

RUTH

Bible Study

Leader Guide

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Welcome, friend!

I am so delighted you chose to lead a group through **RUTH: Rediscovering the Kindness of God**. May the Lord richly bless you and your group as you journey through the study!

Whether you have been leading Bible study groups for years or this is your first time, the greatest gift each of us brings to those God entrusts to our care is our support, love, and encouragement – and for these, there is no prerequisite. Nevertheless, this Leader Guide offers some helpful tips and resources to equip you as you prepare to lead your group.

I am honored to partner with you and excited for all God has in mind to do in you and through you!

Before You Begin

A few items to consider as you plan your group:

- Invite a team of prayer supporters to come alongside you and cover you, your co-leaders, and the participants in prayer.
- Encourage your group facilitators to reach out to each participant weekly to let them know they are being prayed over.
- Schedule time with your group facilitators prior to the start of each meeting to pray.
- Familiarize yourself with the **About the Study** and **Group Study Tips** pages in the book (these pages are also included in this Leader Guide).

About This Study

Welcome, friend!

I can hardly wait for us to begin our journey of **RUTH: Rediscovering the Kindness of God**.

The study book is divided into six weeks, each comprised of five days of personal study. For added flexibility, participants can choose a commitment level that works best for them: “light”, “moderate”, “in-depth” or “all-in”. See enclosed **Group Study Tips** for more details.

Each day of study includes one or more questions suitable for **Group Discussion**. These questions are followed by a . Be sure not to overlook these questions, even if you are working through the material on your own. There are also **Pause to Ponder** sections throughout the study; these are designed to provide you with a time of personal reflection. Use the space in the margin (or, if you prefer, a journal or notebook) to respond to these questions. For readers desiring to dig even deeper, I've prepared **Extra** questions, which are preceded by a .

At the end of each day, there is a **Your Turn** section for personal application. These questions are important. While studying the Bible can stir our hearts and open our eyes to wonderful truths, only when we apply what we have learned will it have a lasting impact for God's kingdom.

Continued . . .

About This Study

During my study of **RUTH**, I often found myself fascinated by secondary topics related to the material. The **Supplemental Readings** I included throughout the study are not essential, but you may find them enjoyable and informative.

One quick note: some paraphrase versions of the Bible may be inadequate for the purposes of this study. Whenever possible, it is recommended that you complete the exercises using a Bible translation that adheres to a more literal translation, such as the English Standard Version, New American Standard Bible, New King James Version, or King James Version.

Before you begin, take a few moments to ask the Holy Spirit to guide you over the next six weeks and to bless your commitment to this study. Then, as you open your Bible and your heart, begin each day with an eager expectation of **Rediscovering the Kindness of God**.

Practical Tips

WHAT TO BRING

- Bible Study books
- Pens
- Bible
- Name Tags
- Tissues
- Snacks (I recommend dark chocolate, but that's just me ;)
- Water

GROUP ETIQUETTE GUIDELINES

- **Commitment** – Participants are expected to make attending all group sessions a priority.
- **Respect** – As a non-judgmental God-honoring group, please recognize that participants may have different opinions and religious backgrounds.
- **Considerate** – Please do not interrupt another person while they are speaking, or try to analyze, “fix”, or offer advice, as this can interrupt or hinder their spiritual journey. This may be the first time they have found the courage to share; give them space to do so.
- **Time** – Be sensitive to the time and leave room for each person to share; do not monopolize the conversation.
- **Healthy Environment** – No alcohol or other substances that may hinder your ability to fully participate in the group. Silence cell phones.
- **Confidentiality** - All participants agree to keep the information discussed within the group confidential.
- **Arrive on Time** - Be considerate of each another's time; please arrive on time.

Group Meetings

FIRST MEETING

- Distribute books; assign participants to their individual tables/groups
- Welcome the group and share an opening prayer
- Commend participants for attending and for making the time to invest in their walk with God when so many other things compete for their time
- Introduce yourself and share what led you to serve as leader/co-leader (invite other co-leaders and facilitators to do the same)
- Around the Tables: have participants introduce themselves and share one thing they hope to gain from your time together
- Watch first video (see [Video Sessions Guide](#), included in this Leader Guide, for session times)
- Review [About the Study](#) page with the group
- Review [Group study Tips](#) page, particularly the [Customized Commitments](#) options where participants can choose one of four commitment levels
- Go over class schedule
- Optional: invite someone in the group to read [A Note from the Author](#) in the study book
- Optional: Review [Group Etiquette Guidelines](#) with the group
- Ask group if there are any questions
- Closing Prayer

Continued . . .

Group Meetings

SUBSEQUENT MEETING

- Welcome the group
- Review and discuss the assigned homework (suggestion: begin with one of the **Group Discussion** questions within the assigned reading)
- After reviewing all of the scheduled assignments, ask participants if they wish to discuss any questions that were skipped or something from the homework that stood out to them
- If a video session is scheduled, watch the video after group discussion. Use the blank **NOTES** pages in the Bible study book for note-taking during the video.
- Discuss what was presented in the video or any final thoughts
- Closing Prayer

LAST MEETING

- Party! (Potluck, Taco bar, Popcorn, Coffee bar . . .)
- Open Mic: invite participants to share a key “aha” moment or takeaway from the study
- Celebrate their completed commitment to finish the study and any answered prayers
- Closing prayer

Group Study Tips

Because any deep work of God requires a sacrifice of time spent in His Word and in His presence, the volume of material in an in-depth study can be challenging for some participants. For this reason, several suggestions are provided to help you facilitate the study when participants have varying levels of time constraints.

CONSIDER AN EXTENDED SCHEDULE

Rather than meeting for six weeks, the recommended extended **Class Schedule** (next page) gives participants two weeks of time to complete each Week in the study. This extended schedule allows participants to dive deeper into the material without feeling overwhelmed.

CUSTOMIZED COMMITMENTS

If you are meeting for six weeks, the following page provides suggested assignments based on an individual's time constraints.

However, if your group is using the extended **Class Schedule**, the time commitments on the following page would be cut in half. For example, under the extended schedule, those who chose the **MODERATE** commitment level can anticipate spending roughly 15 minutes a day on the written assignments, rather than 30 minutes using a six-week schedule.

Group Study Tips

ALL PARTICIPANTS:

- Read through each day's material, including the assigned Bible passages
- Optional: read the **Supplemental Reading** section as provided in various weeks

In addition to the above assignments for **All Participants**, each participant can choose one of the following commitment levels:

LIGHT (15 minutes a day)

- Complete the **Your Turn** personal application section at the end of each day
- If you have time, complete the **Group Discussion** questions identified with a ☺

MODERATE (30 minutes a day)

- Complete the various **Pause to Ponder** personal reflection sections as well as the **Your Turn** personal application section at the end of each day
- Complete the **Group Discussion** questions identified with a ☺

IN-DEPTH (45 minutes a day)

- Complete all questions except for the **Extra** questions identified with a ☺

ALL IN (60 minutes a day)

- Complete all questions, including the **Extra** questions identified with a ☺
- Read the **Supplemental Reading** as provided in various weeks

Class Schedule

While the study is divided into six weeks, an extended class schedule can be helpful whereby each Week in the study is completed over two weeks of time. NOTE: Except for Video Session 1, videos serve as a wrap up to the previous Week in the study as well as introduction to the next Week in the study. Therefore, while not required, it is recommended to begin class with group discussion followed by watching the video.

DATE	MEETING # (Extended / Regular)		GROUP DISCUSSION	VIDEO
	1	1	Welcome!	Watch Video Session 1
	2	2	Discuss Week 1 DAYS 1-3	
	3		Discuss Week 1 DAYS 4-5	Watch Video Session 2
	4	3	Discuss Week 2 DAYS 1-3	
	5		Discuss Week 2 DAYS 4-5	Watch Video Session 3
	6	4	Discuss Week 3 DAYS 1-3	
	7		Discuss Week 3 DAYS 4-5	Watch Video Session 4
	8	5	Discuss Week 4 DAYS 1-3	
	9		Discuss Week 4 DAYS 4-5	Watch Video Session 5
	10	6	Discuss Week 5 DAYS 1-3	
	11		Discuss Week 5 DAYS 4-5	Watch Video Session 6
	12	7	Discuss Week 6 DAYS 1-3	
	13		Discuss Week 6 DAYS 4-5	Watch Video Session 7
	14	8	Celebration!	😂 Watch a Bloopers Reel

Video Sessions Guide

Watch Session One before beginning Week One in the study (same for Sessions 2-6).

Session Seven is a wrap up. (Each session averages between 25 – 30 minutes.)

