

... a meaningful structured reading of the Bible



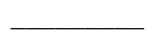



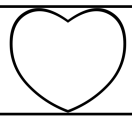
Close Bible Study Ruth

Chapter 2

by Mary Kane
www.onlybyprayer.com

Close Reading is a method of reading which became popular in the United States during the New Criticism Movement of the 1930's-1970's. Though dating back to the Roman rhetorician Quintilian, Close Reading method is still widely used in classrooms today. Repeated readings and disciplined analysis of the text provided by the Close Reading method, greatly impact the comprehension of the reader. I pray you will be greatly blessed as you use this method of study during your Quiet Time with God.

Below is a chart containing our Close Bible Study symbols and instructions. Please print this sheet and laminate it. Keep it handy as we will use it throughout our study time.

	Put a star next to key concepts.
	Circle important words
	Underline important phrases
	Put a box around repeated words or theme words
	Draw a cross next to something new you have learned.
	Put a question mark by what you don't understand & ask God to give you wisdom
VS, VW,	VS: verse to self connection VW: verse to world connection
	Draw a heart by God's main message to you today.
In the left margin , note God's Word to you. In the right margin , note your response.	



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Before we begin our study time today, please go to God in prayer and ask Him to clean your heart of all unrighteousness and open the eyes of your heart to the truth of His Word. Now, please read Ruth chapter 2.

God's
Word

1 There was a relative of Naomi's husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech. His name was Boaz.

My Response

2 So Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field, and glean heads of grain after him in whose sight I may find favor."

And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

3 Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

4 Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!"

And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!"

5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?"

6 So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, "It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab.

7 And she said, 'Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.' So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house."

8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but



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God's
Word

stay close by my young women.

My Reponse

9 Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Have I not commanded the young men not to touch you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn."

10 So she fell on her face, bowed down to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

11 And Boaz answered and said to her, "It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.

12 The LORD repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."

13 Then she said, "Let me find favor in your sight, my lord; for you have comforted me, and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."

14 Now Boaz said to her at mealtime, "Come here, and eat of the bread, and dip your piece of bread in the vinegar." So she sat beside the reapers, and he passed parched grain to her; and she ate and was satisfied, and kept some back.

15 And when she rose up to glean, Boaz commanded his young



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God's
Word

men, saying, "Let her glean even among the sheaves, and do not reproach her.

16 Also let grain from the bundles fall purposely for her; leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her."

17 So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

18 Then she took it up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied.

19 And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you."

So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

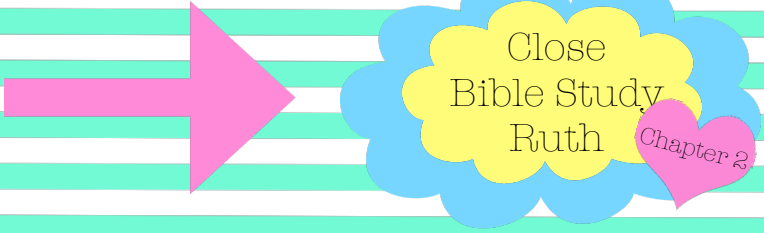
20 Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the LORD, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."

21 Ruth the Moabite said, "He also said to me, 'You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.'"

22 And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field."

23 So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

My
Response



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As mentioned in the preview information at the beginning of our study, the repeated readings and structured analysis of the Close Reading Method greatly increases the comprehension of the text by the reader. Using our Close Bible Symbols and Instructions card, we will go through Ruth 2 several times with open hearts waiting to receive what the Lord has prepared for us to learn today.

1 Read through chapter 2 again and put a star by key concepts. For instance, I would put a star by the phrase "under whose wings you have found refuge." After you have finished starring key concepts, please record them in the chart provided:

Key Concepts	Why they are Important

2 Read through chapter 2 again. This time, circle important words. Please write your important words in the chart below. To greatly increase our understanding of the God's Word, we will research the meanings of your important words in the original language at www.blueletterbible.org. (I cannot overstate the importance of this step. It is crucial to your learning.) Please click the following link to learn how to use the interlinear/C button at Blue Letter Bible: <http://blb.sc/0005za>

Important Words	Definitions



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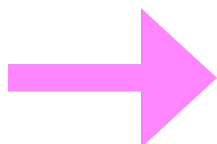
3 Now, we will focus on marking the text using our Close Bible Study Symbols. Please reread chapter 2 and underline significant phrases. (For example, I would underline the phrase, "... end of barley harvest and wheat harvest" Then, I'd search other places in the Bible in which barley or wheat is significant.

4 Next, scan chapter 2 and put a box around repeated words/theme words and their synonyms. To go deeper, look up your repeated/theme words and their synonyms at Blue Letter Bible. The work will be well-worth the blessing you will receive from God.

5 Please follow the same procedure for the cross and question mark symbols.

6 Go through the text again and place a "VS" next to a verse for which you personally connect. For example, I might mark VS (verse-to-self connection) by verse 2 because I have picked heads of wheat before. Also, I may mark a "VW" (verse-to-world connection) by verse 23 because they farmers in Michigan recently harvested their wheat.

7 Finally, read Ruth 2 again and mark in the margins God's specific word to you and what you need to do in response to what He has said.



Other Tips for Close Reading:

1. Look for opposite concepts (light/dark) throughout the text.
2. Note how a chapter opens and closes.
3. Pay attention to names of people and places. Look up their meanings at Blue Letter Bible.



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Another very important facet of close reading is reader-generated questions. The more we think about and interact the text with rigor, the more we learn, retain and are changed by what we read. In their ground breaking book, Notice and Note, Kyrene Beers and Robert E. Probst state, " ... when [readers] do more of the questioning ... achievement increases."*

To increase our understanding, we will generate questions from sections of Ruth 2, pray for God to give us clarity, and then search for answers. The questions we create should concern things we truly wonder about, not things we already know. (I often generate questions by noticing things in the text such as patterns, repeated words, unusual behavior, information or detailed descriptions about a person or place) To get us started I will do question 1.

1 Ruth 2:1-3: Is it significant that Boaz is related to Naomi? If so, why?

2 Ruth 2:4-7:

3 Ruth 2:8-13

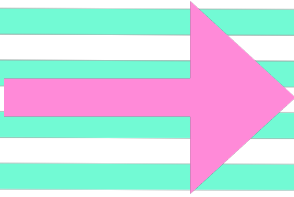
4 Ruth 2:14-18

5 Ruth 2:19-23

Please take a few moments to pray and ask God to help you find answers to the questions you wrote above. You can search for answers by using the study tools at www.blueletterbible.org . (<http://blb.sc/00000M>) Clicking on the preceding link will take you directly to the commentary page. I usually use Matthew Henry's commentary.

God will often answer my questions as I continue to study, through speakers I hear on the radio, sermons I hear at church, other Christians, the Bible, or books I am reading. Be listening for God's answers and record them as they are revealed.

*<http://www.heinemann.com/products/E04693.aspx>



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In closing, write a summary of what you have learned today. Please do not skip this important last step. Research proves the writing process makes permanent what we have learned through reading.

A spiral notebook page with a pink spiral binding at the top. The page has a light blue border and horizontal blue lines for writing. A vertical red line runs down the left side, creating a margin. There are three black dots on the left side of the page, one in each of the three margin sections.



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Thank you for joining me today for Bible study. I pray that you enjoyed and were greatly blessed by the Close Bible Study Method. The blessings are worth the work!

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