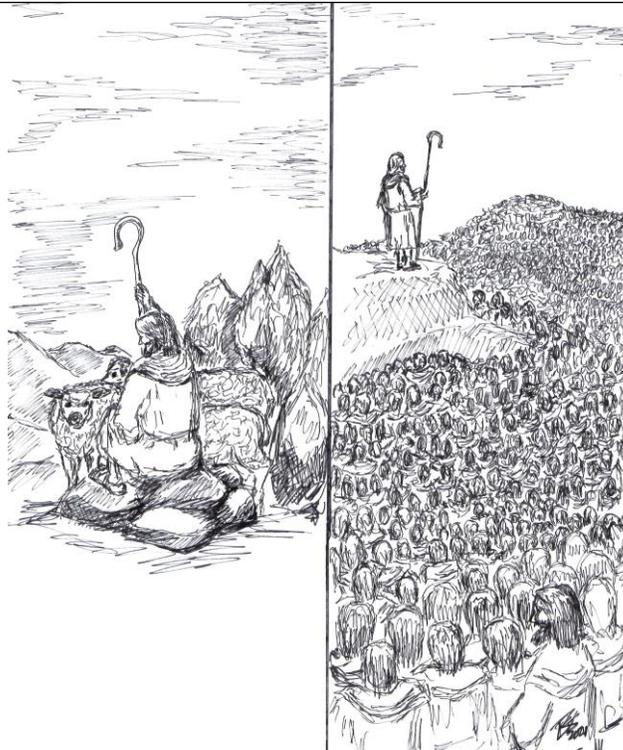


# Ordinary People Rising

[Book One]

Moses Shepherd to a Prophet and Leader of God's People



Artwork of *T. Sean Sullivan*, January 2021

God created every person out of the same dirt (so to speak) and therefore we are all equally able to be used by Him in His service. We will see after laying groundwork that God takes some of the most unlikely individuals and with them is able to do marvelous things. He has work for each of us, maybe you have discovered your role in His service or maybe your day is still ahead. Let's study together.

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# *Ordinary People Rising*

# Ordinary People Rising

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**Dedication of this Study:** *This study is dedicated to the ordinary people that God made into extra-ordinary servants in His Kingdom. God knew their full potential (as their Maker) and also knew what they were capable of much more than they thought they were. Many of the Bible characters were ordinary people who loved God and did His will in their lives--- who rose even above their own expectations. Brian*

# *Ordinary People Rising*

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## **God Made Us All**

1

### **Introduction:**

- A. This class will introduce us to the concept behind these lessons.
- B. There is nothing new or novel about it but hopefully it will serve us in this ZOOM medium.
- C. Tonight's lesson will lay the groundwork for what we are about to study for the next several weeks, with each lesson standing as a self-sufficient unit.
- D. Each class you will be given an outline on the screen before you enter the class which will contain the Scriptures that we hope to bring into our discussion.
- E. The success of this class will depend upon your willingness to explore, explain and be encouraged by the Scriptures.
- F. Brian will serve as the Teacher or Director of the Study Session and all who are willing-- will participate.

**I. God made us (Psalm 100:3; Acts 17:23-28)**

**II. God made us special (Genesis 1:26-27; Acts 17:28-29)**

**III. God made us out of dirt (Genesis 2:7; Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 12:7)**

**IV. Dirt is important to God (He brought it into being, it is His: Hebrews 11:3; Genesis 1:6; Exodus 20:24-26)**

**V. Hebrews 2:6-11: first us, then Christ**

### **Point of this Lesson:**

**Every person is important to God for we are His creation and He is our Creator (Romans 1:18-21). *Lesson Two will advance that conversation.***



# *Ordinary People Rising*

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## **Humble Beginnings**



### **Introduction:**

A. Let's summarize last week's lesson in a few simple statements:

1. God made us (we are His creation)
2. God made us special (in His likeness)
3. God made us out of dirt and breathed into us our spirit (breath of life)
4. Dirt is important to God (He brought it into being, it is His creation)
5. Man (all men) is (are) important to God.

