

RUTH

BITTER TO BLESSED

**DAILY DISCIPLINES
TO
RECHARGE YOUR LIFE**

Temple
Baptist
Church



TEMPLEROGERS.ORG

Monday, August 3, 2020

Bible Reading:

Judges 2:6 – 3:6

Devotional: The Judges

What explains the Israelites' hot and cold relationship with God? Do the same things affect your relationship with him?

Where are you in your relationship with God now? Are you close to him? Gradually falling away? Experiencing disaster?

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Bible Reading:

Judges 4:1 -5:31

Devotional: Deborah

How could you grow so you could hear God's directions more clearly?

It took courage and faith for Deborah to act on what she believed God was telling her. In what area of your life do you need courage and faith to act on what you believe God is telling you?

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Bible Reading:

Judges 6:1 -7:25

Devotional: Gideon

Was Gideon bold or timid? What did he do when he was uncertain? How do Gideon's actions encourage you when you don't feel bad?

What do you need to hear from God about today?

Thursday, August 6, 2020

Bible Reading:

Judges 13:1 - 16:31

Devotional: Samson

Relationships with women got Samson in trouble. What can you do to have God-pleasing relationships with members of the opposite sex?

How does it encourage you that God used Samson even when he had made a mess of his life?

Friday, August 7, 2020

Bible Reading:

Ruth 1:1—4:22

Devotional: Big Picture of Ruth

List the character traits you see in Ruth. Which trait do you most want to see more of in yourself?

What character traits would others say they see in you now? How can you begin to change the character traits that don't please God?

Saturday and Sunday – Rest or Catch up

Monday, August 10, 2020

Bible Reading:

Ruth 1:1-3

Leviticus 26:18-20

Devotional

The book of Ruth begins by giving us the background story of how Naomi's family ended up in a pagan land. The famine in the land was the

result of disobedience, and Elimelech's response to God's discipline was to walk away from God, not toward Him. Rather than respond with faith in the character and provision of God, Elimelech took matters in his own hands and went the way of the world.

Have you ever found yourself standing with empty hands because you were disobedient? Our response to God's chastening should be repentance, humility, and obedience. We can decide to ask for forgiveness and re-align our hearts to God, or we can be willful and wild and end up even emptier than when we started.

Lord, give us hearts that are quick to repent and turn to You when we sin. Help us to be teachable and tender to the leading of Your Spirit and say no to our flesh. Amen.

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Bible Reading:

Ruth 1:4-5

Genesis 19:30

Devotional

Our sinful choices impact our whole family. Here Mahlon and Chilion followed the poor example of their father and chose to live like pagans. Rather than fear God and obey, they chose wives who did not follow Jehovah God. The famine that was in the land they had left now inhabited their hearts, and they lost their very lives. Naomi was left truly barren and empty.

Sin leads to grief and sorrow that poisons everyone in our home. If you were raised in a godly home, thank God for the legacy of faith that set you on the right course. If you grew up in a home where sin ran rampant, you can break that cycle by asking God for forgiveness and choosing to walk in obedience to His Word. May our homes be built on a legacy of faith that honors God.

Father God, thank You for the gift of family. We want our homes to honor You. We want to leave a legacy of faith in our children. Show us how to build wisely and please You. Amen.

Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Bible Reading:

Ruth 1:6-14

Devotional

Even in her bitterness, Naomi speaks a blessing over her two daughters-in-law. She prays that their lives will turn around and that God will extend grace to them because of their kindness toward her family. The word “kindly” here in the original Hebrew is “hesed,” which implies that a powerful person is merciful to someone weaker. This kindness is not out of duty, but springs up from a faithful love. The word “hesed” is a theme that threads throughout the book of Ruth, so keep an eye out for it.

God has extended His kindness to us, and the story of Ruth is going to display how He is at work in every single detail of our lives. He longs to bless us, and today, He is Providentially at work orchestrating details behind the scenes.

Ruth was kind to Naomi, and God noticed that. Today you may think that God is not noticing the little things that you selflessly do to encourage others, but He never misses a thing. His “hesed” is heading your way.

Lord, thank You for extending Your grace to us. Help us to be mindful of opportunities to be kind to the people in our circle of influence today. May we share Your “hesed” with the hurting and bless their day. Amen.

Thursday, August 13, 2020

Bible Reading:

Ruth 1:15-18

Proverbs 31:25

Devotional

The decision to not return to Moab was a defining moment for Ruth. She shows incredible strength of character here by choosing to not take the easy way out. Ruth had no idea what was to come, but she steps completely forward toward a new future. She not only makes a commitment to honor Naomi, but she breaks from the pagan heritage of her past and

places her loyalty with Jehovah God.

