

THE OUTSIDER

A decorative flourish consisting of a stylized leafy branch on the left and a curved line on the right, positioned below the word 'OUTSIDER'.

BOOK CLUB

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ON CHAPTERS 1-7

1. What did you think about how people in Moab responded to the Israelites at first? What did Ruth think of them, and how did her view change?
2. Why was worshipping God different to worshipping the Moabite “gods”?
3. Read Ruth 1:6-18. Why do you think Orpah stayed in Moab while Ruth left with Naomi? What would you have done?
4. What impression did you have of Naomi in these chapters? What was she like? Do you think you would have got on with her?

ON CHAPTERS 8-15

5. What was Bethlehem like when Ruth and Naomi arrived? Do you think it was what they were expecting?

The Outsider

6. What do you think it was like for Ruth to go out to the fields for the first time? How would you have been feeling if you were her?
7. What was Boaz like? Why do you think he was so kind to Ruth?
8. Read Ruth 2:11-12 and 19-20. What do Boaz and Naomi think about what God is like?

ON CHAPTERS 16-21

9. What do you think of God's commands about redeemers? Do you think that was a good system?
10. Do you think you would have found it easy or hard to trust the Lord if you were Ruth in this part of the story?
11. What does the threshing-floor part of the story tell us about what Ruth was like?
12. Read Ruth 3:7-11. What did Boaz think about Ruth and why?

ON CHAPTERS 22-24 AND EPILOGUE

13. What are some reasons for Boaz not to marry Ruth? Why do you think he did it anyway?
14. Read Ruth 1:20-21 and 4:14-15. How did Naomi's relationship with God change throughout the story? Was she right or wrong about him at the beginning?

The Outsider

15. What similarities did you spot between Abraham and Ruth? What do their stories tell you about what it means to have faith?
16. What impression of God did you get throughout the story? How could that impact your own life?
17. What does it mean that Jesus is a redeemer? How does it make you feel about yourself and about him?