

A Three Year Course of Study for Adults

Section Four: Joshua, Judges, Ruth Year 1, Quarter 4

Compiled by Gene Taylor

Preface

These lessons were first compiled over a three year period from April 1988 through March 1991. The then Westside church of Christ in Tallahassee, Florida (Now the Centerville Road church relocated to 4015 Centerville Road in Tallahassee) determined to place all their Sunday morning Bible classes on the *Amplified Bible Curriculum* (Hereafter referred to as *ABC*) developed by JoLinda Crump and Cathy Valdes.

While their curriculum recommended materials from preschool through senior high, we desired to place our college, young adult, and adult classes on the same schedule. The volume of material in L.A. Mott's studies, recommended in the *ABC* for source material and lesson development, did not easily lend itself to a once a week study since he designed his lessons to be studied twice each week.

Considering these factors, I took it upon myself to compile these lessons. We used them successfully while cycling through the curriculum twice in our senior high, college, young adult, and adult classes from April 1988 through March 1994. They were edited and revised prior to the second study of them. They have been revised a second time and reformatted in 1997.

I have tried to parallel the *ABC* as much as possible so that adults and children would be studying the same lesson at the same time only on different levels. But this series, or any one of its twelve study guides, may be used independently.

Each lesson contains a schedule for daily Bible reading. It can be used as a format for family devotionals in the home even if the whole family is not on the curriculum.

I hope you enjoy your study.

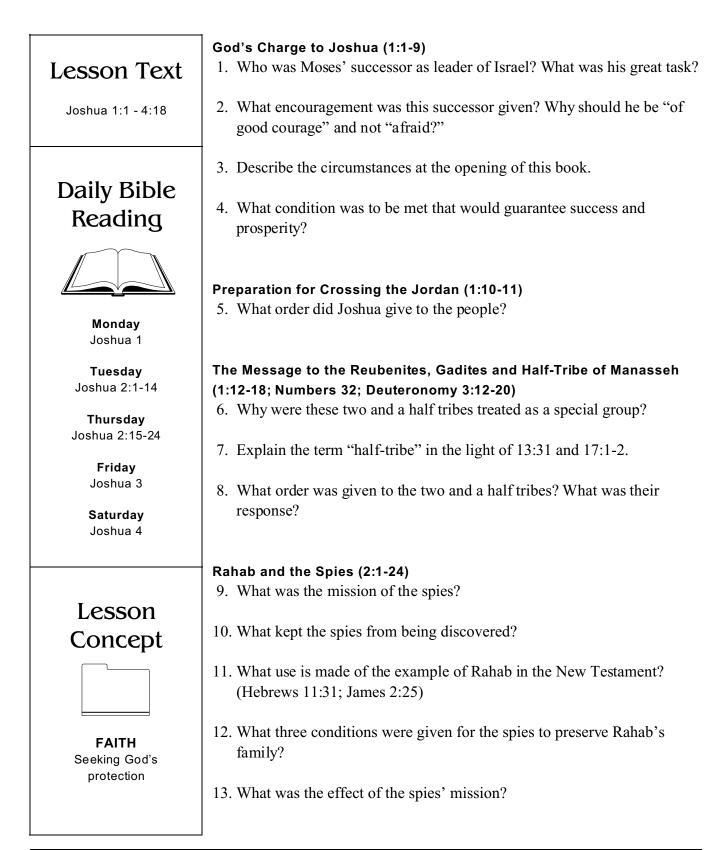
Gene Taylor July 1997

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Lesson One: Entering Canaan



The Crossing of the Jordan (3:1-17)

- 14. What was to go before the people? In the light of Exodus 25:1-22, what was the significance of this?
- 15. Describe the manner in which the Jordan was crossed. What made this an especially great miracle? What similar occurrence had taken place forty years before?
- 16. What was the purpose of the miraculous crossing?

