

**Bible Study  
of the  
Book of Ruth**

**Session 2: Kindness and Blessing**

**Ponder:** Sometimes when you meet up with someone you have not seen for a while they ask; “How are you doing?” What do you tell them? Is it all positive and upbeat or do you share with them the reality? On returning to Bethlehem, Naomi receives a wonderful reception, but she has changed. Does Naomi tell them the truth?

**Opening Prayer:** (see **Appendix 1**)

**Read:** Ruth: 1:19 – 22

Why does the town respond with excitement at Naomi’s return?

Has there been a time in your life when you received a kindness or blessing that you were not expecting? What was it and did you recognise it?

Does Naomi remind you of other literal, movie or biblical characters?

**Activity:** Listen to *Irresistible*: Hillsong Worship - You Tube (2017)

**Read:** Ruth: 2:1-13

What does Boaz do for Ruth? How does this go above and beyond what is required?

What are the possible reasons Boaz reaches out to Ruth and what does the way Boaz speaks to Ruth tell us about his character?

**Activity:** Write a Gratitude or Blessing Prayer. Boaz indicates he will become God's wings over Ruth and Naomi. The following "wing" passages may help you: Psalm 17:5-8 or Psalm 91:4.

**Going Deeper:** Research the background to the laws surrounding care of the poor and vulnerable, (Deuteronomy 10:17-18).

**Twenty-first Relevance:** In your everyday life what could you contribute to make life better? Is there someone who needs your love and kindness? How could you respond?

**Closing Prayer:** Pray for each other or in pairs, asking for God's favour or blessing on your situation.

### **Appendix 1**

#### **Suggested prayers:**

*"Our Father in heaven, creator and sustainer of your world, you hold all that you have made within your gracious providence. We thank you for the rich freedom you have given us. Help us in all things to see your hand, and to live as those whose lives are entrusted to your sovereign care. As Ruth from Moab became one of your people, so you call us by name and invite us home. We are glad to find shelter under the refuge of your wings."*

Atkinson D. (1983, p.127). *The Message of the Book of Ruth*. BST. Inter-Varsity Press

*"Through the Holy Spirit, the giver of life, you lead us into truth. You enrich the guidance of your law through the personal warmth of your generous love..... Your gift of grace is far more abundant than we could ask or think. Teach us to be alert to the needs of others, and to work for a just distribution of the rich bounty of your world, that each may have daily bread for daily need."*

Atkinson D. (1983, p.127). *The Message of the Book of Ruth*. BST. Inter-Varsity Press

*"God, the Holy Trinity, from you each earthly family receives its name and learns its love. You are the God of history whose purposes span the centuries..... We give you our praise, we ask for your aid and we seek to bring all aspects of our lives under your rule."*

Atkinson D. (1983, p.128). *The Message of the Book of Ruth*. BST. Inter-Varsity Press