



The Book of Ruth

A Summertime Home Bible Study
Under the guidance of

Mary Rice



During your leisurely summertime home Bible study of
The Book of Ruth
if something comes up and needs maybe a little clarification,
Please feel free to give me, **Mary Rice**, a quick call at:

248-308-2474

Or email me at: mfrljr@gmail.com

And, if I'm in, and not gallivanting around somewhere,
I'd absolutely love to talk it over with you,
at least until we all meet again together on...

Wednesday, July 20th at 7:00pm
at
St. Priscilla

This has been a Rice-Dzwonmark card

**Conduct your own personal, casual home study
at a time and place that are convenient for you.**

Use a few of the guides and tips here...

...and then let's all meet together at St. Priscilla's on

Wednesday, July 20, 7:00pm

and see what we've all discovered!



*“May You Be...
Like Ruth and Like Esther...”*

These familiar lines are from the “Sabbath Blessing” song in the classic movie, *Fiddler on the Roof*. Why are these women held up as examples of women of courage, women of strength, women of admirable Godly character?



*Strengthen them, O Lord,
and keep them from the strangers’ ways...*

The tradition of protecting and supporting the women in a family was very strong in Bible times. In the unfortunate event of a husband’s or son’s death, the widow’s dilemma became tragically clear: “Who will support and protect me?” In many ways, these are the questions on the minds of many widows even in our day.

And this too is the setting for The Book of Ruth—perhaps more than anything else, a book of DECISION. One of the primary tasks of a widow is to make wise decisions—legal, financial, often the additional enormous task of moving to a new residence, ...and perhaps most especially with regard to relationships. Hence, the usual advice, “don’t make any big decisions for a year.”

Ruth finds herself in this situation: broken-hearted, banned from Jewish rituals, broke, and homeless. Her decision to stay with her mother-in-law and therefore to embark on an arduous trip to Bethlehem (Naomi’s hometown) will test her affection, bravery, and physical strength. Given the conditions of her day, the distance, and the presence of very real dangers from wildlife and brigands all about, this was certainly no cakewalk for two women.

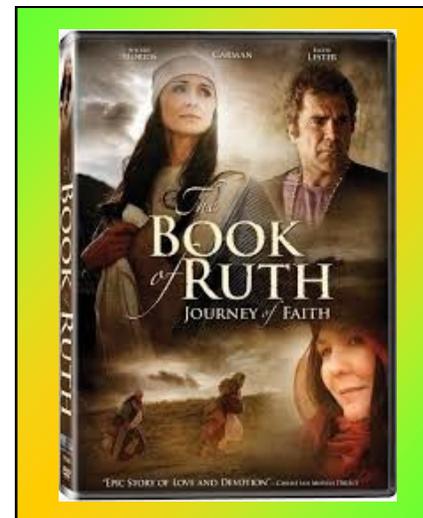
She faces the unknown future. This is perhaps a story that most of us think we know. However, on careful reading, we may find depths in the story that we had not noticed nor heard of.

You are invited to join us as we read this account of two widows—faithful, prayerful, honorable. This is truly a love story...in so many ways.



May He make you good mothers and wives...

You are invited to read *The Book of Ruth* during the month of July. A few verses each day (along with a few notes) will be fruitful in this taste of God’s Holy Word.



*Since we’re now
in the 21st century,
it’s okay to cheat a little
and watch the movie as well.
And who knows?
Maybe it’ll offer up yet
another insight or two
for our
July 20th discussion.*