Every day we are faced with choices. We can choose what will serve our own selfish interests, or we can show strength of character and surrender our rights to serve others and honor God. Small steps of obedience today will make an eternal difference tomorrow. Let's choose wisely.

Lord, we want to honor You with the choices that we make. Help us to not take the easy way out, but to turn from selfishness and serve You by loving and honoring those in our circle of influence. Amen.

Friday, August 14, 2020

Bible Reading:

- Ruth 1:19-22
- Psalms 34:19

Devotional

Naomi has experienced a great deal of sorrow and loss in her life, and she is in a very dark place. She doesn't understand why God would allow all this tragedy to happen. Her losses seem to have no purpose, just pain. She's lost sight of God's Providential hand at work in her life.

Choosing to not give in to bitterness and doubt is almost a daily battle during some seasons of life. Life in this broken world can seem so unfair. Experiencing affliction can break our spirit and make us wonder "Why me, God?"

Even though Naomi is questioning her circumstances, she is still not rejecting her God. She calls Him Almighty. She understands His greatness, and she respects His sovereignty. She chooses to return back to where she came from and turn from the pagan land where she had been dwelling. She is taking baby steps of faith in God's direction.

Some days, we may not see how God is actively at work in our lives. When heartbreaking circumstances are clouding our view of God's goodness and grace, we need to fight to keep the communication lines open with God. We need to stay in the Word and wrestle out our doubts in prayer. We must trust that our Deliverer is faithful.

Lord, help us to not grow bitter when life is hard. May we remember

You are in control even when life seems chaotic. Help us to keep walking toward You with an open heart. Amen

Saturday and Sunday – Rest or Catch up

Monday, August 17, 2020

Bible Reading:

- Ruth 2:1-3
- Proverbs 20:24

Devotional

God providentially led Ruth to the fields of Boaz. Some people may call this a coincidence, but the mature believer understands that God is at work in every detail of our lives. Nothing escapes His attention, and our circumstances are never happenstance. He threads grace through every single strand and seams each element together with His redemption.

Nothing in our lives is wasted. In God's economy, every detail has value and purpose. A seemingly random event that takes place today will one day serve a grander purpose. It's when we look back at our lives that we note how God used a difficult season to create beauty in our lives later.

Ruth cooperated with God's leading – even though the work was grueling and held little return for her at first. Her faithful obedience was rewarded abundantly. What field have you landed in right now that is hard work for you? Bloom where you are planted. God sees you, and He is cultivating beautiful fruit in your heart as you labor.

Lord, help us to follow wherever You lead us and keep working even when it's painfully hard. Help us to trust that You are at work. Amen.

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

Bible Reading:

- Ruth 2:4-7
- Leviticus 19:9-10

Devotional

God sees our every need and always provides for us. Here the Lord brought hard-working Ruth to the attention of a powerful, wealthy man named Boaz. When we have abundance, we are often used by God to help those who are lacking. Boaz extended kindness to Ruth, rather than hoarding his wealth. The simple obedience of Ruth and Boaz on this ordinary day made room for the extraordinary work that God wanted to accomplish in their lives. When we serve in simple ways, God takes notice.

If you are experiencing lack right now, keep faithfully tending your field. God will provide for you in unexpected ways. If you are surrounded by abundance, ask God to open your eyes to those around you who may need your help. Don't hoard God's blessings from those in need. Purpose to extend His kindness to others.

Lord, thank You for providing for our every need. Help us to work hard in the field You have planted us in and take note of the hurting who need our help. Amen.

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Bible Reading:

Ruth 2:8-13

Psalms 57:1

Devotional

God protects His children. Ruth put her faith in God and turned from the pagan gods of her past. As a result, she experienced the Providential care of the Mighty God who covers us with His strength and encircles us with His mercy and love. When we place our full trust in God, we experience the reward of His peace and provision.

Boaz speaks a blessing over Ruth, which he is later going to help fulfill. Sometimes God shows us a need and asks us to partner with Him in providing protection and provision for the hurting. We can help lead others to safe haven and encourage them.

If you are hurting today, press in to your Protector. He longs to be your refuge, but first you must fully trust that His power will provide a safe

haven for you to find hope and healing.

Father, thank You for being our sanctuary. Help us to trust You fully and rest in Your care. Amen.