**I. God made us as we are (Exodus 4:10-11; John 9:1-5)**

**II. All of us started off life as a blank slate or clear white-board (Genesis 4:5-7; Genesis 8:21; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Romans 7:9)**

**III. We choose whom we will serve (Matthew 7:13-14)**

1. Choose between God and mammon: Matthew 6:24.
2. Choose between the influence of the world or of God: 1 John 2:15-17
3. Choose between being "slaves (bondservants) of sin leading to death" or "righteousness leading to life" (Romans 6:16-18). There are vastly different ends for each (Romans 6:23)
4. One sin puts you in bondage to sin, and only Christ can make you free and a Son in the Father's household (John 8:31-36)

**IV. Romans 7:13—8:8: Christ can set us free and give us hope**

### **Point of this Lesson:**

Each living person is the result of God's blessing. We are creatures of choice (not robots, not slot-car devices) but free to choose recognizing that consequences will follow (Romans 6:16-18; Psalm 19:12-14). *Lesson Three will consider what God is capable of in our development*



# *Ordinary People Rising*

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## **Workable Clay**

### **3**

#### **Introduction:**

- A. We will start with a simple review.
- B. God made us as we are (various abilities, inabilities, limitations (eyes, ears, mobility, function)

1. We need to see the limitations of our children as a blessing to the family (many Down syndrome youngsters have shown love and appreciation on a scale others have overlooked). Many have learned to utilize what they have got, to do things we might have thought they were incapable of.

2. We didn't start off lost but we made choices and choices have consequences (Genesis 2:17 [Romans 8:2: law of sin and death]; Genesis 4:1-7; Ephesians 2:1-3; Ezekiel 18:20)

3. We ended with a view of Paul struggling under the Law (Romans 7:13-24) and finding freedom under Christ (Romans 7:24; 8:1-5; not licence to do all, but to overcome the urges of sin and the persuasion of the devil: 1 Corinthians 10:13)

#### **I. Lessons from the Potter and the Clay**

A. Isaiah 64:8; Jeremiah 18:1-10; Romans 9:19-21.

#### **II. God is aware of us from beginning to end**

A. Job 10:8-12; Psalm 139:13-18; Ecclesiastes 7:1; Isaiah 29:15-16; Psalm 115:16; Ezekiel 18:23, 32, 33:11; Ecclesiastes 11:9-10)

#### **III. We are God's handiwork (Ephesians 2:4-10)**

#### **IV. Remember our Beatitude Study (Study of Matthew 5:1-12)**

A. Every change and adjustment was toward the end of better adapting the will of God to our lives (Romans 12:1-8) Changes from the inside out.

**Point of the Lesson:** Every human is from God's hand and therefore every human being is important. God is observing our lives from the beginning to the end. *Lesson Four will see what God has provided us with for our journey and how life itself is a preparation place for eternity.*



# *Ordinary People Rising*

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## **Value in Sufferings**

### 4

#### **Introduction:**

A. Atheists have long argued that the shortcomings of this world (suffering, disease, accidents) are proof that there is no Creator or God.

B. The late Thomas B. Warren published a book entitled: "Have Atheists Proved There Is No God?"

Warren argued that what they perceived as flaws were actually essential elements or conditions for this world. Each of them had a purpose for existing in God's overall plan to (*and this is Warren's idea*) make this world "*the perfect vale for soul-making*" (Acts 17:24-31)

C. What we do want to do is to explore what is said by the Scriptures regarding some of those things that we do or may encounter in life.

D. Again, let it be stated that we can't cover every one in a single lesson but we can examine a few clear ones together.

#### **I. Things that help prepare us for eternity:**

A. The sufferings of this present time (Romans 8:18-23)

1. They develop "hope" within us (Romans 8:24-25)

B. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10: "In infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

C. 1 Peter 1:6-9: "now for a little while ....you have been grieved by various trials

1. That the genuineness of your faith...though tested by fire-- may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (v. 7)

D. Suffering for doing good rather than evil (1 Peter 3:13-17)

1. v. 14: if... "you are blessed" do not be afraid, etc.

2. v. 17: better to suffer for doing good than doing evil



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## **God is Near (James 4:7-8)**

### 5

#### **Introduction:**

- A. Coming with different starting places in each of the two classes isn't all that difficult. The challenge is keeping them straight in my mind.
- B. Call this the supplement to the original # 4 lesson:
- C. The Zoom introduction from last week included references to forms that suffering can take as pictured in the Scriptures:
1. From birth ( physical limitations, blindness, deafness, inability to speak, etc.)
  2. From injury (self-inflicted [works of the flesh, Galatians 5:19-21]).
  3. From others (bullying, accosting, assaulting or attacking us).
  4. From accidental causes (car injury, fall, slip, etc.)
    - a. Job chapter One shows extreme grief in the loss of 10 children, servants, animals and holdings all in one day.
    - b. Job chapter Two shows difficulties arising from loss of health, disease, etc.
  5. From aging: Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 shows that aging has its own challenges that ultimately bring us to a day in which we go "to our eternal home" and our body goes back to the dust.
- D. We are going to observe some responses to the situations and difficulties of life in the balance of this lesson.
1. Covered in Lesson Four:
    - a. The "sufferings of this present time" (Romans 8:18-23) develop "hope" within us (Romans 8:24-25). [That is something good!]
    - b. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 shows us when we are "weak" we turn to God and seek His help and that makes us "strong". [That is something good!]
- (Spending additional time in driving these points home we ended up splitting the lesson into a third part, 6)



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## God Has A Bigger Plan (Romans 8:26-39)

### 6

#### Introduction:

A. Anyone who thinks that God has left us to our own in the midst of life's crisis moments has not grasped the message of Romans 8:26-39.