Memorial Stones (4:1-18)

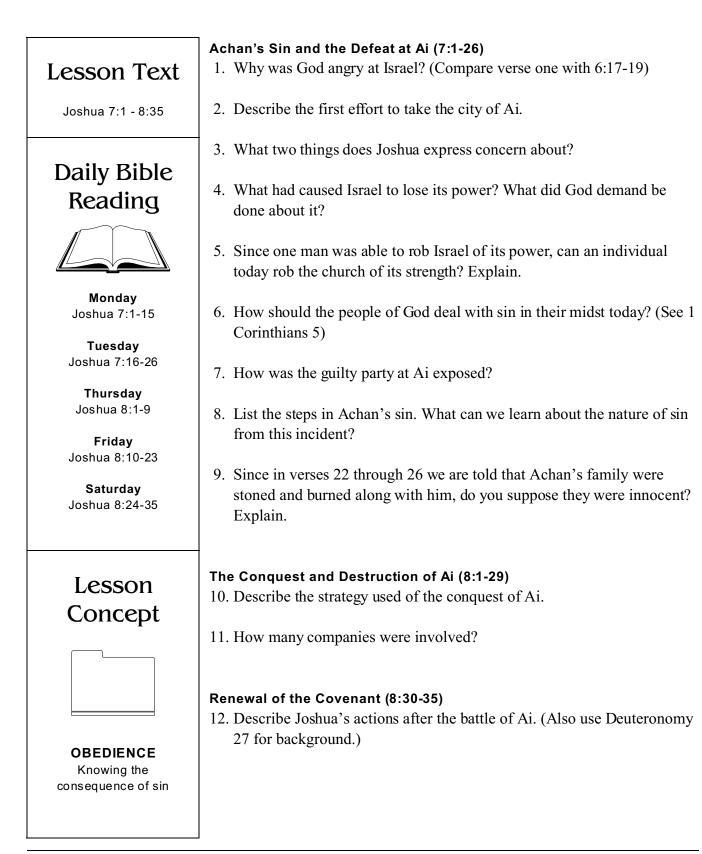
- 17. In what two places were stones set up? What was the purpose of the stones?
- 18. Compare these stones with:
 - a. The Passover with respect to purpose. (Exodus 12:14, 26-27; 13:3-10)
 - b. The Lord's Supper for Christians. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
- 19. What is the meaning of "feared" in verse 14?

Lesson Two: Conquering Canaan

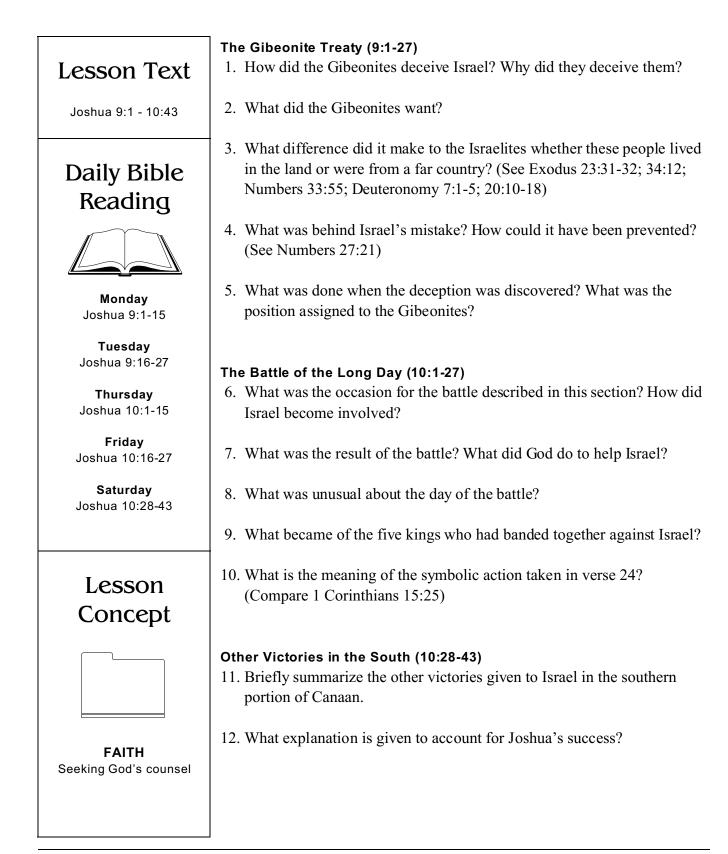
Lesson Text Joshua 4:19 - 6:27	The Effect of the Miraculous Crossing on the Kings of Canaan (5:1)1. What was the effect of the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River on the heathen kings?
Daily Bible Reading	The Circumcision of the Israelites (5:2-9)2. What had to be done after the crossing of the Jordan? Why was it necessary?
Monday Joshua 4:19-24 Tuesday Joshua 5	 3. What was the significance of the circumcision? (See Genesis 17:1-4) 4. What would seem to be demonstrated by the circumcising of the Israelites on this occasion? What is meant by "the reproach of Egypt?" Why was the reproach of Egypt upon them? What now takes that reproach away?
Thursday Joshua 6:1-11	The Keeping of the Passover and the Cessation of the Manna (5:10-12) 5. What feast was kept in Gilgal? What was its purpose?
Friday Joshua 6:12-21	6. When did the manna cease and why?
Saturday Joshua 6:22-27 1 Kings 16:34	Joshua's Vision (5:13-15)7. Who appeared to Joshua? Is this appearance connected in any way with Exodus 3:5?
Lesson Concept	 8. What is meant by "the host of the Lord?" (v. 14) (cf. 1 Kings 22:19; Psalm 103:19-21; 148:2) 9. What is the purpose of this appearance?
FAITH Depending upon God's protection	 5. What is the purpose of this appearance? The Conquest and Destruction of Jericho (6:1-27) 10. Describe how Israel captured the city of Jericho. Was there any natural connection between the things commanded to be done and the fall of the walls? Explain.

