth was determined to go with her? [1:18-19]
Naomi stopped arguing with Ruth and they returned to Bethlehem.
16. Why do you think Ruth stayed with Naomi, and what was Ruth willing to give up to stay with her? [1:18]
Ruth probably loved Naomi very much and did not want her to be alone. Ruth was willing to give up a chance to be with her own people and to find another husband.
17. What name did Naomi want to be called and why? [1:20]
She asked to be called, "Bitter," because she believed that Yahweh had dealt bitterly with her.
18. What reason did Naomi give for her wanting a different name? [1:21]
She said she went out full and Yahweh had brought her back empty. She said the Almighty testified against her and had afflicted her.
19. What time of the year did Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem? [1:22]
It was at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Comment Section:

2:1-18

Background: This passage talks about Ruth going to a field to glean. The law of Moses allowed poor people to go to someone's field and gather what food was left over after the owner had gathered the harvest.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Naomi had a relative of her husband named Boaz, and Ruth happened to be gleaning in his field. [2:3]
- ☐ Boaz told Ruth to stay in his field and glean there, and he was very kind to her. [2:5-9]
- ☐ Ruth questioned why Boaz was so kind to her, and Boaz said he had heard all that Ruth had done since her husband died. [2:10-13]
- ☐ Ruth ate with the rest of the reapers, and Boaz offered her food. [2:14]
- ☐ Boaz instructed the young men to allow Ruth to collect the grain with the other reapers and to give her extra food. [2:15-16]
- ☐ Ruth gleaned the field until evening and took the food to Naomi. [2:17-18]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who was Boaz?
He was a relative of Naomi's husband. He was very rich and from the clan of Elimelech.
2. As Ruth went out to glean for the first time, who did Ruth say she would follow while gleaning grain? [2:2]
She would follow anyone in whose eyes she found favor.
3. Where did Ruth go to glean what was left in the fields? [2:3]
She happened to come to the fields that belonged to Boaz.
4. What greeting did Boaz give to his workers? [2:4]
He said, "May Yahweh be with you."
5. What did Boaz want to know about Ruth? [2:5]
He wanted to know what man she belonged to.
6. How did the servant answer Boaz's question? [2:6]
He said Ruth was the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from Moab.
7. What instructions did Boaz give Ruth concerning her gleaning? [2:8]
He said, "Stay and work in my field with my women workers."
8. What instructions did Boaz give Ruth? [2:9]
He told her to keep her eyes only on the field where the men were reaping and follow behind the women.
9. What did Boaz tell the men? [2:9]
He told them not to touch Ruth.

Ruth 2:1-18 continued

10. Where did Boaz tell Ruth she could drink water? [2:9]
He told her to go to the waterpots and drink the water the young men had drawn.
11. After receiving the favorable instructions, what question did Ruth ask Boaz? [2:10]
She asked, "Why have I found favor in your sight?"
12. What had Boaz heard about Ruth? [2:11]
He heard that after the death of her husband, Ruth had left her home to follow her mother-in-law.
13. What blessing did Boaz give to Ruth in 2:12?
He asked that Yahweh reward her for her deed and that she would receive full payment from Yahweh.
14. Under whose wings did Boaz say Ruth had found protection? [2:12]
Ruth had found protection under Yahweh's wings.
15. What do you think this meant? [2:12]
Perhaps Boaz was talking about Yahweh as if he were a bird protecting his baby under his wings.
16. What was Ruth's response to Boaz? [2:13]
She asked that Boaz favor her because he had comforted her. He had spoken kindly to her although she was not one of his servants.
17. What happened at mealtime? [2:14]
Boaz asked Ruth to eat with him and sit with the reapers. She ate roasted grain until she was satisfied.
18. What did Boaz command his men to do when they returned to work after mealtime? [2:15]
He commanded his men to let her glean among the bundles and not to humiliate her.
19. What additional favor did Boaz show to Ruth when they returned to work after mealtime? [2:16]
He allowed Ruth to glean among the bundles of cut grain and commanded the reapers to pull out some ears of grain from the bundles for her.
20. How long did Ruth work in the fields and what did she do? [2:17]
Ruth worked until evening and beat the ears of grain which was about an ephah of barley.
21. What did Ruth do with the grain she had gleaned? [2:18]
She lifted it up and showed it to her mother-in-law, Naomi. She also gave Naomi roasted grain left from her meal.

