1 – **Lessons Learned From Ruth**

2 - **Context of Ruth**

* ***“When the judges governed… there was a famine in the land…”*** (Ruth 1:1)
* **Elimelech** takes his wife **Naomi** and two sons (**Mahlon & Chilion**) to Moab in search of food.
* Elimelech dies and then their sons marry Moabite women (**Ruth & Orpah**).
* 10 years later, Naomi’s two sons die leaving her with Ruth & Orpah.

3 - **Ruth’s Decision**

* Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem. (1:6)
* On their way, Naomi urges both to return to “their mother’s house” in Moab. (1:8)
* Both say they will return with Naomi but she continues to persuade them not to. (1:11-13)
* Orpah then returned to Moab but Ruth “clung to her”. (1:14)
* Ruth’s confession & commitment. (1:16-17)

4 - *“Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge.* ***Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God****. 17 "Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried.* ***Thus may the Lord do to me****, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me.”*

5 - **Naomi & Ruth’s Return**

* Ruth had a mind to work and set out to provide for her and Naomi’s needs.
* She goes to work gleaning in the field of Boaz, a relative of Elimelech, and is blessed by him.
* Through Naomi’s guidance, Ruth appeals to Boaz to perform the part of her late husbands near kinsman (Deuteronomy 25:5-10)
* Boaz did so and married Ruth, who then bore a son named Obed, the father of Jesse and grandfather of David.

6 - ***Lessons To Be Learned From Ruth***

7 - **Ruth Forsook All!**

* Ruth’s faith in God led her **to leave behind all she knew and loved**. (2:11)
* Her faith and dedication evident to others. (Boaz prayed, *“May the Lord reward your work*…***under whose wings you have come to seek refuge***”; 2:11-12)
* What kind of future did she anticipate? Ruth didn’t know what the journey would entail but she put her life in God’s hands. (cf., Acts 27)

8 – **Ruth Forsook All!**

* Ruth is an example of one who by faith, lost their life to find it. (Matthew 10:37-39; 16:25)
* Ruth and Naomi would understand Job’s statement in Job 17:11, ***“My plans are torn apart”***, yet they sought to submit to God’s plans. All of God’s useful servants find their *“plans torn apart”* at some point.

9- **She trusted in God to provide**

* ***“Not knowing…”*** (Acts 20:22)
* **Trusting God to provide requires action** including being a **diligent worker**.
(Matthew 6:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12;
1 Timothy 5:8; Nehemiah 4:6; 1 Cor. 15:58)
* **Contentedness and trust**. (Philippians 4:11-13)
* Are we willing to **spend ourselves** as she did?
(2 Corinthians 12:15)

10 - **She was committed to Naomi**

* She chose to align herself with a suffering faithful servant of God. (Hebrews 11:24-25)
* She prioritized those of ***“like precious faith”***
(2 Peter 1:1; ASV)
* She understood what ***“deeds of devotion”*** mean. (2 Chronicles 35:26)
* An example of how Christians are to be **devoted to each other**. (Rom. 12:9-13; 14:19; Hebrews 3:13; Prov. 17:17; 1 Thess. 5:11)

11 - **She was a virtuous woman**

* All observed her virtuous behavior.
	+ Her care (2:11) and work ethic. (2:7)
* “***A woman of excellence***” (NASB); “***a virtuous woman***” (NKJV) ; meaning of great “strength” and “substance” (Proverbs 12:4; 31:29).
* Our call to honorable and pure relationships.
(1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; 1 Timothy 5:1-2)
* Our call to “***moral excellence***”. (2 Peter 1:5; Philippians 4:8; 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Peter 1:3)
* Call to set a good example. (1 Peter 2:11-12)
* A light in her world! (Judges 21:25)

12 - **She was blessed…**

* **…And she blessed others..**
* **God chose to bring about the Messiah and salvation through her lineage, impacting generations to come.**
* **She received God’s favor in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. (Philippians 2:14-15)**