- 11. What was shown by Israel's obedience? (See Hebrews 11:30)
- 12. What warning was given in connection with the taking of Jericho? What is meant by "the devoted thing?"
- 13. Who was spared when the city fell? Why?
- 14. What warning did Joshua give about rebuilding Jericho? What happened when someone attempted to rebuild the city? (1 Kings 16:34)

Lesson Three: Achan's Sin



Lesson Four: The Gibeonites



Lesson Five: The Division of Canaan

Lesson Text	The Command to Divide the Land Among the Tribes (13:1-7)1. What two circumstances were present when this command was given?
Joshua 13:1 - 17:18	The Limits of the Inheritance of the Two and a Half Tribes East of
	Jordan (13:8-33)
Daily Bible Reading	2. Who had formerly controlled this territory east of the Jordan? When had this territory been conquered
	 How did this territory come to be allotted to these two and a half tribes? (See Numbers 32)
Monday Joshua 13:1-23	4. Who distributed the eastern land among these tribes?
Tuesday Joshua 13:24 - 14:5	5. What is said about the inheritance of the tribe of Levi?
Thursday Joshua 14:6 - 15:12	The Introduction to the Distribution of the Land West of the Jordan River (14:1-5)
Friday Joshua 16:1 - 17:6	6. Who distributed this land?
Saturday Joshua 17:6-18	7. How were the portions assigned to particular tribes? (v. 2 with 15:1; 16:1; 17:1; etc.)
	8. How did it come about that there were twelve tribal portions even though the tribe of Levi received none?
Lesson	
Concept	Caleb's Inheritance (14:6-15)
	9. Who was Caleb? Why was he singled out for special consideration?
	10. Using verses seven and ten, compute how long it took Israel to get possession of Canaan.
FAITH Knowing God keeps His promises	11. Why, judging from the context, did Caleb mention his strength?
	12. What city was given to Caleb?

The Inheritance of the Tribe of Judah (15:1-63)

- 13. Describe the inheritance of Judah in terms of its borders.
- 14. Who was Achsah and how was she involved in Bible history?
- 15. Who were the Jebusites? What is said about them? Who finally drove them out? (See 2 Samuel 5:6-10)

The Inheritance of the Sons of Joseph (16:1 - 17:18)

16. What two tribes were descended from Joseph?

- 17. Describe the inheritance of Ephraim.
- 18. What explanation of the tribe of Manasseh is given in 17:1-2?
- 19. Describe the borders of the inheritance of Manasseh.
- 20. What was the complaint of the sons of Joseph? What was Joshua's answer to them?

