

Timeline of Truth – Ruth 3:6-18 – Ruth Approaches Boaz as Naomi Instructed

<p>THEME (Overall Book Idea): God <i>always</i> rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - even when we cannot know what He is doing - even when it takes many years - even when God allows us to suffer 	<p>A rhyme that captures these ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God is <i>always</i> in control Though we may be <i>unaware</i>. - And God may work over <i>many years</i> And allow troubles <i>hard</i> to bear. - But God is <i>always</i> in control We can <i>trust His loving care</i>.
---	--

Two Memory Verses:

<p>4:14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed <i>be</i> the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!"</p>	<p>4:17 Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.</p>
--	--

Ruth 1:1-5 – Trouble Comes with Life

We are impacted by cultural apostasy, large-scale adversity, and personal tragedy, but God is always actively in control.

Ruth 1:5-7 – Naomi Makes Difficult Decisions (A secondary lesson, but one that is evident here.)

We are to make wise decisions built from the truths of the Bible to honor God.

Ruth 1:8-18 – Naomi Seeks to Provide a Better Future for Her Daughters-in-Law

God wants us to make significant, permanent, often costly life choices for Him.

Ruth 1:19-22 – Naomi Enters Bethlehem (with Ruth) Greeted But Grieved

Circumstances that we cannot control (beyond our obedience) are controlled by God, and require us to trust Him.

Ruth 2:1-3 – Ruth Seeks to Provide, and God Works Out Details

God works through our choices of active obedience and wisdom to accomplish His will through us.

Ruth purposes to serve and provide for her mother-in-law, gleaning in the fields as allow for the poor and widows, and God works.

Ruth 2:4-17 – Boaz Rewards Ruth's Choices

Ruth works hard as a gleaner, and organized Boaz takes note and provides direction, provision, protection, and encouragement.

- The example of Boaz exhorts us to care for the needy, and especially to encourage those who seek to serve God.
- The example of Ruth exhorts us to work hard as we sacrificially serve others and as we ultimately serve God.

Ruth 2:18-23 – Ruth Returns Home from Gleaning, and Naomi Responds

Naomi begins to see the work of God amid her sufferings as He acts through the loyal, loving efforts of Ruth.

Ruth returns with a great quantity of grain and information on the field's owner. Naomi praises God for His care.

Ruth 3:1-5 – Naomi Guides Ruth to Approach Boaz

Naomi directs Ruth to approach Boaz with a marriage proposal based upon his kinsman-redeemer relationship.

CONSIDER: Naomi and Ruth both had all harvest season to observe and evaluate the righteous behavior of Boaz. He protected her, provided for her, and did not seek to take advantage of her (when he had the power to do so).

^{2:20} Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed *be* he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man *is* a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."

²¹ Ruth the Moabitess said, "He also said to me, 'You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'"

²² And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "*It is good, my daughter,* that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field."

²³ So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

^{3:1} Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?"

² "Now Boaz, whose young women you were with, *is he* not our relative? In fact, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³ "Therefore wash yourself and anoint yourself, put on your *best* garment and go down to the threshing floor; *but* do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ "Then it shall be, when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies; and you shall go in, uncover his feet, and lie down; and he will tell you what you should do."

⁵ And she said to her, "All that you say to me I will do."

Ruth 3:6-18 – Ruth Approaches Boaz as Naomi Instructed

God works through the godly guidance, initiative, and obedience of His people.

<p>⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her.</p> <p>⁷ And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay down.</p>	<p>1. Ruth _____ Naomi's Instructions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ruth went to the threshing floor b. Ruth did all that Naomi had instructed c. Ruth waited until Boaz had eaten d. Ruth watches where Boaz went to lie down e. Ruth comes to Boaz f. Ruth uncovers the feet of Boaz g. Ruth lays down
---	--

<p>⁸ Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet.</p> <p>⁹ And he said, "Who <i>are</i> you?"</p>	<p>2. Boaz Abruptly _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> [Uncovering His Feet Worked] Boaz Turns Himself Boaz Discovers a Woman at His Feet Boaz Asks the Woman's Identity
<p>So she answered, "I <i>am</i> Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative."</p> <p>2:20 3:9; 3:12 (2); 3:13 (4s) 4:1; 4:3; 4:4 (5); 4:6 (4); 4:8; 4:14</p>	<p>3. Ruth _____</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> With Her Name With Her Humble Position With Her Request With Her Reason
<p>¹⁰ Then he said, "Blessed <i>are</i> you of the LORD, <u>my daughter</u>! For you have shown more kindness at the end than at the beginning, in that you did not go after young men, whether poor or rich.</p>	<p>4. Boaz _____ Ruth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> That she is blessed of the LORD That she is younger than him That she has shown even greater kindness by asking him as an older man than pursuing any younger man
<p>¹¹ "And now, <u>my daughter</u>, do not fear. I will do for you all that you request, for all the people of my town know that you <i>are</i> a virtuous woman.</p>	<p>5. Boaz _____ Ruth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses her youth again Removes her fear Promises to do all she asks Lists her known virtue as the reason (!)
<p>¹² "Now it is true that I <i>am</i> a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I.</p>	<p>6. Boaz _____ Order Suggested in the OT Law</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Boaz illustrates his righteous attitude and actions (Yes, but...) Closer relative than Boaz (Lev 25:47-55 – brother, uncle...) God's commands over convenient circumstances
<p>¹³ "Stay this night, and in the morning it shall be <i>that</i> if he will perform the duty of a close relative for you—good; let him do it. But if he does not want to perform the duty for you, then I will perform the duty for you, <i>as</i> the LORD lives! Lie down until morning." <small>NAU "Remain this night, and when morning comes, if he will redeem you, good; let him redeem you. But if he does not wish to redeem you, then I will redeem you, as the LORD lives. Lie down until morning."</small></p>	<p>7. Boaz _____ Ruth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stay this night (rest, safety) In the morning (prompt attention) If the closer relative will be your kinsman-redeemer, good If the closer relative will not be your kinsman-redeemer, then I will be your kinsman-redeemer Lie down until morning (rest, safety, and prompt resolution)
<p>¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until morning, and she arose before one could recognize another. Then he said, "Do not let it be known that the woman came to the threshing floor." ¹⁵ Also he said, "Bring the shawl that <i>is</i> on you and hold it." And when she held it, he measured six <i>ephahs</i> of barley, and laid <i>it</i> on her. Then she went into the city.</p>	<p>8. Boaz and Ruth _____ Early in the Morning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ruth remains until morning Ruth rises early (still dark) Boaz instructs his help to keep her activity secret (timing) Boaz instructs Ruth to bring her shawl Boaz measures six <i>ephahs</i> of barley (6x what 2:17 had!) Boaz puts it on Ruth to carry Ruth returns home
<p>¹⁶ So when she came to her mother-in-law, she said, "Is that you, <u>my daughter</u>?" Then she told her all that the man had done for her. ¹⁷ And she said, "These six <i>ephahs</i> of barley he gave me; for he said to me, 'Do not go empty-handed to your mother-in-law.'" ¹⁸ Then she said, "Sit still, <u>my daughter</u>, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day."</p>	<p>9. Ruth Returns _____ to Naomi</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Naomi greets Ruth [eagerly] Ruth reports to Naomi Ruth shows the grain gift Naomi tells Ruth to wait Naomi assures Ruth that Boaz will resolve things "this day"