#### I. Things that God is doing for us to help us with our trials:

- A. Hope of being in a new eternal body one day (8:23-24; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; and 2 Corinthians 5:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:49-54)
- B. God's Spirit helps "in our weaknesses", communicating to God our needs that we are incapable at times of expressing (Romans 8:26-27)
- C. Everything in God's plan is designed to raise us up from where we were in sin (Romans 3:23) and to bring us into a closer relationship with God (see vv. 28-30: those who love God, to those who are the called according to the will of God).
  - 1. Foreknew: those in Christ (that was where His blessings would be, Galatians 3:8, 3:16; 3:26-29).
  - 2. Predestined (determined in His mind) we would be conformed to the image of His Son (Christ---**Christ**--i-ans as Roy Diestelkamp put it in his lifetime)
  - 3. Called (by the gospel, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14).
  - 4. Justified (cf. Romans 3:23-26)
  - 5. Glorified (cf. 1 John 3:1-3: now...not yet revealed what we will be)
- D. God is for us (Romans 8:31) How do we know? Did not spare His own Son....(see Romans 8:32)
- E. Who can find fault? God provided Christ as a sacrifice, risen Savior and as our intercessor (see Romans 8:33-34).
- F. Nothing or no-one from outside ourselves can separate us from God (vv. 35-37). In "all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (v. 37).
- G. Nothing can separate us from the "love of God" (see vv. 38-39)



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## **God Has Put Eternity Before Us**

### 7

#### **Introduction:**

A. We want to reach back to lesson 4 in this series and pick up the remaining elements there to continue our study.

B. There are lots of other passages (that if considered in their context) would demonstrate that God has revealed through His word (or will) that He wants us to think beyond the present earthen vale to a place He has prepared for us (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

#### **I. The Remaining Passages regarding the role or purpose of our suffering from Lesson Four (the original lesson in this section).**

A. To respect context please read 1 Peter 1:3-12.

1. God (worthy of our blessing and praises) “according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away reserved in heaven for you.” (v. 3)
2. God keeps us by His power “through faith for salvation ready to be revealed” (v. 5).
3. 1 Peter 1:6-9: “now for a little while ....you have been grieved by various trials
  - a. That the genuineness of your faith...though tested by fire-- may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (v. 7)
  - b. “Receiving the end of your faith---the salvation of your souls” (v. 9)

B. Suffering for doing good rather than evil (1 Peter 3:13-17)

1. v. 14: if... “you are blessed” do not be afraid, etc.
2. v. 17: better to suffer for doing good than doing evil

#### **Point of this lesson:**

God has not abdicated His throne (Psalm 3-4); nor us (James 4:6-10; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10). *Lesson 8: God starts with what He has made.*



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## Preparing the Clay

### Introduction:

- A. We suggested at the close of our previous lesson that this one would explore: “God starts with what He has made”
- B. Up to this place in our study we have been focusing on what God’s intention was for placing us in this world.
- C. We were made of the same “dirt” or “ground” and one day our bodies will return to that dust (Ecclesiastes 12:7). However, there is a part of man that was given in Genesis 2:7 (an eternal spirit: Ecclesiastes 12:7) that continues to live on beyond the veil of death (see Mark 12:26-27).
- D. Let us see how God does what He does in man’s salvation.

### I. 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31

- A. The world wants and gives acclaim to people with wisdom, power (might) and nobility (better class of people)
- B. God chose the foolish things to put to shame the wise (preaching to save man), the weak things of this world to put to shame the things which are mighty (servitude and sacrifice), the base things (things despised) (death on a cross, shed blood) to bring to nothing the things that are.
- C. Why? Answer given: “that no flesh should glory in His presence”

### II. 1 Corinthians 2:1-16: God’s wisdom revealed in His word

- A. Matthew 4:4: two needs of man (bread for physical body/bread for spiritual body)
- B. God’s word is indeed “words of God’s Spirit” (2:13; 2:16b)
- C. Again the word is received by ordinary men (Mark 12:37)
  - 1. Natural man does not receive...they are foolishness to him.
  - 2. Spiritual judges all things (receives them because they are “SPIRITUALLY DISCERNED”)
- D. The problem at Corinth (and elsewhere) (see 1 Corinthians 3:1-7).

