

Discussion Guide and Study Notes

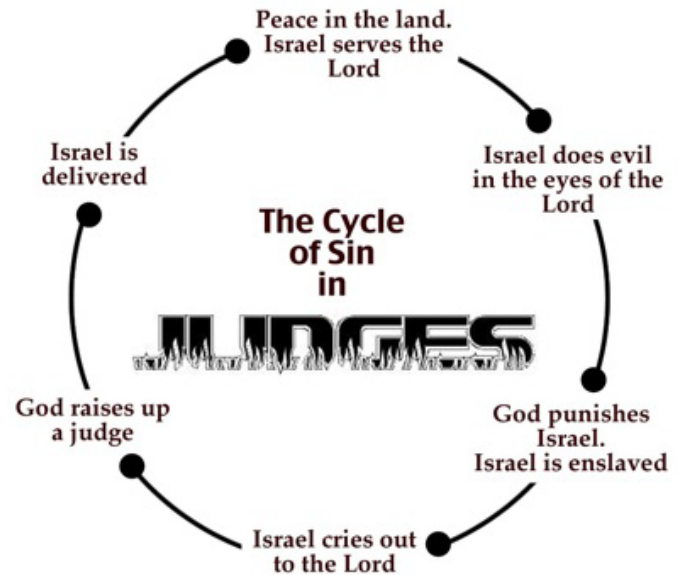
May 19th, 2013

Please use this guide in your Life Group discussion to help glean the most from our Sunday morning teaching. These notes are also excellent for your personal study and growth.

Till [Get the soil ready]

Events of the Book of Ruth occur during the time of Judges. We can summarize Judges.

- The last verse of the book explains it all, "In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit."
- This was anarchy and a time of great distress
- They followed a reoccurring AND downward spiral. So, not only did they follow the same pattern, it became worse every time. See Judges 2:11-19 and the diagram:
- That's the book of Judges!



SOW [What God wants us to hear]

There are a couple of background issues to help make sense of Ruth's story. When a married man died without leaving an heir, his brother had an obligation to marry the widow and raise a child as an heir to the dead brother. Land was linked to families. While one could lease use of land, it technically could not be sold. So, permanent transfers were allowed within families or clans.

The book of Ruth has much about Jesus. Ruth & Boaz are in Jesus' ancestry. Jesus is our kinsman redeemer like Boaz was for Ruth. Jesus had to be a man like us (kinsman)...not an angel or super being.

- What do you learn about Jesus' humanness and redemption in Luke 1:67-69; John 1:1 & 14; Rom. 5:15-17; Gal. 3:13-14 & 4:4-6; Heb. 2:9.



Tend [Working the truth into our hearts]

- Naomi also needed redemption. From what? Did she deserve it? Was she looking for it? Did she get it?
- Before Ruth developed the relationship with Boaz, how would you describe Naomi's heart towards God? If you're not sure, see Ruth 1:13, 20.
- How would describe Ruth's heart towards God? How would describe Ruth's feelings for Naomi? See Ruth 1:14-22.

Harvest [Where the fruit is seen]

- This true story is like a parable. If Boaz is like Jesus as our kinsmen redeemer (and he is), who do Ruth and Naomi represent? Is the nationality of both women significant?
- We rightly worship Jesus as our great God and savior. But, he is more. Skim through one or more of the Gospels and note the passages that show the humanness of Jesus. Or, use a theology book as a reference to discover more of Jesus' humanity. He is fully God and fully human!

Preview: Review another story of a godly woman in 1 Samuel 1 & 2.

