

RUTHCON Prayer Walk

(30 mins)

Let's go on a prayer walk practicing conversational prayer. Often, our image of prayer is full of "heavenly fathers", long poetic sentences or strong, formal language. But prayer can look like a regular conversation you have with a close friend. As you go on your walk, don't forget to listen to God as you talk. Let's get started.

Get ready for your walk (5 mins)

A prayer walk is simple all you need is you, and maybe a pair of shoes. But some other things you may want to bring along include:

- Your Ruth manuscript
- A prayer journal to write down anything God lays on your heart
- This sheet as a reference

Walk outside or within your home/patio/backyard (20 mins)

Engage in conversation with God in these next 20 minutes. You can let your prayers be shaped by the following prayers found in the Book of Ruth or talk with God freely as a friend.

Prayers in Ruth:

- "May The Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." (1:17)
- "The Lord be with you!" Boaz calls to his workers, and "The Lord bless you!"(2:4)
- "May the Lord repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge." (2:12)

- “Blessed be the man who took notice of you...The Lord bless him!”(2:19)
- “The Lord bless you, my daughter”(3:10)
- “May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah...May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.”(4:11-12)
- “Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel!” (4:14-15)

Read the following and this prayer over yourself out loud (5 mins)

Welcome back from your walk. In the Book of Ruth, there are prayers from people who trusted in a God who shows hessed/loyal love. Let us keep our eyes and hearts open to receive God’s hessed/loyal love for us personally.

Read out loud:

“May you be like your godly forebears. May you be part of something bigger than your life.

May you be like Ruth, the courageous one, who loves abundantly and clings to God.

May you be like Boaz, a person of integrity, obeying God’s law even in the secret places.

May you be like Naomi, loved despite your failings and hurts; overwhelmed by God’s unexpected blessing.

May you know God the provider, who feeds his people.

May you know Jesus, who loved you and redeemed you and took you to be his wife, even when you were a poor foreigner, helpless and dependent.

May you know the whisper of the Spirit as He directs your life in ways that you are barely aware of.

May you know God the trinity, who reverses all our expectations, who raises up the poor and vulnerable, whose ways are not our ways, and who gives us grace upon grace.

May the fingerprints of God be all over your life, may his authorship be evident in your story. Amen and amen.”

Commented [AT1]: This is beautiful Ruth! I like how this reads like a liturgy. I wonder if this could almost be given to Ruth-Character small group leaders, who could use this to close their debrief times at the end of the afternoon on the 4th.

Commented [VM2R1]: yeah that could work! what should be put here in replacement then? or just keep the prayer so that it can be read twice? once personally and once in the group?

Commented [AT3R1]: I think we can leave it here.

Commented [DN4R1]: