
a *Grace Notes* course

Ruth

Bible Study by Correspondence
by Warren Doud

Lesson 10 of 10

Ruth 4:9-22

Grace Notes

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Ruth

Lesson 10: Ruth 4:9-22

Instruction for Lesson 1-

Lesson 10: Ruth 4:9-22..... 4

Topics

Husband of a Happy Wife.....

The Christian's Inheritance.....

Lesson 10 Quiz..... 7

Instructions for Lesson 10

Begin each study session with prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who makes spiritual things discernable to Christians, so it is essential to be in fellowship with the Lord during Bible study.

Read the whole book of Ruth often. It is a short book, and reading it many times will help you understand the story much better.

Instructions

1. Study Ruth 4:9-22 by reading the verses and studying the notes. Be sure to read any other Bible passages that are called out in the notes.
 2. Study the topics in the same manner. Take particular care to trace all of the discussion through the Bible passages which are included. The topics are called out in the text at a certain point, but you can study the topics in any order you wish.
The topics are: **Blessing; Faith.**
 3. **Review** all of the notes in the Ruth study and the topics
 4. Go to the Quiz page and follow the instructions to complete all the questions on the quiz. The quiz is "open book". You may refer to all the notes and to the Bible when you take the test. But you should not get help from another person.
 5. When you have completed the Quiz, be sure to **SAVE** your file. If the file is lost, and that can happen at Grace Notes as well, you will want to be able to reproduce your work.
 6. To send the Quiz back to Grace Notes, follow the instructions on the Quiz page.
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Ruth Lesson 10

Ruth 4:9, 10

And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto all the people, Ye are my witnesses this day, that I have bought all that Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.

Moreover Ruth, the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance, that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place. Ye are witnesses this day.

Here Boaz begins his speech to the elders primarily, and to the people as witnesses. The witness of both groups is important, as we see also in later verses (4:11). That is, the people are not just bystanders, but participants and perhaps legal witnesses, as well.

The phrase "I have bought" should be taken in the sense of acquiring something by legal means. Boaz is establishing his full right to the family possession, not only Elimelech's property, but that of both sons also. There is a question as to how Chilion comes into the picture; after all Boaz was not marrying Orpah. Perhaps since Chilion likewise will not have an heir, his name would die out and his claim to a share in the property would pass to Mahlon's heir.

In buying the field, Boaz has also obtained Ruth to be his wife. He did not purchase Ruth in the sense of buying a bride or obtaining chattel. She is the natural and ordinary accompaniment to the legal process of maintaining the inheritance of Elimelech.

Boaz says he will "raise the name of the dead upon his inheritance", that is, to provide a son who would carry on the name of the deceased. Then he states the same proposition in the negative, "that the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place." The "brethren" are all the relations of the family of Elimelech (and Mahlon and Chilion).

The "gate of his place" is most likely the gate of the town of Bethlehem. As we can see, the gate is the center of social and community life, so this is the

same as saying that the name of the deceased would be perpetuated in the community.

Boaz concludes by reminding his hearers that they are all witnesses.

Ruth 4:11,12

And all the people who were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The Lord make the woman who is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel, and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem.

And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bore unto Judah, of the seed which the Lord shall give thee of this young woman.

The court session ends with a statement from all the witnesses, the people and the elders. First, they affirm that they are indeed witnesses. This seems very much like jury proceedings in which the jury announces a decision. Clearly, here, the people's part is more than a formality; in fact, they are mentioned before the elders in this verse.

Then the people continue by pronouncing a blessing on Boaz and Ruth. They first pray that Ruth will be fruitful. And it is interesting, that although they are citizens of Bethlehem, and thus descended from Judah, son of Leah (Gen. 29:35), the place Rachel before Leah. Rachel was specially beloved, and she had died in the near neighborhood of Bethlehem. Since the entire nation of the Jews is considered to have descended from Rachel and Leah, this prayer is that Ruth and Boaz will have a numerous and distinguished family of descendants.

The Boaz is addressed in the phrase "do thou worthily in Ephratah", an expression of hope for Boaz' prosperity in the broad sense. The word translated "worthily" here is the same as seen in Ruth 2:1 and translated "of wealth". It points to excellence in almost any field, with perhaps some emphasis on military prowess. But in this setting the stress is on wealth and prosperity rather than military eminence.

Ruth Lesson 10

The phrase "be famous in Bethlehem" speaks of the consequences of this; the well-wishers trust that Boaz and Ruth will be renowned as a result of his sterling actions here.

The reference to Pharez is curious, because Pharez is not usually regarded as an example of fruitfulness. But there are connections. Pharez was the one that "Tamar bare unto Judah". The account is seen in Genesis 38, and the story must be relevant because of the similarity of Tamar's situation to Ruth's.

Also, we must remember that Pharez was very likely the most important of Judah's sons; and least he is mentioned more often than Shelah, who was older. And though Pharez, as a twin, was not marked with the red cord signifying first-born, he "came out first" (Gen. 38:28 ff). The tribe of Judah apparently depended more on Pharez' descendants than those of others.

Also, Pharez is mentioned as one of Boaz' ancestors (Ruth 4:18-21); and Pharez seems to have been the ancestor of Bethlehemites in general (1 Chron. 2:5,18, 50 f). Moreover, Pharez gave his name to the tribe of Judah that was descended from him (Num. 26:20).

Ruth 4:13

So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife; and when he went in unto her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son.

Boaz and Ruth were married very soon after the events at the gate of the city, probably within days. Note that the child born is regarded as God's gift. The will and the work of God is apparent in all portions of this book.

Ruth 4:14-16

And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed by the Lord, who hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.

And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and nourisher of thine old age; for thy daughter-in-law, who loveth thee, who is better to thee than seven sons, hath borne him.

And Naomi took the child, and laid him in her bosom, and because nurse unto him.

It is interesting that Naomi is featured in the closing scene, rather than Ruth. The women of Bethlehem greeted Naomi on her return from Moab. They come to her now probably because she is an old friend and neighbor, and they know her much better than they know Ruth. Also, Ruth has a husband and child to occupy her, but Naomi is free to socialize.

Again, note that the women give the chief praise to the Lord Who has worked "all things after the counsel of his own will". "Blessed be the Lord" is the usual way to express thankfulness. One of the old Jewish prayer forms, is known as "The Eighteen Benedictions" because each prayer begins with the phrase "Blessed art Thou, O Lord." It is basic to the author of Ruth that God is over all men and all things, and that He brings His plans to pass.

In speaking of the kinsman that Naomi now has, it becomes clear that the women are speaking of the new baby boy, "thy daughter-in-law ... hath borne him." Boaz, of course, the Naomi's kinsman also, and served as kinsman-redeemer, but God sent the child to be Naomi's kinsman as well.

That his name may be famous in Israel" is the same type of prayer that the child would become famous, just as the elders and people had previously prayed for Boaz.

The women prophecy that the child will mean a great deal to Naomi, in a very practical sense. This phrase expresses great confidence in Naomi's future, and the reason is given in the next phrases. They have all seen the love which Ruth has for Naomi, it shines throughout this book. In fact, their saying that she "is better than seven sons" is the supreme tribute. Seven sons is proverbial for the perfect family (1 Samuel 2:5), so to speak of Ruth as being better than this is high praise indeed.

As you might expect, Naomi took a special interest in the baby, and she gave herself over to caring for him. She belongs to a family once more; she is loved and has a recognized place. And the baby symbolizes all of this to her.

Ruth 4:17

And the women, her neighbors, 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.

This is very strange; the women of the village give the name to the new baby! It may be that the women's (and all the citizens') kindly interest in the whole situation made Boaz and Ruth inclined to accept their suggestion for a name. Or, it's possible that local custom gave a more prominent place to friends of the family than we would imagine.

Obed" means "servant." Perhaps the women are implying that the baby will serve Naomi in the sense mentioned in previous phrases.

Ruth 4:18-22

Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminidab, and Amminidab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon, and Salmon begot Boaz, and Boas begot Obed, and Obed begot Jesses, and Jesse begot David.

