

GFS Bible Syllabus – 2017-18

Theme:

Making A Difference



MEMORY VERSE AND BIBLE STORIES

Memory Verse - 1 Joshua v9:

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Ruth Ch1 v1-22 & Ch2 v1-3 & v11-18

**note* Ages 18+ to use the full book of Ruth*

Ruth Chapter 1 v1-22

1 Long ago, in the days before Israel had a king, there was a famine in the land. **2** So a man named Elimelech, who belonged to the clan of Ephrath and who lived in Bethlehem in Judah, went with his wife Naomi and their two sons Mahlon and Chilion to live for a while in the country of Moab. While they were living there, **3** Elimelech died, Naomi was left alone with her two sons, **4** who married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth. About ten years later **5** Mahlon and Chilion also died, and Naomi was left all alone, without husband or sons. **6** Sometime later Naomi heard that the Lord had blessed his people by giving them good crops; so she got ready to leave Moab with her daughters-in-law. **7** They started out together to go back to Judah, but on the way **8** she said to them, "Go back home and stay with your mothers. May the Lord be as good to you as you have been to me and to those who have died. **9** And may the Lord make it possible for each of you to marry again and have a home." So Naomi kissed them good-bye. But they started crying **10** and said to her, "No! We will go with you to your people." **11** "You must go back, my daughters," Naomi answered. "Why do you want to come with me? Do you think I could have sons again for you to marry? **12** Go back home, for I am too old to get married again. Even if I thought there was still hope, and so got married tonight and had sons, **13** would you wait until they had grown up? Would this keep you from marrying someone else? No, my daughters, you know that's impossible. The Lord has turned against me, and I feel very sorry for you." **14** Again they started crying. The Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye and went back home, but Ruth held on to her. **15** So Naomi said to her, "Ruth, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her god. Go back home with her." **16** But Ruth answered, "Don't ask me to leave you! Let me go with you. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. **17** Wherever you die, I will die, and that is where I will be buried. May the Lord's worst punishment come upon me if I let anything but death separate me from you!" **18** When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more. **19** They went on

until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived, the whole town became excited, and the women there exclaimed, “Is this really Naomi?” **20** “Don’t call me Naomi,” she answered; “call me Marah, because Almighty God has made my life bitter. **21** When I left here, I had plenty, but the Lord has brought me back without a thing. Why call me Naomi when the Lord Almighty has condemned me and sent me trouble?” **22** This, then, was how Naomi came back from Moab with Ruth, her Moabites daughter-in-law. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the barley harvest was just beginning.

Ruth Chapter 2 v1-3 & v11-18

1 Naomi had a relative named Boaz, a rich and influential man who belonged to the family of her husband Elimelech. **2** One day Ruth said to Naomi, “Let me go to the fields to gather the grain that the harvest workers leave. I am sure to find someone who will let me work with him.” Naomi answered, “Go ahead, daughter.” **3** So Ruth went out to the fields and walked behind the workers, picking up the heads of grain which they left. It so happened that she was in a field that belonged to Boaz.

11 Boaz said, “I have heard about everything that you have done for your mother-in-law since your husband died. I know how you left your father and mother and your own country and how you came to live among a people you had never known before. **12** May the Lord reward you for what you have done. May you have a full reward from the Lord God of Israel, to whom you have come for protection!” **13** Ruth answered, “You are very kind to me, sir. You have made me feel better by speaking gently to me, even though I am not the equal of one of your servants.” **14** At mealtime Boaz said to Ruth, “Come and have a piece of bread, dip it in the sauce.” So she sat with the workers, and Boaz passed some roasted grain to her. She ate until she was satisfied, and she still had some food left over. **15** After she had left to go and gather grain, Boaz ordered the workers, “Let her gather grain even where the bundles are lying, and don’t say anything to stop her. Besides that, pull out some heads of grain from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up.” **17** So Ruth gathered grain in the field until evening, and when she had beaten it out, she found she had nearly twenty-five pounds. **18** She took the grain back into town and showed her mother-in-law how much she had gathered. She also gave her the food left over from the meal.

Esther Ch4 v7-17, Ch5 v8 & Ch8 v5-12 & v16

Esther Chapter 4 v7 – 15

7 Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him and just how much money Haman had promised to put into the royal treasury if all the Jews were killed. **8** He gave Hathach a copy of the proclamation that had been issued in Susa, ordering the destruction of the Jews. Mordecai asked him to take it to Esther, explain the situation to her, and have her go and plead with the king and beg him to have mercy on her people. **9** Hathach did this, **10** and Esther gave him this message to take back to Mordecai: **11** "If anyone, man or woman, goes to the inner courtyard and sees the king without being summoned, that person must die. That is the law; everyone, from the king's advisers to the people in the provinces, knows that. There is only one way to get around this law: if the king holds out his gold scepter to someone, then that person's life is spared. But it has been a month since the king sent for me." **12** When Mordecai received Esther's message, **13** he sent her this warning: "Don't imagine that you are safer than any other Jew just because you are in the royal palace. **14** If you keep quiet at a time like this, help will come from heaven to the Jews, and they will be saved, but you will die and your father's family will come to an end. Yet who knows - maybe it was for a time like this that you were made queen!" **15** Esther sent Mordecai this reply: **16** "Go and get all the Jews in Susa together; hold a fast and pray for me. Don't eat or drink anything for three days and nights. My servant women and I will be doing the same. After that, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. If I must die for doing it, I will die." **17** Mordecai then left and did everything that Esther had told him to do.

Esther Chapter 5 v8

8 "If Your Majesty is kind enough to grant my request, I would like you and Haman to be my guests tomorrow at another banquet that I will prepare for you. At that time I will tell you what I want."

5 "If it please Your Majesty, and if you care about me and if it seems right to you, please issue a proclamation to keep Haman's orders from being carried out - those orders that the son of Hammedatha the descendant of Agag gave for the destruction of all the Jews in the empire. **6** How can I endure it if this disaster comes on my people, and my own relatives are killed?" **7** King Xerxes then said to Queen Esther and Mordecai, the Jew, "Look, I have hanged Haman for his plot against the Jews, and I have given Esther his property. **8** But a proclamation issued in the king's name and stamped with the royal seal cannot be revoked. You may, however, write to the Jews whatever you like; and you may write it in my name and stamp it with the royal seal." **9** This happened on the twenty-third day of the third month, the month of Sivan. Mordecai called the king's secretaries and dictated letters to the Jews and to the governors, administrators, and officials of all the 127 provinces from India to Ethiopia. The letters were written to each province in its own language and system of writing and to the Jews in their language and system of writing. **10** Mordecai had the letters written in the name of King Xerxes, and he stamped them with the royal seal. They were delivered by riders mounted on fast horses from the royal stables. **11** These letters explained that the king would allow the Jews in every city to organize for self-defense. If armed men of any nationality in any province attacked the Jewish men, their children, or their women, the Jews could fight back and destroy the attackers; they could slaughter them to the last man and take their possessions. **12** This decree was to take effect throughout the Persian Empire on the day set for the slaughter of the Jews, the thirteenth of Adar, the twelfth month.

16 For the Jews there was joy and relief, happiness and a sense of victory.