Thursday, August 20, 2020

Bible Reading:

Ruth 2:14-27

Psalms 34:10

Devotional

Ruth was a servant. Here we see her working with her hands to make sure that she and her mother in law had provision. She captures every moment of the day and stays in place until the sun sets. Her diligence did not go unnoticed. The ephah that she collected was quite a load. What should have been a tiny bundle of leftovers to provide a meal or two turned into several days of hearty eating for her and Naomi.

Yes, God provides abundantly for us, but we must stay in the field to reap the blessing. Haphazard living leads to lack, but Ruth shows us how faithful obedience is rewarded. As you head out into your field today, commit to giving 100% to the work God has entrusted to you.

Lord, thank You for Your abundant provision. Help us to tend our field with passion and zeal today and bring You glory. Amen.

Friday, August 21, 2020

Bible Reading:

Ruth 2:18-23

Psalms 119:68

Devotional

Ruth comes home with full hands after a day of gleaning, and Naomi rejoices in the Providential work of God who has orchestrated events to pro-

vide for their need. Naomi is teaching Ruth about God's character – He is kind and provides for His children. Ruth gleaning in the field of Boaz was not a coincidence – God's redemption was at work in their lives.

During difficult times, we must trust that God is at work in ways that we cannot see. He is a good God, and He will always supply what we need. As we trust in His care, our understanding of His grace expands. Just as Ruth gleaned in the fields, we must continue to glean where God has placed us – putting feet to our faith and trusting that our Provider will never leave us empty handed.

Father, thank You for your kindness. Help us to trust that you are orchestrating events in our lives and rest in the knowledge that Your provision will never run out. Amen.

Saturday and Sunday – Rest or Catch up

Monday, August 24, 2020

Bible Reading:

Ruth 3:1-5

Devotional

Naomi tells Ruth to go to Boaz and appeal to him as the Kinsman Redeemer. From our perspective, this plan seems a bit risqué, but Naomi is actually counseling Ruth to humble herself and adopt a posture of a servant. Boaz was a man of character, and Ruth was appealing to His integrity by asking him to meet her need.

Ruth never questioned Naomi's instructions. She submitted to the authority over her and trusted that Naomi knew best. Do we have a heart that is quick to obey like Ruth? God's ways often seem contrary to what we consider reasonable, but our job is not to "understand," our job is to trust God and quickly obey.

Lord, help us to obey quickly and trust that Your directives for us are right even when we don't fully understand Your plan. Amen.

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

Bible Reading:

Ruth 3:6-9

Devotional

Ruth asks Boaz to protect her and claim her as His wife by spreading his garment over her. She is acknowledging her need and humbly coming to the one who is positioned to provide for her. Her submissive heart is an open invitation for her redeemer.

God longs to be our refuge, but just like Boaz, He is a gentleman. He will not come where He is not fully welcomed. We must humbly come to God and ask Him to spread His wing over us. In order to find shelter, we must surrender our will to the One who is able to cover us with His redemption.

Redeemer God, thank You for covering us with Your forgiveness and grace. You are our refuge and strength. Amen.

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

Bible Reading:

Ruth 3:10-11

Proverbs 31:31

Devotional

Ruth was a beautiful woman both in appearance and in character, and this did not escape the notice of Boaz. He commended her for being a woman of courage, strength, and moral integrity. Her reputation as a “good woman” was evident to everyone who had met her since her return with Naomi.

When we choose to obey God and live a righteous life, those in our circle of influence will note how the leading of the Holy Spirit has transformed our speech, our actions, and our values. Integrity and authentic faith speak loudly to the watching world.

Father, may our lives point others to You. We want to follow you with all of our heart, soul, and mind the days of our life. Amen.

Thursday, August 27, 2020

Bible Reading:

Ruth 3:12-13

Devotional

Boaz is a man of honor, and rather than rashly respond out of emotion, he makes a rational choice that protects Ruth and ensures she will be provided for as God intends. He understands that compromise and cutting corners will not be blessed by God, so he waits until morning and follows the protocols God has outlined for the kinsman redeemer.

If we grow impatient with God's timing and directives, we end up making impulsive decisions from the flesh, rather than waiting for the leading of the Spirit. God's ways are always better than ours. If we choose to honor Him, He will make a way for us just as He did for Ruth and Boaz.

Lord God, help us to trust Your timing and honor You with our choices. May we always follow Your leading and never run ahead of Your will for us. Amen.

Friday, August 28, 2020

Bible Reading:

Ruth 3:14-18

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

Devotional

Boaz tells Ruth to lay at his feet, but he never touches her and protects her modesty by cautioning his servants to shield her from shame. Let's be honest: Boaz shows extreme self-control that is rarely evident among wealthy, powerful men. Ruth was an easy target in a dark room full of men that night, but he championed her purity.