Lesson Six: The Promise Fulfilled

Lesson Text	The Inheritance Divided at Shiloh (18:1 - 19:51) 1. Where was the tabernacle erected?
Joshua 18:1 - 22:65	2. Why did certain tribes need to be admonished by Joshua?
Daily Bible	3. Describe the procedure by which the remainder of the land was divided among the tribes.
Reading	4. Consider the following:
	a. The inheritance of Benjamin. (18:11-28)
	b. The inheritance of Simeon. (19:1-9)
Monday Joshua 18	c. The inheritance of Zebulon. (19:10-16)
Tuesday	d. The inheritance of Issachar. (19:17-23)
Joshua 19:1-23	e. The inheritance of Asher. (19:24-31)
Thursday Joshua 19:24-51	f. The inheritance of Naphtali. (19:32-29)
	g. The inheritance of Dan. (19:49-50)
Friday Joshua 20-21	5. Where was Joshua's inheritance?
Saturday Joshua 22 1 Peter 2:9-10	The Cities of Refuge (20:1-9; cf. Numbers 35; Deuteronomy 19:1-3) 6. What was a city of refuge?
Lesson	7. What are the implications, if any, with respect to human life in the fact that an avenger of blood was permitted to pursue someone who killed a person accidentally?
Concept	8. Name the six cities of refuge. Give their location.
FAITH Trusting God's wisdom	 The Inheritance of the Levites (21:1-45; Numbers 35:1-8) 9. Who were the Levites? What was their function in Israel? 10. How did the inheritance of the Levites differ from that of the other tribes? (cf. 14:3-4 and 18:7)

- 11. How does this chapter show the faithfulness of God?
- 12. What effect does the passing of long periods of time have on the promises of God? Explain. (cf. 2 Peter 3:8-10).

Relations of the Western Tribes with the Tribes East of Jordan (22:1-65)

- 13. What commandment had Moses given the two and a half tribes who settled east of Jordan?
- 14. Now that Israel possessed Canaan, what are these two and a half tribes permitted to do?
- 15. What action was taken by the eastern tribes causing a problem with the western tribes?
- 16. In relation to the altar built east of the Jordan River:
 - a. What was the objection to it?
 - b. Why was the matter regarded so seriously by the western tribes? (cf. Leviticus 17:8-9; Deuteronomy 12:1-14; 13:12-18)
 - c. What defense of their actions was made by the eastern tribes?
 - d. What was the final result of this incident?

Lesson Seven: The Judges - I

	Summary of the Canaanite Wars (1:1-36)
Lesson Text	1. How was the conquest of the land incomplete?
Judges 1:1 - 3:31	
	The Appearance of the Angel of God (2:1-5)
Daily Bible	2. How did Israel disobey God? (Compare these verses with Deuteronomy
0	7:1-5 and Joshua 23:1-16)
Reading	2 What would be the consequence of this dischadiones?
	3. What would be the consequence of this disobedience?
Monday	The Passing of Joshua's Generation (2:6-10)
Judges 1:1-21	4. Since Judges 2:6-10 is a repetition of Joshua 24:28-31, what do you
Tuesday	think was the purpose of this repetition?
Judges 1:22-36	
Thursday	5. What is said of the people during the time of Joshua? What happened to
Thursday Judges 2	them after his death? Why do you think this happened?
Friday Judges 3:1-14	The Apostasy after Joshua (2:11-15)
Saturday	6. Since the generation after Joshua did not know God, what filled the
Judges 3:15-31	void left by that lack of knowledge?
	7. What was the consequence of this departure from God?
Lesson	
Concept	The Judges (2:16-19)
•	8. Who were the judges?
	9. What was the attitude of the people toward the judges?
	The Nations Left in Canaan (2:20 - 3:6)
FAITH Forgiving others	10. List two reasons why God left a remnant of Canaanites in the land.
	11. Using the whole passage (2:6 - 3:6), explain the cycle of events that was
	to recur all through the period of the judges.