### Point of this lesson:

God doesn’t do what He does to please men but to bring men to a place where they can please Him by yielding to His will and His Son. *Lesson 9, will show how God can use the ordinary people to accomplish His purposes).*



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## Isaac is Essential

9

### Introduction:

**TWENTY-FIVE WORDS OR LESS: ISAAC, A CHILD OF AN AGED COUPLE, AN OBEDIENT SON AND RESPECTED BY GOD TO CARRY THE MANTLE OF PROMISE TO ANOTHER GENERATION.**

A. From this point forward in these lessons we will examine more closely *some of those ordinary people that God raised to a place of mention* in His word who served Him faithfully.

B. Our first stop is at the life story of Isaac (a number of thoughts in this lesson were derived from an article by an unknown writer that was entitled: "What Did Isaac Ever Do?" which was shared by Gary Stephens on FB in Nov. 2020).

### I. Is Isaac Essential to the Bible Story?

A. Abraham, **Isaac**, and Jacob (three generations in one family): (Genesis 21:3: Isaac, son of Abraham and Sarah; Joshua 24:3-4: "Abraham"; God "multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac" (v. 3), "To Isaac God "gave Jacob and Esau"; Matthew 1:2 (Luke 3:34) include Isaac in the family tree of Christ)

B. The three names are linked in several connections in Scripture:

1. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob: Exodus 3:6, 15-16; Exodus 4:5.
2. Isaac is counted among the "fathers": (1 Chronicles 29:18).
3. Covenant made with Abraham, oath made to Isaac: 2 Kings 13:23; 1 Chronicles 16:16-17; Psalm 105:9-10.
4. People of Israel actually called "house of Isaac" in Amos 7:16.
5. Counted **in** the "kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 8:11); or **in** the "kingdom of God (Luke 13:28).

### II. Isaac is called the seed or son of "promise"(Galatians 4:23; 4:28-31; we are heirs together with him.)

### III. Everything we know about Isaac from the Scriptures

A. Isaac was Abraham's promised heir: Genesis 15:1-6 (Romans 4:13-22). (The promise through Abram was to include a son which he did not have [viz. Isaac]: Genesis 12:3; 17:7, 15-22.

B. Sarah "laughed within herself" when she heard about a son, but bore Isaac: Genesis 18:9-15; Hebrews 11:11-12).

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- C. Isaac experienced a proper start in life: Genesis 21:1-8
- D. Isaac yielded to his father at Mount Moriah: Genesis 22:1-13; **vv. 7-8.**
- E. Abraham arranged a wife for Isaac: Genesis 24:23-26; 45-67 (Rebekah)
- F. Isaac inherits everything from his father: Genesis 25:5; 26:4.
- G. Abraham dies and is buried. Isaac's story is given: Genesis 25:19-26.
- H. He faithfully remains in the land as God requested: Genesis 26:2-6
- I. God blesses him abundantly: Genesis 26:12-14 (Philistines envied him)
- J. Abimelech desires him to go (fear of his might): Genesis 26:16
- K. Philistines continually feud over wells, until at last they take all but the last one: Genesis 26:22.
- L. Enters into a peace agreement with Abimelech: Genesis 26:26-33.
- M. Isaac ages and his eyes are dim: Genesis 27:1-4; Genesis 27:18-29  
[remember Esau gave up his birthright in Genesis 25:29-34]
- N. Isaac's death: Genesis 35:27-29

## **Some Simple Questions for Consideration:**

### **True or False**

#	Statement	True	False
1.	Isaac was a seed of promise		
2.	Abraham's testing also proved Isaac's trust		
3.	Favoritism of one child over another is okay		
4.	Isaac remained faithful to Rebekah all his days		
5.	Isaac was buried by both of his sons (Genesis 35:28-29)		

### **Thought Questions**

1.	What important promise given to Isaac? (Genesis 26:4)
2.	What is Isaac's most outstanding trait?
3.	Did Isaac enjoy conflict? (Genesis 26:26-33; 28:8)
4.	What can we learn from Genesis 26:23-25 about Isaac?
5.	Who or what made Isaac successful? How?

**(See Addendum pages at end of this study book on *Isaac*)**

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## **RUTH who hailed from Moab**

10

### **Introduction:**

**TWENTY-FIVE WORDS OR LESS: THE BOOK OF RUTH IS A STORY OF YOUNG WIDOW WHO DEDICATED HER LIFE AND BEING TO HER LATE HUSBAND'S MOTHER, NATION, AND GOD.**

A. Moab (and the nation of Moab that arose after him) came as a result of an incestuous relationship that was orchestrated by Lot's daughters against their father (Genesis 19:30-35; Lot's firstborn daughter gave birth to Moab; see Genesis 19:36-38)