The following comments are taken from A. E. Cundall and L. Morris, "Judges and Ruth", pp. 317,318, The Tyndale Press, London, 1980.

A genealogy is, to say the least of it, a curious way to end a book. The author does not tell us why he has done this, and we are left to guess. But at any rate we can make this comment. Through the book in all its artless simplicity there runs the note that God is supreme. He watches over people like Naomi and Ruth and Boaz and directs their paths. God never forgets His saving purposes. The issue of the marriage of Boaz and Ruth was to lead in due course to the great King David, the man after God's own heart, the man in whom God's purpose was so signally worked out.

These events in Moab and Bethlehem played their part in leading up to the birth of David. The Christian will think also of the genealogy at the beginning of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. He will reflect that God's hand is over all history. God works out His purpose, generation after

generation. Limited as we are to one lifetime, each of us sees so little of what happens. A genealogy is a striking way of bringing before us the continuity of God's purpose through the ages. The process of history is not haphazard. There is a purpose in it all. And the purpose is the purpose of God

Husband of a Happy Wife

It seems to be mostly women who read the books and attend the classes on How to Please Your Husband, How to be Submissive, How to Help Him, and so forth. We men seem to be fairly successful in dodging this sort of thing. Our wives would surely have a good case if they would ask us to take equal time to learn our "trade" as spouses. But my observation of myself and other husbands is that it's going to take a lot more than that to get us into classes on husband-hood.

Fortunately, there is another method, somewhat more subtle, but very effective nevertheless. Pastors who do systematic Bible teaching know that many principles of the Christian way of life are very useful in making husbands into people who are fit to live with. So - if a husband can't be cajoled or bribed into a special class, he can still be learning in the regular Bible classes the principles he needs on which to pattern his activities as a family man.

The biblical principles related to marriage and the husband's duties, when they are understood and applied by husbands, can produce wonderful results. And really, it is the standard and basic Christian life principles, so useful in all areas of spiritual growth, that are the most important in developing and maintaining a happy and productive relationship between spouses.

A husband is commanded to love his wife. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church..." (Eph. 5:25) It is true that young women are to be taught by older women how they are to love their husbands (Titus 2:4). But nowhere in Scripture is there the same forceful command to women to love their husbands. It is paramount in the Bible that the wife's love is the willing response to that which the husband initiates.

Ruth Lesson 10

Lack of harmony in the home, for which the husband has the predominant responsibility, is so important that 1 Peter 3:7 states that a man's prayers will not be answered if such harmony is not present. Failure on a man's part to treat his wife in Grace, and failure on his part to train his children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, are carnality. A husband who despises and hates his wife and neglects his family's spiritual welfare is living in sin, just as surely as the unrepentant adulterer or the confirmed drunkard.

Along with other types of backsliding believers who are stumbling blocks in the way of someone's spiritual progress, the man who persists in maintaining an unstable home life is a prime candidate for serious divine discipline.

The ability to manifest love is part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit and is a product of consistent and long-term spiritual growth. Therefore, a man's capacity for love for his wife is proportional to his total spiritual progress. A man's spiritual progress is relatively easy to see; and it is certainly noticeable to his family. True spiritual growth results in a person's becoming more Christ-like every day; and this quality is observed when the fruit of the Spirit becomes more and more obvious.

Gen. 5:22,23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control..."

Look at those signs of maturity! Are you acquainted with husbands who exhibit these traits in their daily lives, with their wives and children? Do you realize that a man like this would be irresistible to his wife and a hero to his children? A man like this would have an excellent chance of winning even an unbelieving wife to Christ, in no time. Bible doctrine makes men out of boys, even if the boys are over thirty.

It is a principle of God's authority and the Chain of Command that "The one in authority initiates and the subordinate responds." In God's plan, men have an enormous capacity, by the Grace of God, to create the responses in their wives that are the most beautiful and pleasing.

