

LOVE STORY
Studies in the
Old Testament Book of
Ruth

~February 18-24, 2007~
“Grace-Full Living”
Ruth 2



Life Groups

Welcome to UPC's study of the book of Ruth entitled "Love Story." Each week this discussion guide will help you reflect upon the Sunday sermon and apply its content to your life. Whether you work through these lessons on your own, with a friend, or in your family or LIFE Group, we believe they will help you become better acquainted with the God who, as in the case of Ruth, takes empty things and makes them full. If you ever miss a sermon, you can always listen to it online at www.upc-orlando.com.

LISTEN

Record your insights and observations from this week's sermon:

SHARE

- a) This week we are going to be learning about God's protecting care and kindness. Ruth 2 shows that God often gives his kindness through things that most people would call "coincidences." The Bible, however, teaches that nothing happens by chance, but that all things – even little things – come to us from God (Ephesians 1:11). Tell about a recent "coincidence" that was a gift of God's TLC ("tender loving care") for you.

REFLECT

- a) Read Ruth 2:1-7. List as many evidences as you can that God was at work in Ruth's life.

- b) How might a less kind man than Boaz have responded in verse 8 after finding out that Ruth was a Moabite (that is, a Gentile, not an Israelite)? Justify your answer.

- c) What specific needs of Ruth is Boaz concerned about in verses 8-9?

- d) What are the reasons Boaz gives in verses 11-12 for being so kind to Ruth?

- e) What are Boaz's concerns in verses 15-16?

f) What evidences do you see of Ruth's kindness toward her mother-in-law in verses 17-23?

g) How do you see Naomi changing in Ruth 2, in contrast to the picture of her given in Ruth 1? Why the change?

h) In verse 20, Boaz is called a "kinsman-redeemer." According to Old Testament law, the nearest living male relative had the right and obligation to avenge the death of a family member, buy back family property that had been sold to pay a debt, redeem a relative who had sold him/herself into slavery, and marry the widow of a deceased relative.¹ Boaz, we are told in vs. 1, was a relative of Naomi's dead husband, Elimelech. Do you get the feeling Boaz was a man motivated by duty, love, both, or something else? Why?

APPLY

a) How do you see Jesus in Ruth 2?

b) For the next 3 minutes, make a list of the ways God has been kind to you:

¹ NIV Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003, pg. 385.

c) Verses 11-12 remind us of the powerful effect that little deeds of kindness have upon those around us. Ruth's care for her mother-in-law had become legendary, yet Ruth was probably unaware at the time that anyone even noticed. Have you become "weary in doing good" (Galatians 6:9) because you didn't think being kind really matters anymore? Are there people you've neglected because you didn't think you had a contribution to make to them? Have you even concluded that God does not notice what you do for others in His name? Write down or share any thoughts that come to mind:

d) Those who receive God's kindness should, like Boaz, share it with others. Write down a specific way you might display God's kindness this week:

- At work or school

- At home

- Toward the poor and disadvantaged

- Toward your neighbors