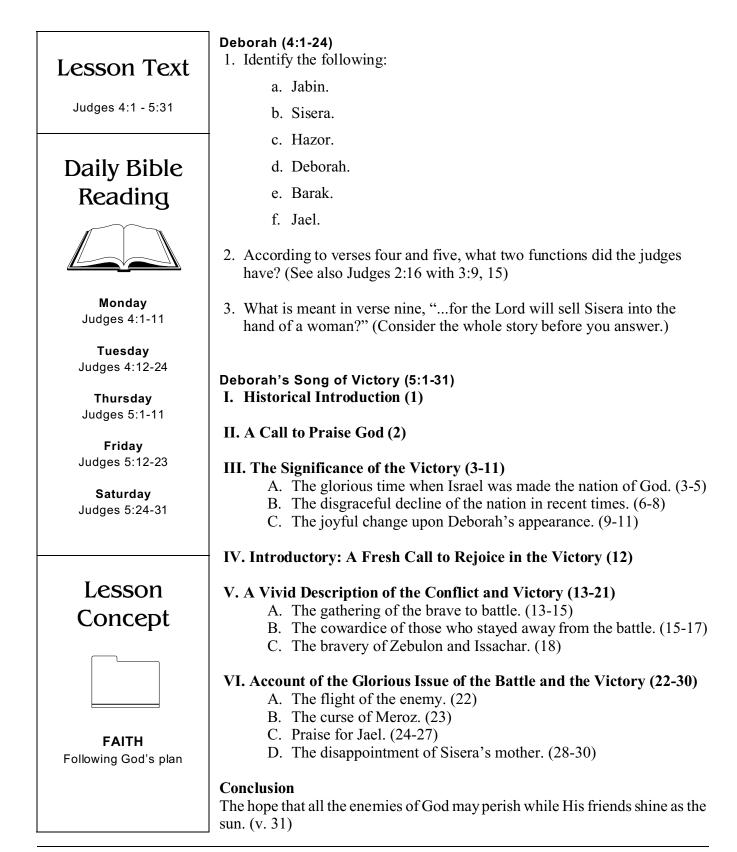
- 12. During the period of the judges:
 - a. What caused Israel's troubles?
 - b. What brought the Israelites into such close connection with heathen peoples?

The Early Judges (3:7-31)

13. What is meant by "the Baalim and the Asheroth?" (KJV: "groves")

14. Name the first three judges.

Lesson Eight: The Judges - II



Lesson Nine: The Judges - III

Lesson Text Judges 6:1 - 8:35	 Oppression by the Midianites and the Humiliation of Israel (6:1-6) 1. How did the Midianites oppress Israel? 2. Describe or illustrate the low condition to which Israel was reduced.
Daily Bible Reading	The Prophet to Israel (6:7-10)3. Seeing that the people had to understand why they were humbled before the Midianites, what explanation does the prophet make in this regard?
Monday Judges 6:1-24	 The Call of Gideon (6:11-32) 4. Why did Gideon find it hard to believe that God was with him? What is the answer to his question, "Why then has all this happened to us?"
Tuesday Judges 6:25-40 Thursday Judges 7 Friday Judges 8:1-28	 5. What assurance does Gideon request? 6. What sign convinced Gideon that it was God who was speaking to him? 7. What did Gideon have to do before carrying out the task to which he was called? What must be done before we can serve God?
Saturday Judges 8:29-35	The Gathering of Armies (6:33-35) 8. Where were the enemy forces encamped?
Lesson Concept	The Signs of God's Presence (6:36-40)9. How did God assure Gideon of His presence? How may we know that God is with us?
	 Gideon's Army (7:1-8) 10. How was Gideon's faith tested? Is our faith tested in similar ways today? Explain and/or illustrate your answer.
OBEDIENCE Following God's law specifically	 11. Why did God want to reduce the size of Gideon's army? What lesson was taught by this battle? (See 2 Corinthians 12:9) 12. How many were in the army of the enemy? (7:12; 8:10)

Assurance of Victory (7:9-14)

13. How does God provide Gideon with assurance of victory? What is the purpose of this assurance?

The Attack on the Midianite Camp (7:15-23)

14. Describe Gideon's battle strategy.

Ephraim's Part in the War (7:24 - 8:3)

