

JUDGES 18-RUTH 2

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

We reach the end of Judges where we see the tragic result of people turning from God and doing what is evil. We see chaos take place ending in a civil war for Israel as a result of a lot of sin and death. Judges concludes with the verse, "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit" (Judges 21:25). In other words, everyone did what was right in their own eyes. It points to a need for a greater Judge to come who would lead in righteousness and justice.

We then head to the book of Ruth, where we see a glimmer of hope. Ruth takes place during the time of Judges and is marked by redemption, God's sovereignty, and true loyalty. The story begins with three women (Naomi and her two daughter in laws Ruth and Orpah) losing their husbands and being in a vulnerable place. Naomi insisted that Ruth and Orpah go back home. Orpah went home, but Ruth stayed by her side. Ruth says, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God" (Ruth 1:16).

Ruth did not choose the easy route, but decided to stay loyal to her mother-in-law regardless of what the results might be. It is also significant that Ruth (a Moabite) says that Naomi's God (the God of Israel) would be her God. The **Moabites** were a group of people who were considered enemies of God, and had oppressed Israel during the time of Judges. There's even a verse in Deuteronomy that tells us that "No Ammonite or Moabite or any of their descendants may enter the assembly of the Lord, not even in the tenth generation." However, we see throughout the entire story of Scripture that God's heart is for all people of all nations to worship Him, even those considered to be enemies.

In God's sovereignty, Ruth was led to the field of Naomi's relative named Boaz, who was considered a man of noble character. Boaz allows Ruth to **glean** in his field. To glean means to pick up, collect, or gather. This was Israel's **welfare system**. They were to leave the edges of their fields unharvested in order to protect and provide for the poor and vulnerable. In the time where there were no kings and everyone did what was right in their own eyes, Boaz protected Ruth and gave food generously to her. Boaz ended up being Ruth's family redeemer, which will be played out in the rest of the book. Even in the mist of suffering and brokenness, God is working things together for good!

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even in the mist of brokenness, God is working things together for good!
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gibeah's Crime • Israel's War Against Benjamin & Gibeah • Naomi's Family in Moab • Ruth and Boaz Meet
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judges 21:25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit." • Ruth 1:16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." • Ruth 2:20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ "The Lord bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our guardian-redeemers."
WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moabites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A group of people who were considered enemies of God, and had oppressed Israel during the time of Judges • Glean <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To pick up, collect, or gather • Welfare system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A way to provide for the poor and vulnerable

Reflection Questions

1.	How does the book of Judges end? What does it point to?
2.	What situation is Ruth in at the beginning of the book?
3.	Read Ruth 1:16. Why is it significant that Ruth was a Moabite?
4.	What does a man named Boaz do to help Ruth?