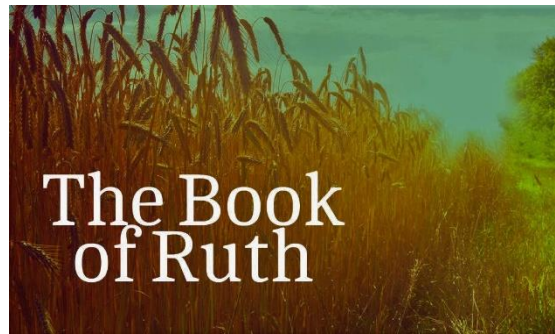




*You're Welcome Here!*



## Series – Ruth

### Study Guide 3: Chapter 3, The Next Act

Week Commencing 14<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Please read **Ruth Chapter 3**

1. Do you notice any development in the characters of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz in this chapter?
2. Talk about your understanding of what Naomi meant Ruth to do, and of what actually happened in the threshing barn.
3. What more do we learn about the society of the time? Does that fact that this was 'in the time of the Judges' influence the way we do or should read it?
4. The book of Ruth is clearly interested in issues of racism. This comes mostly in chapters 2 and 4, but is there anything we can learn from this chapter?
5. God is only mentioned once in this chapter, again in the context of a blessing. Is there anything else in this part of the story that might teach us more about God?
6. Talk about what seems to be deliberate ambiguity in this chapter. What do we mean when we describe a narrative like this as 'God's word'?
7. How do you think Naomi, Ruth, Boaz and Obed would view this story when it was retold later on?
8. Try reading the chapter again in a dramatic way with 3 different people reading the words of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz and someone else reading the narrator's part. (The narrator should ignore the obvious links like 'he said' 'Ruth answered', 'he asked' but read all the actual explanatory bits. Does reading it like this help us to see the story in a different way?
9. What do you take away from this story? Could it have any influence on our behaviour as Christians?