Comment Section:

2:19-23

Background: This passage talks about a “kinsman-redeemer.” According to the law of Moses, this was a person responsible for taking care of a relative in need. This also includes marrying the widow of the relative who died.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Naomi asked Ruth where she had gleaned. [2:19]
- ☐ When Ruth told Boaz that she had gleaned in the field of Boaz, Naomi said that Boaz was a close relative, a kinsman redeemer. [2:19-20]
- ☐ Naomi asked that Yahweh would bless Boaz. [2:20]
- ☐ Naomi told Ruth to stay close to Boaz’s female workers so no harm would come to her. [2:22]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. When Naomi saw the large amount of grain that Ruth brought back, what question did she ask Ruth? [2:19]
She asked her where she had gleaned that day.
2. What did Ruth tell Naomi? [2:19]
She said that she had gleaned in the field owned by a man named Boaz.
3. What was Naomi’s reaction to hearing this? [2:20]
She prayed for Boaz to be blessed because he remembered to care for his relative.
4. What was the relationship between Naomi’s dead husband and Boaz? [2:20]
They were near of kin. This meant he was a close relative.
5. What did Ruth tell Naomi that Boaz told her about working with the men? [2:21]
Boaz told Ruth to stay close to the young men until they finished all the harvest.
6. Why did Naomi think it was good for Ruth to work with Boaz’s women workers? [2:22]
By doing that, Ruth would not come to harm in any other field.
7. What did Ruth do for the rest of the barley harvest and wheat fields? [2:23]
She gleaned with Boaz’s female workers and lived with Naomi.

Comment Section:

3:1-13

Background: The events in this passage take place at a threshing floor. This was a large flat rock or an area of packed-down dirt, giving a hard, level surface to crush the grain stalks and remove the grain.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Naomi instructed Ruth to wash and anoint herself, put on her best clothes and go to the threshing floor where Boaz would be. [3:3]
- ☐ Ruth went to the threshing floor at night and uncovered Boaz's feet when he was asleep. [3:6-8]
- ☐ When Boaz awoke, Ruth asked him to spread his cloak over her. [3:9]
- ☐ Boaz blessed Ruth for her kindness in not following after younger men in town. [3:10]
- ☐ Boaz told Ruth he would do as she asked, but first had to consult a kinsman who was nearer than himself. [3:11-13]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Naomi say her desire was for Ruth? [3:1]
She desired that Ruth have a place of rest, and that things would go well for her.
2. What did Naomi say about Boaz in 3:2?
She said he was their kinsman, and he would be at the threshing floor that night.
3. What did Naomi tell Ruth to do before going down to the threshing floor? [3:3]
She told her to clean up, put on perfume, and change clothes.
4. Why do you think Naomi told her to do this? [3:3]
She probably wanted Ruth to make herself attractive so Boaz would be more likely to want to marry her.
5. What was Ruth to do when she went to where Boaz was sleeping? [3:4]
She was to uncover his feet and to lie down there.
6. Why do you think Ruth was supposed to uncover his feet? [3:4]
Since he was sleeping at the threshing floor, perhaps uncovering his feet would make them cold and cause him to wake up.
7. What did Ruth do after Boaz had eaten and drunk and his heart was merry? [3:7]
Ruth went in quietly and uncovered his feet and laid down.
8. How did Boaz react when he found a woman at his feet? [3:8]
He was startled.
9. What was Ruth's request to Boaz? [3:9]
She asked him to spread his cloak over her.
10. What do you think it meant for Boaz to spread his cloak over Ruth? [3:9]
It probably meant that he accepted her as his wife and would care and protect her.