B. Moab might be described as a thorn in the side of Israel.

C. Moab: The land of Moab (Jeremiah 48:24), called also the "country of Moab" (Ruth 1:2,6; 2:6), on the east of Jordan and the Dead Sea, and south of the Arnon (Numbers 21:13, 26)." (from Easton's Bible Dictionary, PC Study Bible formatted electronic database Copyright © 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

### **Ruth the Moabitess (Ruth 2:2; 4:5, 10)**

A. Married for a time to Mahlon (Ruth 4:10) (son of Naomi; Ruth 1:2).

B. Naomi heard reports of "bread" in Israel and decided to return to home (1:6).

1. Both her daughters-in-laws being widows decided to go with her.

2. Naomi tried to convince them to go back home and find someone to marry because she was far too old to bear a son that could fulfil his brother's duty toward them (1:11-13):

a. Orpah returned home to Moab (1:14)

b. Ruth was not going to leave (see 1:14: "clung to her")

C. Ruth's endearing promise (see Ruth 1:16-18)

D. Naomi was not the easiest to be around (see Ruth 1:19-22)

E. A near relative is located (Boaz, a relative of Ruth's late-father-in-law; 2:1)

1. We will look more closely at Boaz in our next study.

F. Boaz was known by his workers and knew who his workers were (2:4-5)

1. He saw "a young woman" among the reapers (2:5)

2. He was told who she was and that she has asked to "glean and gather among the reapers" (2:6-7). She was a good worker (see 2:7)

G. Boaz makes provisions for Ruth in the gleaning fields

1. She is to stay near the women in that field (2:8)

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- 2. The young men are to leave her alone (2:9)
- 3. If she is thirsty she is to drink from the water provided (2:9)
- H. Recognizing this as a blessing Ruth wants to know why? (2:10)
  - 1. Boaz knew about her and her care for her mother-in-law, along with what she had given up (Ruth 2:11).
  - 2. Boaz had confidence that God would protect her and provide for her (2:12)
  - 3. Ruth sought only to please him for his generosity (2:13)
- I. Boaz insisted that she eat with the others (the food provided; 2:14)
- J. The reapers were to let grain fall to the ground for her (2:15-16)
- K. She shared what she gained with Naomi (2:17-18; 3:14-18)
- L. Naomi has a plan to see if Ruth can connect with Boaz (2:19-3:13)
- M. There is a closer relative (3:12) but Boaz will handle that (4:1-12)
- N. Boaz is very generous to Ruth (3:14-16)
- O. Boaz and Ruth marry and she bears a son (the Lord blessed her; 4:13-17)
- P. Ruth's offspring is part of David's lineage and hence the Christ's (4:18-22)

## **Some Simple Questions for Consideration:**

### **True or False**

#	Statement	True	False
1.	Ruth feigned or pretended love for Naomi		
2.	Naomi had reason to be bitter (1:20)		
3.	Ruth was lazy and had to be forced to work		
4.	Ruth's reputation was known and respected		
5.	Naomi's daughter-in-law was better than 7 sons		

### **Thought Questions**

1.	What made Ruth's promise so difficult?
2.	Explain the harvest approach in those days?
3.	What do you believe Ruth's first impressions were of Boaz?
4.	How is God involved in this whole story?
5.	What do you believe was Ruth's greatest quality? Why?

**(See Addendum pages at end of this study book on *Ruth*)**

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## BOAZ Saved the Lineage

11

### Introduction:

**TWENTY-FIVE WORDS OR LESS: THE BOOK OF RUTH INTRODUCES US TO BOAZ, A RELATIVE WHO WOULD DETERMINE TO WED RUTH AND GIVE HER LATE HUSBAND A SON AND HEIR.**

- A. Boaz is basically unknown to us until he enters into this account in Ruth.
- C. God blesses Ruth with a husband and gives them a place in the lineage of the promised Messiah (His providence and His Levirate marriage law; see Deuteronomy 25:5-10).
1. “Relative of Naomi’s late husband,” through Elimelech” (Ruth 2:1)
  2. He reveals that he is not the nearest relative (Ruth 3:12; 4:4b)
  3. The person who fills this role is aware that they are responsible for that widow they marry and that the first son is given as an heir of the widow’s husband (Ruth 4:5; Ruth 4:7-12)
- I. What We Learn About BOAZ**
- A. He is “a man of great wealth” (2:1).
1. He has a unique relationship with his servants (see Ruth 2:4)
  2. He is observant (he spotted someone he did not know (see Ruth 2:5).
    - a. The servant in charge of the reapers told him about Ruth (2:6)
- B. Immediately he makes special provisions for her (Ruth 2:8-16)
1. He desires her to be near the young women who reap (2:8)
  2. He wants her to stay in the current field (2:9)
  3. The young men are instructed to leave her alone (2:9)
  4. If she is thirsty she is to drink the water provided for the workers (2:9)
- C. She is humbled by such generosity and wants to know why he is giving it?
1. He was fully aware of her care of her mother-in-law (2:10)
  2. He knows of her willingness to leave her parents, homeland (2:11).
  3. Boaz is a God-fearing man. (He shows it by his words of 2:12).
  4. Ruth is grateful and appreciative of his offerings, especially since she was not one of his hired servants or reapers but a foreigner to him (2:13)
- D. Boaz also encouraged her to share in the food provided for the workers (2:14)
- E. Boaz generosity is shown in 2:15-16.
- F. His generosity continued through the entire harvest (2:17-23).

