

Serving One Lord Teen Bible Studies –Sherree G. Funk

Leader Guide

Ruth and Boaz: Woman of Excellence, Man of Honor

Dear leader,

Thank you for taking time to lead a group of young people through this study of Ruth and Boaz. I believe there is no more important calling than helping the next generation learn what the Word of God has to say to them. I pray that you will find it rewarding.
-----Sherree G. Funk

Before you begin:

- Choose a **meeting time** that works well for you and the group.
- You will need **nine meeting dates**, including an introductory session for distributing books.
- Allow about **ninety minutes for each session**. Expect to spend about thirty minutes in conversation over snacks or a meal. Unstructured fellowship time is important for teens, and it gives you a chance to get to know them better, too. Some of this time can also be used to share prayer concerns and answers to prayer.
- Any comfortable room in a home or church will work for most meetings. But changing the venue sometimes makes the lesson more memorable.

Introductory Session:

Activities:

- Hand out workbooks, review calendar.
- Discuss the importance of doing the workbook work at home. Each week should take no longer than 25-30 minutes (5 minutes a day, each day of the week. Make sure everyone has a Bible. NIV is the version used in the study guide and it will be easiest to use that version for the study, but other translations may be used.
- **Names.** Be sure everyone knows everyone else's name. Play a game or have fun with introductions.
- **Small group etiquette.** Go over the basics of respect for each other's answers, confidentiality, doing the homework, mutual care and concern.
- Don't expect everyone to already know who Ruth and Boaz are. Perhaps some of the group members have never been in a serious Bible study. Encourage them. The reading is not too much. Help students find the books of Judges and Ruth in the Old Testament. There will also be some study in Proverbs.

Starter questions: 1) What do you hope to get out of this Bible study?

2) What is one thing you would like everyone to pray for you this week?

Week One: Sorrow Upon Sorrow

1. On page 13, you were asked if you have ever lost a close friend, relative, or pet. Care to talk about how you felt at the time or how you feel now?
2. When was the last time you felt lonely? How did you get over it?
3. On page 16, there is a question about exile. Discuss any time you felt you were 'exiled' and how you felt about it. Then imagine how Naomi felt in Moab.
4. How can you tell if someone is bitter? Have you ever felt it? How do you get away from it?

Week Two: Emmanuel

1. If Emmanuel means God With Us, how can we model Emmanuel for others?
2. After reading 1 Corinthians: 13, what aspects of love do you find easiest? Hardest?
3. As a group, make a list of people you know who need the 'witness of with-ness.' Like grandparents, hospitalized, injured, nursing home residents, or newcomers in town, and brainstorm ways you could spend time with them. Then make a plan and follow through with it.

Week Three: Falling in Love Grace-fully

1. What does it mean to begin a relationship with "a heart for the Lord and respect for each other?" (page 29 at the bottom)
2. Practice complimenting each other in your group based on character, not on appearance.
3. Gleaning: Many areas have opportunities to help "glean the harvest." The left-over food in the fields is then used by food banks to feed hungry people, just like in the time of Ruth. If you have a chance to go as a group to glean, it can be a great service to others as you learn what hard work it can be. Look up www.endhunger.org/gleaning_network.htm for a gleaning opportunity near you.

Week Four: Bold as a Lion

1. Share your responses to the Boldness Quiz and the questions that follow on page 40.
2. How does trust make you more bold?
3. Do you agree that Naomi has changed since the beginning of the book of Ruth? Why or why not?
4. Do you trust God enough to come to him and ask him anything? (p 45)

Week Five: Respect

1. Do you have a friend like the one described on page 48, who sifts the contents of your heart, keeping the good, forgiving and forgetting the bad? Have you thanked them?
2. In what ways does a man of honor show respect? Especially around women?
3. Do you trust God like Ruth trusted Boaz?
4. Share your answers to the question on page 55. How did Boaz demonstrate his respect for these women, for God, the Law, and his community.

Week Six: Blessings, Blessings, Blessings

1. How blessed are you? What are you thankful for?
2. In the account of Ruth and Boaz, how was Boaz blessed? Ruth? Naomi?
3. Can you think of a way to bless someone else today? With your group, plan a “blessing project.” Find something you can do to serve others. Maybe gleaning or collecting food for a food bank, helping repair a home, or something else.

Week Seven: A Classic Woman of Excellence

1. According to Proverbs 31, a wife of noble character plays many roles. How do you feel about that standard? Is it normal for women to do so much? Think about your mom. I bet she does a lot of these things. You could thank her today!
2. When it comes to hard work, how do you rate yourself? Like on page 69. Compare your answer to others.
3. Discuss the character traits you found in Proverbs 31. (page 72) Are you growing into this kind of person?

Week Eight: God is in Control

1. What do you see God doing in our world today? How is he working out his plan?
2. What amazes you the most about the story of Ruth and Boaz?
3. How has God worked in unexpected ways to bless you?
4. Can you memorize Romans 8:28? It is a comforting verse that speaks of God’s sovereignty.
5. How can you be useful to God in his Kingdom plan?