If a husband is a bully, only the most spiritual, submissive, and dedicated wife will stay with him. Only a very mature woman will willingly

endure long term suffering at the hands of an immature husband. There are a number of historical cases of godly women who suffered to the point of death in the attempt to win the ungodly husband.

Certainly wives are commanded to be submissive. But the man who must demand that his wife submit, to get her cooperation, has missed the boat entirely. Anyone who is in a position of authority should never expect his subordinate to submit simply because it is his duty. Yes, the subordinate's duty is to be submissive; but the one in authority is in deep trouble if he must be authoritarian to get his way.

Characteristics of True Love

True love will have the characteristics listed in 1 Cor. 13. It is possible for anyone to compare the actions of any person with these Bible standards and determine whether true love is being exhibited. These would be especially useful for a single person trying to determine whether a member of the opposite sex has true capacity for love as God intended.

Where these traits are missing between husband and wife, it is the husband's responsibility to provide them (remember, "Love your wife..."). This is possible only through Christian growth towards maturity over a period of time under the continuous control of the Holy Spirit, as in Ephesians 4.

These same patterns dictate also the nature of the wife's response to her husband. But the man who believes that he will receive the proper response, without his first making the initial steps, is indulging in wild wishful thinking, to say the least.

Final Note: The husband who sees no need to change, or who refuses to submit to the Plan of God for his life and marriage, is going to have to abide by the results. His wife's response to him may be in large measure a response to what he sends her way; and in that respect, he gets what he deserves. Of course, many of us have wives who are themselves Grace-oriented, so they quite often do not "give tit for tat"; and we should be grateful for that underserved blessing.

Characteristics of Love (1 Cor. 13)

Ruth Lesson 10

Love is slow to lose patience. It doesn't demonstrate irritations or reflect anger or have a quick temper. It has fully accepted the character of the one loved.

Love looks for a way to be constructive. Love is actively creative. It is able to recognize needs. It discovers successful methods of improving or contributing to the other's life.

Love is not possessive. Love does not hold exclusive control where one is allowed little or no freedom to fulfill himself apart from the one who loves him.

Love is not anxious to impress. Love doesn't seek to make an impression or to create an image for personal gain.

Love does not cherish inflated ideas of its own importance. It is not self-centered. It has the ability to change and to accept change. It is flexible. It doesn't allow, or expect, life to revolved around itself.

Love has good manners. It has respect for others which results in a set of Christ-centered standards. It has discretion. It knows what is proper and when.

Love does not pursue selfish advantage. It does not have primary concern for personal appetites or for social status; but it shows concern for needs of the one loved and families and friends involved.

Love is not touchy. Love is not hyper-sensitive or easily hurt. It does not take things personally. It is not emotionally involved with personal opinions so that to reject ideas is to reject the one giving them.

Love does not keep account of evil. Love doesn't review wrongs which have been forgiven. It does not dwell on past sins. It destroys evidence of past mistakes wherever possible.

Love doesn't gloat over the wickedness of other people. Love doesn't compare self with others for self-justification. It doesn't use others' sin to excuse personal weaknesses.

Love is glad with all godly men when truth prevails. Love is in active fellowship with

dedicated Christians. It is occupied with spiritual objectives.

Love knows no limit to its forbearance. Love has the ability to live with the inconsistencies of others. It has empathy for the problems of others.

There is no end to Love's trust. Love believes in the person loved and in the person's worth without question. It has no reason to doubt the person's integrity.

There is no fading of Love's confidence. Love is not fickle. It has perfect peace and confidence that God is primarily responsible for introducing the right partner at the right time.

Love has unlimited endurance. Love is able to outlast anything. It is able to endure all obstacles and even love in the face of unreturned love.

The Christian's Inheritance

Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, and as the victor in the spiritual conflict, is the heir of all things. Heb. 1:1-4

Inheritance is based on sonship:

John 1:12, But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

Rom. 8:16,17, The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

Gal. 3:26-29, For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

To inherit from God, a person must possess the life of God, that is, salvation resulting in eternal life.

