

**Adult Study Guide for February 14, 2021**  
***Better Than You Hoped***  
**The Book of Ruth**

Goal: To learn from the story of Ruth how God works for good in the tragedies of life.

Key Verses: *Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, “We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.* – Ruth 4:11 (NIV)

1. What does the story of the Boll Weevil monument teach us about how something disastrous can be a catalyst for change and lead to something better? Story details can be found at: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boll\\_Weevil\\_Monument](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boll_Weevil_Monument). Looking back at your life, can you find examples of how God has blessed you through a loss or tragedy?
2. Review the first chapter of Ruth. How would you respond to the experience of tragedy and death if you were Naomi? Why is an honest acknowledgement of our loss (lament) so important? What motivates Ruth to stay by her side? What does this story teach us about how God uses an unlikely outsider and a foreigner to carry out his work? Why are love and loyalty the most important gifts we can receive when we are hurting?
3. Review the story of Ruth in the second chapter. What makes this sound like a Valentine story? What attracts Boaz to Ruth? (2:10-11) What does Boaz do for her? (2:8-9; 2:14-16) What is the significance of the role of Boaz as her guardian-redeemer? (2:20-22) Why do we all need a Redeemer?
4. Review the story of Ruth in chapter three. What did Ruth’s mother-in-law, Naomi, ask her to do? (3:1-4) Why was it important for Ruth to take this initiative? What was the reaction of Boaz? (3:10-13) How did this change the direction for their relationship?
5. Review the story of Ruth in chapter four. What does Boaz need to do to ensure that he can act as Ruth’s guardian-redeemer? How does Ruth’s loyalty to Naomi fulfill all that she hoped for and more? (See Ruth 4:11 above.) How does the fulfillment of the hopes and dreams of Naomi and Ruth provide a way for God to fulfill his promise of a Messiah? Why is this book in the Bible?
6. Read Matthew 6:25-34, Romans 8:28, and Philippians 4:6-7. Why is it so important to believe in the providence of God when we face difficult times? How does trusting in God change the way that you respond to the trials that you face? (1 Peter 5:10) What do you hope that God will do for you? What surprises wait for you when you put your trust in God?