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- G. Boaz was not afraid to participate in the winnowing work (3:2)
- H. He indulged in drink (3:7) that caused him some stupor and sleep.
- I. In the middle of the night he was startled when he realized someone was lying at his feet (3:8)
  - 1. Ruth makes him aware of the near-relative connection (3:9)
  - 2. Boaz commends her for not chasing after the young men (3:10)
  - 3. He recognizes her as a “virtuous woman” (3:11)
  - 4. He mentions his awareness of a closer near relative and assures her he will investigate the matter (3:12-13)
  - 5. He is a man of honor and virtue because he did not take advantage of her that night (3:13-14). In generosity he sends six ephahs of barley with her.
- J. He handles the details of the Levirate legal aspects (4:1-12)
- K. He weds Ruth and “the Lord gave her conception”, she bears a son (4:13)
- L. Boaz is part of the lineage of David (see Ruth 4:18-22).

## **Some Simple Questions for Consideration:**

### True or False

#	Statement	True	False
1.	Boaz despised people from Moab		
2.	Though wealthy he was kind toward others		
3.	Boaz was aware of things happening around him		
4.	Boaz was hoping the nearer kin would take Ruth		
5.	God blessed the union with a son		

### Thought Questions

1.	What actions showed Boaz as a good employer?
2.	What did Boaz hear about Ruth before he met her?
3.	Why do you believe that Naomi wanted this to work out?
4.	Aside from one another what was the greatest blessing God gave them?
5.	What do we learn about God from Boaz?

**(See Addendum pages at end of this study book on *Boaz*)**

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## **JOCHEBED, the mother of Moses**

12

### **Introduction:**

**TWENTY-FIVE WORDS OR LESS: JOCHEBED (DAUGHTER OF LEVI) MARRIED AMRAM (EXODUS 6:20; NUMBERS 26:59). THIS MOTHER OF AARON, MOSES AND MIRIAM SHOWS THE VALUE OF GREAT FAITH AND CONVICTION.**

- A. Unless one travels beyond the text of Exodus 2:1, they will never know the identity of the mother of Moses (see Exodus 6:20).
- B. Numbers 26:59 reveals she was the mother of Aaron, Moses and Miriam. Exodus 7:7 shows that Aaron was three years older than Moses; and Miriam spoke to Pharaoh's daughter and got his mother to nurse him.
- I. What We know about JOCHEBED**
  - A. Both her and her husband were from the tribe of LEVI (Exodus 6:20)
  - B. She conceived a son and bore him (Exodus 2:2) [The story is about to focus on their youngest child Moses.]
  - C. The Pharaoh in fear of being outnumbered had ordered the destruction of all male Israelite children (1:16) by the midwives (see also 1:22).
  - D. Jochebed was moved with a mother's compassion and love: "And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months" (Exodus 2:2)
  - E. She has a plan to save his life (mothers will give their own lives to save the life of their offspring) (Exodus 2:3).
    - 1. She had an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch (2:3)
    - 2. She put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank (2:3).
    - 3. She assigned a role to Miriam: "And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him." (2:4).
  - F. One gathers she was observant. At Exodus 2:5 we find "the daughter of Pharaoh" comes to "bathe at the river" (2:5).
    - 1. She spies the ark and has a maiden fetch it (2:5)
    - 2. Exodus 2:6: "And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."
    - 3. Miriam approaches and asks: "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?" (2:7).
  - H. Granted permission Miriam went to get "the child's mother" (2:8)

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- I. Not only did Jochebed get to be with her child but Pharaoh’s daughter was prepared to give her “wages” to do so (Exodus 2:9). She had him for three months (Acts 7:20)
- J. Moses was given to Pharaoh’s daughter “and he became her son” (2:10). She called his name “Moses” “because I drew him out of the water”.
- K. It seems that he might have continued to be influenced by his mother even after this switch of locations.

