

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



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Ruth
Loss, Love and Legacy
GROWTH GUIDE

Handout: 05/20/18
Study: 05/27/18

Five Ways To Show Love

Ruth’s faithfulness to Naomi was amazing. Ruth 1:14 says that Orpah kissed Naomi goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. Not even another entreaty in 1:15 can get Ruth to leave: “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” No. She will stay. This is all the more amazing after Naomi’s grim description of their future with her. Ruth is still young (2:5; 4:12). Nevertheless, she stays with Naomi in spite of an apparent future of widowhood and childlessness. Naomi painted the future very dark, and Ruth took her hand and walked into it with her. The amazing words of Ruth are found in 1:16–17,

“Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you;
For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge;
Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.
Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried.

The Lord do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me.”

The more you ponder these words, the more amazing they become. Ruth’s commitment to her destitute mother-in-law is simply astonishing. First, it means leaving her own family and land. Second, it means, as far as she knows, a life of widowhood and childlessness, because Naomi has no man to give her, and if she married a non-relative, Ruth’s commitment to Naomi’s family would be lost. Third, it means going to an unknown land with a new people and new customs and new language. Fourth, it was a commitment even more radical than marriage: “Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried” (1:17). In other words, she will never return home, not even if Naomi dies.

But the most amazing commitment of all is this: “Your God [will be] my God” (1:16). Naomi has just said in verse 13, “The hand of the LORD has gone out against me.” Naomi’s experience of God was bitterness. But in spite of this, Ruth forsakes her religious heritage and makes the God of Israel her God. Perhaps she had made that commitment years before, when her husband told her of the great love of God for Israel and his power at the Red Sea and his glorious purpose of peace and righteousness. Somehow or other, Ruth had come to trust in Naomi’s God in spite of Naomi’s bitter experiences.

Here we have a picture of God’s ideal woman—and we will see more of her quality later. Faith in God that sees beyond present bitter setbacks. Freedom from the securities and comforts of the world. Courage to venture into the unknown and the strange. Radical commitment in the relationships appointed by God. This is the woman of Proverbs 31:25 who looks into the future with confidence in God and laughs at the coming troubles: “Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.”

Source: “A Sweet and Bitter Providence”

KEY VERSE

Ruth 1:17

*“Where you die, I will die,
And there will I be buried.*

*The Lord do so to me, and more also,
If anything but death parts you and me.” NKJV*

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Ruth 1:16-18; Proverbs 16:24

Show Love By Encouraging Words

1. Describe a time when you someone showed you love through encouraging words. What did the person say?
2. How did Ruth’s words demonstrate love to Naomi?

Tuesday: Ruth 1:16b; Proverbs 17:17; Proverbs 18:24

Show Love By Sticking With People

3. What does it mean to commit to someone?
4. How did Ruth demonstrate her commitment to Naomi?

Wednesday: Ruth 1:16c; Philippians 2:1-7

Show Love By Adjusting to People

5. What are some changes that Ruth was willing to make for her relationship with Naomi?
6. What are some changes you should consider making to show love to those in your life?

Thursday: Ruth 1:18; John 15:12-13; I John 3:16

Show Love By Putting The Needs Of Others Before Your Needs

7. What was Ruth willing to give up in order to follow Naomi to Bethlehem?
8. Describe a time when you put the needs of others before yours. Was it an easy or difficult decision to do so?
9. Why do you think Ruth was so determined to follow Naomi?

Friday: Ruth 1:18; James 1:19; Proverbs 18:13

Show Love By Responding To What Others Say

10. Why did Naomi stop asking Ruth to go back home to Moab?
11. Describe a time when you spoke when you should have been listening.
12. What impresses you most about the way that Ruth demonstrated her love for Naomi? What can we learn from her example?