15. What was Ephraim's part in the war? Why were they dissatisfied? How did Gideon calm them down?

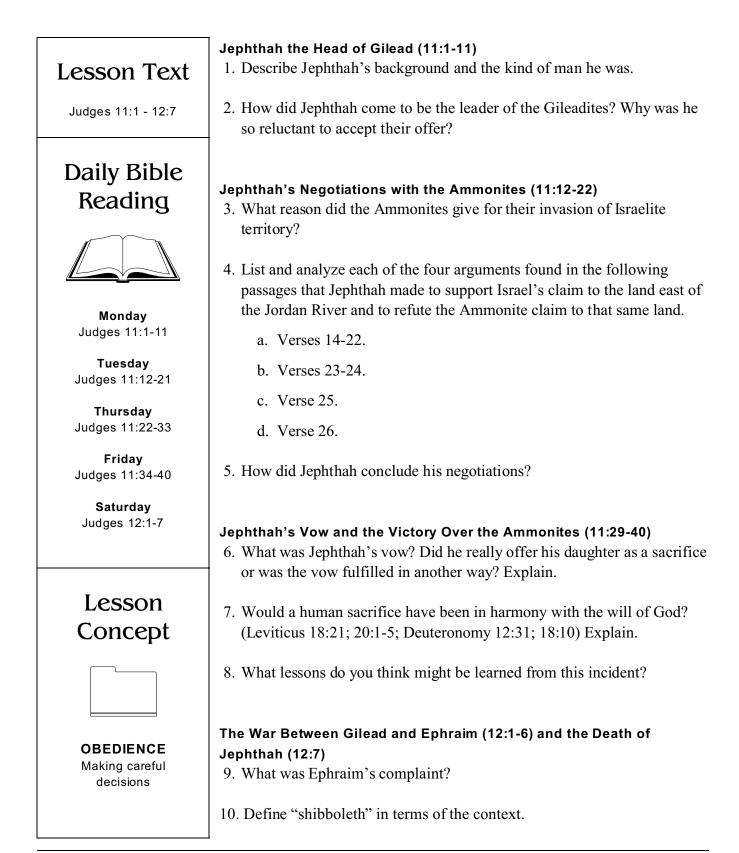
Pursuit of the Enemy (8:4-21)

- 16. What cities are mentioned as not aiding Gideon in his pursuit of the enemy? Is there any indication why they would not help him? How were they punished?
- 17. Who were Zebah and Zalmunna? What became of them?

Gideon's Last Days (8:22-35)

- 18. What was Gideon's life like after the defeat of the Midianites? (Include at least three points.)
- 19. What happened "as soon as Gideon was dead?"

Lesson Ten: The Judges IV



Lesson Eleven: The Judges V

	The Birth of Samson (13:1-25) 1. What is a Nazarite? (cf. Numbers 6)
Lesson Text	1. What is a Mazarite? (ci. Mulliders 0)
Judges 13:1 - 16:31	2. Why was Samson raised up by God? What are the implications of the last line in verse five?
Daily Bible Reading	3. Would that which Manoah was concerned about in verses 8 through 14 be a good point for any prospective parent to consider? Did he take this concern to the right source for information? What can modern parents learn from him?
Monday Judges 13	4. What did Manoah come to realize about the identity of the one who had appeared to him? Of what was he afraid? What common sense reassurance did his wife provide?
Tuesday Judges 14	5. What kind of people were the parents of Samson? Cite Scripture to support your answer.
Thursday Judges 15 Friday Judges 16:1-17	 The Marriage of Samson (14:1-20) 6. What does Samson's choice of a wife reveal about him? 7. How was God able to use this marriage to serve His own purpose?
Saturday Judges 16:18-31	8. What two exhibitions of strength are described in this chapter?
	9. What became of Samson's wife?
Lesson	
Concept	Samson and the Philistines (15:1-20)10. What was Samson's grievance against the Philistines? How did he retaliate?
	11. What was the attitude of the Israelites toward Samson? What indicates their lowly condition?
OBEDIENCE Making careful decisions	12. What was Samson's rule of action against the Philistines? (v. 11) What is the rule prescribed by Jesus? (Matthew 7:12)
	13. Describe Samson's great victory over the Philistines. Who did he credit for the victory?

Samson's Downfall and Death (16:1-31)

- 14. What more can be known of Samson's character from the first three verses of this chapter?
- 15. How did the Philistines try to trap Samson? How did he mock them?
- 16. How did Samson's love for Delilah lead to his downfall?
- 17. Was Delilah a Philistine woman? Explain.
- 18. What was the source of Samson's strength? Was it his long hair in itself? Contrast the statements in verses 17 and 19 with that in verse 20 about what departed from him.
- 19. Describe the death of Samson. What reason did he give for killing Philistines? What understanding did he express about the source of his strength?