## **II. Never underestimate the influence of a godly mother on a son**

- A. No mention is made but it seems Jochebed continued to instruct her son.
  - 1. He knew that he was an Israelite and could not stand by when an Egyptian was beating an Israelite (2:11) and that Israelites should get along with one another as brethren (2:13-14; Acts 7:26).
  - 2. Moses had learned respect and reverence for God (3:1-6)
  - 3. God was no stranger to Moses (see Exodus 3:7-19) and God told him, “you shall serve God on this mountain” (3:12).
  - 4. He knew his connection with Israel (Acts 7:23).
- B. Read of his faith in Hebrews 11:23-26, 27. (Mothers influence their sons.)

### **Some Simple Questions for Consideration:**

#### **True or False**

#	Statement	True	False
1.	Jochebed was a good mother.		
2.	Jochebed’s wisdom saved her son’s life.		
3.	Jochebed had to pay Pharaoh’s daughter to keep Moses alive.		
4.	Once Jochebed released Moses to Pharaoh’s daughter she was done with him		
5.	A mother’s influence lives in her offspring.		

#### **Thought Questions**

1.	What does Jochebed teach us about difficult times?
2.	What do you believe was Jochebed’s strongest quality? Why?
3.	Every life is important to God. What if Moses as a baby had died?
4.	Where did Moses learn about God and His people? How?
5.	Why is Jochebed a good character for this study?

**(See Addendum pages at end of this study book on Jochebed)**

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## 13

### Review and Challenges Book 1

#### Introduction:

TWENTY-FIVE WORDS OR LESS: CLASS BOOKS ARE GENERALLY DESIGNED WITH 13 LESSONS FOR A QUARTER. THIS IS THE FINAL LESSON IN BOOK 1. WHAT HAVE WE COVERED THUS FAR?

#### I. A Brief Summary of Each Lesson (1-12)

##### A. Lesson #01: God Made Us All

1. God made us: Psalm 100:3; Acts 17:23-28
2. God made us special: Genesis 1:26-27; Acts 17:28-29
3. God made us out of DIRT: Genesis 2:7; 3:19; Ecclesiastes 12:7
4. Every person is important to God: Romans 1:18-21

##### B. Lesson #02: Humble Beginnings

1. God made us as we are: Exodus 4:10-11; John 9:1-5
2. We started off in life sinless: Genesis 4:5-7; 8:21; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Romans 7:9.
3. We choose whom we will serve: Matthew 7:13-14; 1 John 2:15-17; Romans 6:16-18; Romans 6:23.
4. One sin puts us in bondage: John 8:31-36
5. Christ can free us and give us hope: Romans 7:13--Romans 8:8.

##### C. Lesson # 03: Workable Clay

1. Lessons from the Potter: Isaiah 64:8; Jeremiah 18:1-10; Romans 9:19-21.
2. God is aware of us from beginning to end of our lives here: Job 10:8-12, Psalm 139:13-18, Ecclesiastes 7:1, Isaiah 29:15-16, Psalm 115:16, Ezekiel 18:23, 32, 33:11; Ecclesiastes 11:9-10.
3. We are God's handiwork: Ephesians 2:4-10
4. Beatitudes teach us to empty ourselves so God can reshape us with His will: Matthew 5:1-12; Romans 12:1-8; changes us from inside to outside.

##### D. Lesson # 04: Value in Sufferings

1. Things that prepare us for Eternity
  - a. Sufferings of this present time develop "hope": Romans 8:18-23
  - b. When we are weak, we are strong: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
  - c. Faith is tested by grievous trials: 1 Peter 1:6-9
  - d. Suffering for good rather than evil: 1 Peter 3:13-17.

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## **E. Lesson # 05: God is Near (James 4:7-8)**

1. Ways in which we can suffer (see lesson outline)
2. Suffering develops hope: Romans 8:18-23; 24-25
3. In weakness we turn to God and gain strength: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

## **F. Lesson # 06: God has bigger plans (Romans 8:26-39)**

1. Hope of a body for eternity: Romans 8:23-24; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 2 Corinthians 5:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:49-54.
2. Help: Romans 8:26-27
3. Plan from eternity: Romans 8:28-30
4. He is for us: Romans 8:31
5. No one can find fault: God has provided a sacrifice, a Savior and an intercessor for us in Christ: Romans 8:33-34
6. Nothing or no one can come between us and God: Romans 8:35-39.

## **G. Lesson # 07: God has put eternity before us**

1. God is worthy of our blessing and praises: 1 Peter 1:3-12
2. God is proving us for a day of praise, honor and glory: 1 Peter 1:6-9
3. Suffering for doing good and not evil has rewards: 1 Peter 3:13-17.
4. God rules: Psalm 3-4 and God is for us: James 4:6-10.

