

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of May 18, 2025

"Bible Personalities: Ruth

IN-LAWS

SundayRead Ruth 1:14-22

"So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest." God's plan to have families as the basic social unit extends to the in-laws. That, of course, happens with a marriage when the marriage partners become part of the spouse's family. That extended family relationship should be a close one. In Naomi's case her sons died leaving her with daughters-in-law only. When all three husbands died, one of the wives left her to go home to their regular families, but Ruth, a Moabite, stayed with her mother-in-law. That kind and considerate gesture opened up great possibilities in the new environment. The ultimate occurred, she found a husband, a man named Boaz.

FAMILY

MondayRead Ruth 1:1-6

"Then she arose with her daughters-in-law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread." What a tribute to Ruth that she chose to stay with Naomi when Naomi lost her two sons. The other daughter-in-law went back to her family into which she was born. Ruth stayed with her mother-in-law Naomi. To Ruth it was a foreign nation. The nation of Israel, but this Moabite became an Israelite. Her love and concern for her mother-in-law brought God's blessing. So much that, Ruth's life became one of the books of God's Holy Scripture, as part of God's Instruction Book for all humanity. We all are the beneficiaries.

ABUNDANT JOY

Tuesday.....Read Luke 15:8-10

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." The ultimate in family life is God's family. God chose to call all people who repent of their sins and receive Jesus as personal Savior, His children. When a person receives Jesus into his or her heart, he or she becomes a child in God's eternal family. In today's Bible reading, we see that the angels in heaven erupt with joy when that decision is made. We read that heaven celebrates when a person opens his or her heart to Jesus. God and His angels in heaven above keep their eyes on planet earth. They are watching what Jesus talked about in Matthew 16:18: *"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."* Each soul that accepts Jesus adds to the church and in heaven it results in joy.

Just as a new baby brings joy to an earthly family, so it is with God's heavenly family.

FRIENDSHIP

WednesdayRead Ruth 3:18-20

"Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day." With her magnetic personality, Ruth was able to establish meaningful friendships. A key one was with her month-in-law, which led to a solid friendship with Boaz. That one turned into her marriage. We have all benefitted from meaningful friendships. They are especially important in doing God's work because of the constant attacks of the adversary. Meaningful friendships give added strength in winning the battles brought on by God's enemy. The Bible records many meaningful friendships, God's plan for all of us is to have Christian friends in serving our Lord together.

BEST EFFORT

ThursdayRead Colossians 3:17-23

"Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." The child of God should be known as a person who puts forth his or her best effort in everything they do. Being a Christian is a 24 hour, 7 days a week commitment. Colleagues at work should see a believer working to full capacity to bring glory to God in heaven. Such a commitment is just as much a witness for our Lord as leading a Sunday School Class. Words can be meaningless if not backed up by actions! Believers are God's light in the world! That light shines brighter as actions back up the words!

MARRIAGE

FridayRead Ruth 4:10-13

"So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bare a son." Ruth became the wife of Boaz, a marriage arranged by the God in heaven. So it is with all of God's children for whom He has marriage in His plans for them. When partners see marriage as a Divine assignment, it provides a huge incentive to take marital responsibilities very seriously! Children reared in homes by parents who see parenthood as a Divine assignment are blessed indeed! They are then likely to seek a Christian partner for their own marriage.

GOD'S PLAN

Saturday.....Read Jeremiah 29:11-15

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Those people who see their lives as a plan made by God in heaven have a powerful motivation like none other. To know and to do God's will is life at its best. All humans will face God in judgment. God is watching and is either disappointed or honored by what He sees. The individual who lives with that awareness will have a productive and rewarding life! The most important thing to do to know God's plan for your life is to read His word, the Bible. That gives the Holy Spirit the opportunity to provide guidance in decision-making. Spirit-led decisions mean accomplishing God's plan for your life!