A Summary of Samson

- 20. What kind of man was Samson?
- 21. How did God use Samson? Were Samson's motives the same as God's? Explain.
- 22. What "flaw" in Samson's character led to his downfall?
- 23. What lessons or warning should we draw from Samson with regard to:
 - a. Attitudes toward God's gifts to us?
 - b. Overconfidence? The possibility of a fall? (cf. 1 Corinthians 9:27)

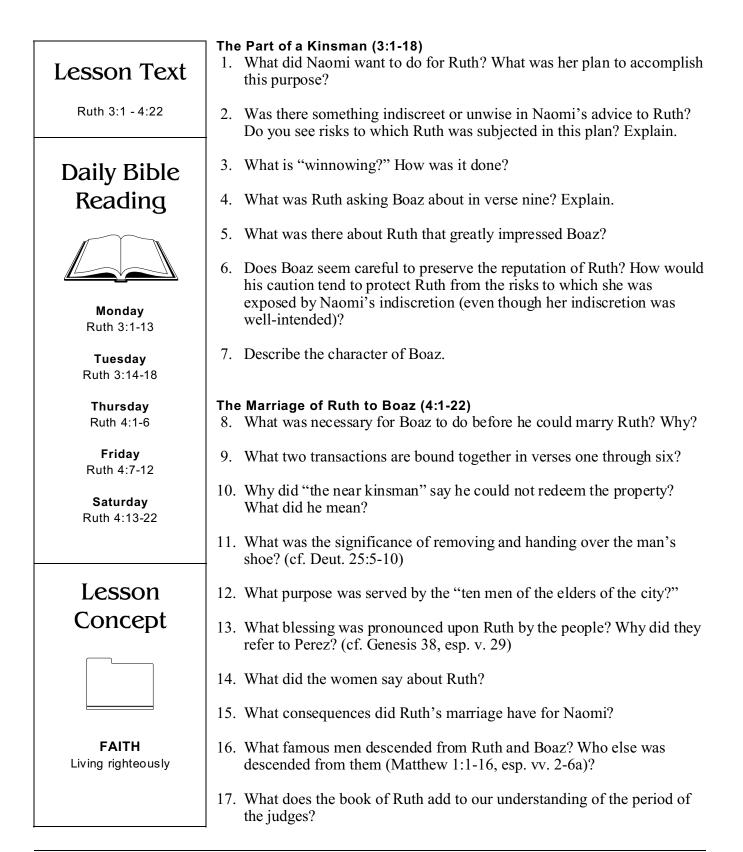
Lesson Twelve: Ruth and Naomi

Lesson Text	The Sojourn in Moab (1:1-5) 1. When did the events of this book take place?
Ruth 1:1 - 2:23	2. Identify the following characters.
	a. Elimelech.
Daily Bible	b. Naomi.
Reading	c. Mahlon.
	d. Chilion.
	e. Orpah.
	f. Ruth.
Monday Ruth 1:1-15	3. What caused Elimelech to take his family into Moab? What does Leviticus 26:3-5, 14-20 indicate about such times?
Tuesday Ruth 1:16-25	4. In the light of 4:11; Genesis 35:19; Genesis 48:7; and Micah 5:2, what
Thursday Ruth 2:1-7	is the meaning of "Ephrathites" in verse two?
Friday Ruth 2:8-16	Naomi and Ruth (1:6-18)
Saturday Ruth 2:17-23	 Were the decisions made by Orpah and Ruth only a matter of loyalty to their mother-in-law or did they involve spiritual considerations too? Explain your answer and support it by Scripture.
Lesson	6. List characteristics of Ruth paying special attention to qualities brought to light by the situation she was in.
Concept	7. How did Ruth react to her situation? How could she have reacted? What kind of woman did she show herself to be?
FAITH Building family love	 The Return to Judah (1:19-22) 8. Why did Naomi say "Do not call me Naomi, call me Mara?" (v. 20) 9. What evidence is given with regard to the time of year the women returned to Bethlehem?

Gleaning in the Field of Boaz (2:1-23)

- How did God provide for the poor people? What is "gleaning?" (See also Leviticus 19:9-10; 23:22; Deuteronomy 24:19-22)
- 11. Who was Boaz? What kind of man was he? How did he treat Ruth? What reason did he give for showing her such favor?
- 12. What is meant by "under whose wing you have come for refuge?" (v. 12) Does this chapter provide evidence of God's protection over those who come to Him for refuge? Explain. (Compare also Genesis 15:1; Psalm 34:7; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 8:28)

Lesson Thirteen: Ruth and Boaz



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