Ruth 3:1-13 continued

11. Why did Boaz ask a blessing from Yahweh for Ruth? [3:10]
He blessed her because Ruth had shown kindness to him and not gone after younger men.
12. What did Boaz say he would do about Ruth's request? [3:11]
He said that he would do all that she asked.
13. What prevented Boaz from immediately performing the part of a kinsman for Ruth? [3:12]
He said there was another kinsman nearer than Boaz.
14. How was Boaz going to determine who would act as kinsman for Ruth? [3:13]
If the nearest kinsman was willing, then he would perform the part of the kinsman, but if he was not willing, then Boaz would be the kinsman.

Comment Section:

4:1-12

Background: This passage mentions Rachel and Leah. These two women were married to Jacob, also called Israel, and gave him many children.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Boaz sat at the gate, found the nearer kinsman and gathered ten elders of the city to have a discussion. [4:1-2]
- ☐ Boaz explained the situation of the land Naomi was selling. Boaz said the nearer kinsman should buy it. If not, Boaz would buy it. [4:3-4]
- ☐ Boaz made it clear that whoever bought the land would get Ruth as his wife. [4:5]
- ☐ The nearer kinsman said he could not redeem the land and then Boaz became the kinsman redeemer. [4:6]
- ☐ The elders were witnesses to the decision for Boaz to buy the land and get Ruth as his wife. [4:7-12]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Where did Boaz go to resolve the issue of who would be the kinsman for Ruth? [4:1]
He went to the gate of the city.
2. Who did Boaz ask to sit as witnesses? [4:2]
He asked ten men of the elders of the city.
3. What did Boaz first ask the other kinsman to redeem if he wished? [4:3-4]
He asked him to redeem the parcel of land owned by Elimelech.
4. What was the other kinsman's answer? [4:4]
He agreed to redeem it.
5. What additional requirement did Boaz then tell the other kinsman? [4:5]
He told him that he would also have to take Ruth in order that Elimelech's name would continue with his inheritance.
6. After this, what was the other kinsman's answer? [4:6]
He said he could not redeem it.
7. Why did the other kinsman say he could not be the redeemer? [4:6]
He said it would damage his own inheritance.
8. What was the custom in Israel concerning redemption and exchange of goods? [4:7]
A man would take off his sandal and give it to his neighbor as a way of making it legal.
9. What did the other kinsman do to show that he agreed Boaz should be the redeemer? [4:8]
He took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz.
10. Boaz reminded the elders that they had witnessed what two agreements? [4:9-10]
They had witnessed that Boaz had bought all that was Elimelech's, and that he had acquired Ruth as his wife.

Ruth 4:1-12 continued

11. What was the response of all the people at the gate? [4:11]

All the people and the elders said, "We are witnesses." They asked that Yahweh make Boaz's house like that of Rachel and Leah, the two who built up the house of Israel.

12. What blessing did the people desire for Boaz? [4:12]

They desired offspring for him through Ruth.

Comment Section:

4:13-17

Background: This passage mentions David. He was the greatest king of Israel.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Ruth became Boaz's wife. [4:13]
- ☐ Ruth conceived and had a son. [4:13]
- ☐ The women blessed Naomi and told her the baby was the restorer of life. [4:14-15]
- ☐ They named him Obed, who became the father of Jesse, who became the father of David. [4:17]
- ☐ The book ends with the genealogy of David. [4:18-22]

Part 2

1. What happened after Boaz took Ruth to be his wife? [4:13]
Ruth conceived and had a son.
2. What did the women say to Naomi? [4:14]
They said, "May Yahweh be blessed, who has not left you today without a kinsman, this baby. May his name be famous in Israel."
3. What else did the women pray for the child to be? [4:15]
They prayed he would be a restorer of life for Naomi and nourisher in her old age.
4. Why did the women say that Ruth was better for Naomi than seven sons? [4:15]
They said this because of Ruth's love for Naomi, and because Ruth had given birth to a grandson for Naomi.
5. What did Naomi do with the baby? [4:16]
She took the baby in her arms and took care of him.
6. What was Ruth's son's name? [4:17]
His name was Obed.
7. Who was Obed the father and grandfather of? [4:17]
Obed was the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.

Comment Section: