

# Bible Study of the Book of Ruth

## Session 5: God's Providence

**Ponder:** Where is God? God is not mentioned in the Book of Ruth, but he is seen to be at work. Where is God in your life and in the life of people around you?

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

**Read:** Ruth 1:6 and 4:13

See also Ruth 1:8, 1:16, 2:12, 2:20

How does God directly intervene in these two verses?

Good harvests after years of drought

Child born to Ruth & Boaz after years of barrenness. The Promise of God fulfilled

How does God bless Naomi, Ruth and Boaz?

Marriage for Ruth, guaranteeing a lineage for Naomi's husband Abimelech and son, Marlon;

Place of security for Naomi : now of the family of Boaz, the son of Salmon and Rahab (the Harlot of Jericho) – THE BLOODLINE

**Activity:** Chart how life has changed for Naomi, Ruth and Boaz between Ch 1 and Ch 4.

From hopelessness and oblivion to salvation & adoption into the Bloodline of the Messiah and the Promise of Inheritance.

**Going Deeper:** Answer the following questions:

Who does God work with?

Anybody and everybody in some way or other!

But particularly with Searchers & Seekers for Truth and Righteousness, and those that cry out for help and deliverance.

When does he work?

All the time in ALL DIMENSIONS – Dimensions of which we have no perception.

But specifically, in His plan for the People of Faith

Why does he work?

To ensure the preservation and continuity of His purposes for Life – in Creation and in Eternity.

How does he work?

In secret, in the open, through nature, through deeds of others, through 'miracles' (from our perspective!) & using the unexpected & despised.

Greene (2020, p.21).

**Twenty-first Relevance:** How far would you go to belong or to be free? Has God changed a situation in your life? What could you look for to see God working in your life every day?

Closing Prayer: Pray to God to work in each and everyone of us every day.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Suggested prayers:**

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

*“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.”*