Titus 3:5-7, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness,

Ruth Lesson 10

but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

1 John 5:11,12 And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

Therefore, salvation is the qualification for inheriting from God. Col. 1:9-14

We have an inheritance because we share the destiny of Christ. The true doctrine of predestination is that we share Christ's destiny.

Eph. 1:11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

As joint-heirs with Christ, we also share Christ's election.

Heb. 9:15, And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Our heritage is related to the doctrine of Eternal Security.

1 Pet. 1:3-5, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the

resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance. Eph. 1:14

Abraham's inheritance is the pattern and illustration of the heritage of believers. Rom. 4:9-16

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My studies over the years in the Book of Ruth, and in all the peripheral topics to which the research has led me, has been one of the most fruitful and blessed of my own spiritual life. Having memorized the book many years ago, and refreshed my memory of it continuously, and having taken on the task to compile and write up these notes, I have gained a very special appreciation of the Lord's activities in our lives. The time spent has been very worthwhile.

If you have reached this far in your studies of the Word, and of Ruth, I know that you have been mightily blessed also.

If you care to, send me a note about your own thoughts about the study of Ruth.

In Christ,

Warren Doud, 1705 Aggie Lane, Austin, Texas
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Ruth Lesson 10

Ruth Lesson 10 Quiz

Instructions

The following questions relate to your study of this lesson, including the topical studies.

To answer a question, type your response in the space provided after the word "Answer:".

A question may be True/False, multiple choice, fill in the blank, or short answer type.

The last question requires you to write one or two paragraphs in "essay" form. Use the space provided; it will expand to accommodate your response.

You have choices about sending the quiz back to Grace Notes.

- If you received an email file containing the quiz, you can use the REPLY feature of your e-mail application to open the quiz. Enter your answers in the reply message. Then SEND the message to Grace Notes.
- You can enter your answers on these pages, then send the whole file back to Grace Notes as a file attachment. This is handy, but these lessons will average 100K to 200K in size. As an alternative,
- After you answer the questions here, copy and paste the whole list of questions into a new MS Word document; then, send the new file to Grace Notes as an attachment. The new file will, of course, be much smaller than this main file.
- Finally, you can print the Quiz pages on your printer and send your response back to Grace Notes in the regular mail. If you do this, send the mail to:

Grace Notes

% Warren Doud

1705 Aggie Lane

Austin, Texas 78757 USA

Whichever transmission method you use, when Grace Notes receives your completed Quiz, the next lesson will be sent to you, by the same means you received this one. EXCEPT: when you have sent in the FINAL QUIZ, we will send your certificate to you, by regular mail.

Ruth Lesson 10

Questions on Ruth Lesson 10

1. Who were the witnesses to the transaction between Boaz and the other kinsman?
Answer:
2. The "gate of the place" is most likely the gate of _____.
Answer:
3. The eyewitnesses were not in favor of a marriage between Boaz and Ruth. [True / False]
Answer:
4. Who were the two women who were said to have built the house of Israel?
Answer:
5. Where is Ephratah?
Answer:
6. Who were Pharez' mother and father?
Answer:
7. The son born to Boaz and Ruth was named _____.
Answer:
8. Complete the phrase, "Your daughter in law, who loves you, is better to you than _____."
Answer:
9. Ruth was King David's [a. mother; b. great aunt; c. great grandmother; d. grandmother].
Answer:

HUSBANDS

10. Who has the main responsibility for the spiritual life in the home?
Answer:
11. In what chapter of the Bible can you find many characteristics of spiritual love?
Answer:

THE CHRISTIAN'S INHERITANCE

12. We are heirs of God because we are the _____ of God.
Answer:
13. A person becomes a child of God through _____ in Jesus Christ.
Answer:

Ruth Lesson 10

14. The qualification for inheriting anything from God is [a. faith in Christ; b. faithfulness in Christian work; c. a stable family life; d. the approval of a pastor or priest].

Answer:

15. The _____ is the down-payment of our inheritance.

Answer:

16. **ESSAY;** Please write two or three paragraphs describing your experience and thoughts as you studied Ruth. How has this study helped you in your Christian life? What would you tell others to try to persuade them to study Ruth?