

Personal weekly Bible readings to go deeper into Scripture.

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 3:9b

Day 1 – Chapter 10 of “The Story”

Day 2 – 1 Samuel 1-4

Day 3 – 1 Samuel 8-10

Day 4 – 1 Samuel 11-12

Day 5 – 1 Samuel 13 & 15

Questions to consider while reading the Bible:

Is there an example to follow?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a promise to rely on?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a challenge in which to respond?



The Story: The Faith of a Foreign Woman

November 17-18

“The Story” Chapter 9; Ruth 1:8-9, 16-18; 4:13-17

Please use this space to take notes during the message today.



The women said to Naomi: “Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer.”

Ruth 4:14

Scan to go to
the message blog or go to
www.gloriadeionline.wordpress.com.

Adult and teen small group discussion points

Please use these discussion questions in your small group or with your teens.

1. Describe a time when you felt uncomfortable, out of place, and far from home.
2. Compare Naomi's attitude at the beginning and end of this story. How does her view of God and the upper story change?
3. Naomi was a person of faith, but she also questioned God and was deeply honest about her struggles (Ruth 1:19; "The Story," p. 122). In what ways did Naomi's losses impact how she viewed God and his work in her life?
4. Tell about a time you were honest with God about your pain and hurt. As you look back on that episode, what have you learned about God's presence and faithfulness?
5. Look at Ruth and Boaz's interaction with Naomi. What can you learn about the challenges and benefits of caring for an aging parent? What challenges do you face with your parents?
6. The period of the Judges was marked by weak faith and irresponsible living, but this foreign woman gives hope. What specific examples of strong faith and responsible living can you find in the characters of Ruth and Boaz?
7. The story of Ruth demonstrates laws that God had given Israel to take care of those in need (Deut. 25:5-10, Lev. 25:25, Lev. 19:9-10). What do these laws and customs reveal about the heart of God for the poor, the widow and the orphan? How could your group care for the less fortunate; thereby reflect the heart of God?
8. The word for *redeem* is used twenty times in this story, making it a key theme. What does it mean to be redeemed? How does Boaz's redeeming of Ruth compare to our redemption found in Christ?
9. What some people might call *coincidence* others call *divine providence*. What are some key examples of God's divine providence in this story?

Close in prayer.



Family's with kids discussion points

Please use these discussion questions with your children.

Key verse: May the Lord reward you for what you have done. May the God of Israel bless you richly. Ruth 2:12

1. Do you have a friend you can rely on when you have problems? What makes that person trustworthy? Can that friend rely on you too?
2. Have you ever given up something to help a friend? What happened?
3. When Naomi's husband and sons died, why did she want to move to Bethlehem?
4. Did Naomi want Ruth and Orpah to come with her?
5. Why did Ruth stay?
6. How did God bless Ruth's actions?
7. How does God bless us when we are kind and helpful to others?

Family Activity: Have a kindness competition. Depending on the ages of your children, you may have to make teams of two. The idea behind this game is to show kindness to each other without expecting anything in return. Encourage your family to show kindness to each other in tangible ways. Maybe it is a kind word, a back rub, something done in secret. You can tape special notes to the mirror in your children's bathroom. Your daughter can organize the garage. Your son could offer to babysit for free or drive a younger sibling somewhere without complaining. A child could clean up the family room or vacuum without being asked. A husband could buy flowers for his wife. The ideas are endless. At the end of the week, reconvene as a family and talk about what meant the most. Discuss what it was like being the giver and what it was like being on the receiving end of the kindness.

1. Did being kind to each other change any family dynamics?
2. What was the best part?
3. How can kindness and unconditional love be shown all of the time?
4. How does intentionally showing kindness improve family relationships?
5. Read Ephesians 4:32. What does it teach about kindness and how we should treat one another?

Pray together: Dear Heavenly Father, you are so good, gracious and kind to us. We thank you especially for sending your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Please help us to continually look for ways to show kindness to others as Jesus would have us do. In his name we pray. Amen.