SESSION ONE: In this opening session, Shadia introduces the book of Ruth as far more than a tender love story. Set against the dark days of the Judges, Ruth's story reveals the hidden hand of a sovereign God, honoring the faith of one small, grieving family who come to both display and experience His **hesed kindness**.

SESSION TWO: In this session, Shadia slows down to walk verse by verse through Ruth's opening tragedy — a famine, three funerals, one shattered widow, and a daughter-in-law who refuses to let go. It's here, at the crossroads, in the middle of Naomi's grief, that **hesed makes its first appearance** in the text.

SESSION THREE: Ruth's vow — *your people shall be my people, your God my God* — is no sentimental promise; it's a covenant oath with the LORD as her witness, sworn even under threat of death. When Naomi arrives in Bethlehem carrying nothing but grief and bitterness, only one steps in to show her *hesed* kindness: **her Moabite daughter-in-law**.

SESSION FOUR: In this session, Shadia walks through Ruth's first day gleaning in Boaz's field, where a foreign widow finds far more favor than she dared hope for. Boaz calls her "daughter," welcomes her to his table, and prays she'd find refuge "under the wings" of Israel's God — never guessing he's about to become the **answer to his own prayer**.

SESSION FIVE: Naomi's bold plan sends Ruth to the threshing floor in darkness, risking everything on a God she cannot see. There, an unlikely widow hears herself called worthy. Shadia's own story of wrestling with worth reminds us: it was never about what we've done. **It's about the God who calls us His own.**

SESSION SIX: At the city gate, the town blesses Boaz and Ruth's marriage, honoring Ruth alongside Israel's matriarchs — pointing forward to a son who will carry a redeemed family line all the way to King David, and further still, to Bethlehem's greater King, Jesus. Every step of the way, **God was working behind the seen**.

SESSION SEVEN: In this final session, Shadia brings this treasured story full circle: Naomi trades her grief for a grandchild, Ruth trades her Moabite label for a place among God's people, and Boaz's quiet faithfulness is honored by name. **One act of hesed at a time, God was redeeming not just this one family, but all who trust in Him.**

Frequently Asked Questions

Why Did You Create Four Commitment levels?

Group Leaders face a common challenge: balancing members who want minimal homework with those hungry for deeper study. Most Bible studies cater to a lower commitment level, leaving those who love to dig deep unsatisfied. My Four Commitment approach removes this tension entirely—those with demanding schedules can participate meaningfully without pressure, while Bible study enthusiasts can dive as deep as they want. From busy newcomers to seasoned Bible lovers, all can enjoy a rich experience where no one feels left out or left wanting.

Where Can I Find the Video Sessions?

Video sessions can be found here: <https://shop.shadiahrichi.com>

What Does it Cost to Have You Meet with my Group on Zoom?

To make this option accessible to any group, regardless of size, simply choose an amount that works best for your group. For more details, visit **shadiahrichi.com** and click "Zooming with Shadia" on the Speaking page, or scan the QR code provided at the beginning of this packet.

Why Do You Recommend an Extended Meeting Schedule?

An extended schedule is recommended for this in-depth Bible study because it allows participants to delve deeper into the material without feeling rushed or overwhelmed. This also creates an opportunity for more meaningful conversations within the group.

Continued . . .

Frequently Asked Questions

How Do I Invite You to Speak at Our Event?

I'm glad you asked! Please visit my Speaking page at www.shadiahrichi.com to complete the **Speaking Inquiry** form. I'll be in touch with next steps.

Do You Really Personally Sign Books Ordered on Your Website?

I sure do! Every book ordered from my website is personally signed and dated, with a Scripture and/or a personal note.

I have another question. How Do I Contact You?

Please send an email to ministry@shadiahrichi.com and either I or someone on my ministry team will get back to you right away.

Scripture for Reflection

“For the LORD is good; his steadfast love [hesed] endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” (Psalm 100:5 ESV)

“... For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.” (Ruth 1:16 ESV)

“I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.” (Jeremiah 17:10 ESV)

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28 ESV)

“The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” (Psalm 34:18 ESV)

“I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.” (Isaiah 44:22 ESV)

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” (Ephesians 5:1-2 ESV)

“The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!” (Ruth 2:12 NASB)

“Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.” (Philippians 2:12-13 ESV)

“The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.” (Proverbs 16:9 ESV)

“The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness . . . ” (Exodus 34:6)



“When . . . you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord GOD, and you became mine.” (Ezekiel 16:8)

“Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.” (Proverbs 31:30 ESV)

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