Sexual purity is designed by God to protect us from brokenness of body, mind, and soul. The world tells us that the holiness outlined in the Bible is out dated, and that we can do what feels good to us, but choosing to serve our flesh will always lead to emptiness. Like Boaz and Ruth, we must fear God and choose to deny our flesh and trust in God's timing.

Father God, give us a pure heart that honors You even in dark corners where no one is watching. May we fear You and yield all of our body, mind, and soul to obeying Your commands. Amen.

Saturday and Sunday – Rest or Catch up

Monday, August 31, 2020

Bible Reading:

Ruth 4:1-6

Devotional

The redeemer who was first in line declined to step forward and perform the role because it did not serve his own interest. Caring for his personal needs superseded any generosity or sacrifice to serve the needy widow and her daughter-in-law. Rather than step forward, he passed on the responsibility to Boaz and lost the blessing God had in store for the husband of Ruth.

When we see a need, are we more prone to step back and play it safe to protect ourselves, or are we sacrificial servants who move forward to help the needy? Boaz chose wisely, and God blessed Him abundantly. We will never know what God "might have done" in our lives if we let our flesh and fear keep us from putting feet to our faith.

Lord, help us to step forward to serve, rather than shrinking back selfishly. Amen.

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Bible Reading:

Ruth 4:7-10

Devotional

When Naomi left Moab, she encouraged Ruth to stay because she would not have another son to marry. But, God is not limited to meeting our needs in expected ways. Here the same people who witnessed Naomi and Ruth return through the city gates empty are present to observe firsthand God's providential blessing.

Maybe you are standing empty handed right now, and you cannot see how God will turn around a seemingly impossible situation. Ask God to help you trust in His goodness and grace. Nothing is too hard for the One who defeated death itself to save you. He redeems all. You will witness His Providence firsthand in spectacular fashion soon.

My Redeemer, thank You for breathing life and hope into dark, dead spaces. Help me to trust You are at work in ways I cannot see as I wait for Your abundant provision. Amen.

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Bible Reading:

- Ruth 4:11-12
- Genesis 29:31
- Genesis 30:22

Devotional

God poured out His blessings on Ruth and moved her from barrenness and loss to fruitfulness and abundance. He is always faithful to provide for His children, but we must trust in His timing and wait for Him to open the doors. Famine is but a season, and now feasting has come.

Are you in God's waiting room right now? Ask God to strengthen your resolve to continue to obey. His promises will never fail you. Keep gleaning in the field. Your fruitful season is coming.

Lord, we cry out to You with empty hands and ask You to fill our hearts with faith. We know that You are a faithful God who will abundantly provide what we need. We look to You with expectation. Amen.

Thursday, September 3, 2020

Bible Reading:

- Ruth 4:13-16
- Psalms 30:11

Devotional

The same two women who wore sackcloth and mourned the death of their husbands are now rejoicing at God's full restoration. Naomi's grief has been transformed into gladness. The One who started the journey back to God filled with bitterness is now blessed beyond measure. When we move past our pain and press toward God's purpose for our lives, the end result is always praise when His redemptive plan is revealed.

Are you grieving a loss right now? Trust that your day of dancing is coming soon. Continue to trust in the God who takes brokenness and transforms it into beauty.

Redeemer God, we praise you for every act of redemption in our lives. We believe that You are the God who fully restores and floods the light of your glorious redemption into every dark corner of our lives. Help us to trust in Your Providence as we wait for Your purpose to be fulfilled. Amen.

Friday, September 4, 2020

Bible Reading:

- Ruth 4:17-22
- Mark 1:1
- Mark 1:21

Devotional

The story of Ruth is part of the grander story of God's plan to bring redemption to the world. Through the lineage of Obed, Ruth's son with Boaz, Christ was born of a virgin named Mary. Jesus is the greater Kinsman Redeemer who brought salvation from sin and death to all who put their faith in Him for forgiveness of sin.

Our choice to obey God today will impact generations to come. Are we leaving a legacy of faith in our homes and communities? God is at work in every detail of our lives, and as we trust His Providence through difficult times, we can trust that His redemption will be gloriously displayed to the watching world one day soon.

Father, thank You for allowing us to partner with You in the work of redemption. We pray for salvation to spring up in our communities and for a legacy of faith to stand strong in our families. May Your glory be fully revealed through our lives as we trust and obey You all the days of our lives. Amen.

Saturday and Sunday – Rest or Catch up