## **H. Lesson # 08: Preparing the Clay**

1. God does not go the way of the world: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31
2. God's wisdom is revealed in His word: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

## **I. Lesson # 09: Isaac is Essential**

1. Essential cog in the overall promises through Abraham: Galatians 3:8
2. A son of promise, Sarah past child-bearing years but has a son.
3. Consider the information the Bible shares about this son of Abraham.
4. Because Isaac lived, we have an opportunity to share in God's blessings through His Son, Jesus Christ.

## **J. Lesson # 10: Ruth who hailed from Moab**

1. Ruth was a young widow with no immediate prospect of an Israelite husband.
2. Ruth made a life-changing commitment and promise to Naomi (1:16-18)
3. Naomi was not the easiest person to be around but Ruth stayed (1:19-22)
4. A near relative is located by the name of Boaz (2:1)
  - a. Boaz is a good man (more on him in our next lesson, the Lord willing)
  - b. Ruth is encouraged by him to continue gleaning in his fields (2:2-23)

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- c. Whatever she gleaned or was given she always kept a goodly portion for Naomi (2:17-18 and 3:14-18).
  5. Boaz clears the way for marriage to Ruth by having the nearer-kin release his entitled place (4:1-12).
  6. Boaz gives Ruth a son who can bear her late husband's name and inheritance (4:13-17)
  7. Ruth's offspring has a place in the earthly lineage of the Christ (4:18-22)
- K. Lesson # 11: Boaz who saved the lineage.**
1. Boaz is a wealthy man but an appreciated leader (2:1)
  2. Boaz is a kind man who has heard about Ruth's care of her mother-in-law and makes special provision for Ruth in his fields where gleaning is taking place (2:8-16).
  3. Boaz is an honorable man who does not take advantage of Ruth (3:8-14)
  4. Boaz weds Ruth to provide a son to carry on her late husband's legacy.
  5. That son of Boaz and Ruth is included in the earthly line of Christ (4:18-22)
- L. Lesson # 12: Jochebed, the mother of Moses**
1. Both her and her husband were from the tribe of Levi (Exodus 6:20)
  2. She has love and compassion for her newborn son.
  3. To counter the death sentence of Pharaoh, she prepared an ark of ulrushes to put at the river's edge where the daughter of Pharaoh came to bathe.
  4. She got to be the nursemaid to her own child (2:8-9)
    - a. She had further exposure while he was growing up because he was acquainted with the Israelite people and their laws.
    - b. He (Moses) had a fear of God and a reverence for Him (think of the burning bush incident).
    - c. Hebrews 11:23-26, 27.
  5. Mothers yield a lot of influence on their offspring.
    - a. The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world (an old saying)
    - b. Another wrote: "The teacher of children determines what kind of world that will be" (borrowed from a primer on teaching the young).
- M. Lesson # 13: Review and Challenges (Book 1)**
1. A brief review of the main points in the lessons to this place.
  2. On the next page will be Some Simple Questions for Consideration on the whole series of lessons in this current book.

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## Some Simple Questions for Consideration

### True or False

#	Statement	True	False
1.	The God of Heaven made us out of dirt.		
2.	We all began our journey in life damned.		
3.	We are the potter and God is the clay.		
4.	All suffering is wrong and is never justified.		
5.	Hope is associated with suffering in the Scriptures		
6.	God had a plan from eternity to save us		
7.	God made the earth and man and then left us		
8.	God's way is superior to that of the world		
9.	Isaac could easily be omitted from Bible history		
10.	Ruth was an Ammonite, a descendant of Lot.		
11.	Boaz proved to be an honorable man.		
12.	Jochebed was an offspring of Cain.		
13.	The early lessons in this book help us see God's ability to take ordinary men/women and raise them up to be His servants.		

### Thought Questions

1.	What happens if I forget that I am made of dirt?
2.	Using Cain and Abel (Genesis 4) show Adam's sin was not inherited
3.	What kind of clay is of the best use to the Potter?
4.	Explain how one can be weak but yet be strong (2 Corinthians 12)
5.	What value is there in suffering for the Christian?
6.	Why do we need a new body for eternity? (1 Corinthians 15)
7.	Using 1 Peter 1 show why God is to be praised and glorified.
8.	Using Scripture explain how God gave a Savior and He gave His word. (1 Corinthians 1-2)
9.	Isaac is an important son of promise. Explain what that means.
10.	Ruth shows that if one is willing they can rise above their roots.
11.	What do you admire most about Boaz in the Book of Ruth? Explain
12.	Why do you believe Jochebed would not be a good feminist?
13.	If you had to identify one thing you have learned from this study, what would that be?

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## **ADDENDUM:** [Further Thoughts on the Midweek Bible Study: *Ordinary People Rising*]

### **ISAAC: A Character Study**

This Addendum is to include some character traits of Isaac that we can appreciate and learn from:

- A. Isaac teaches us that it isn't always the most forward or most outspoken one who is recognized by God (1 Peter 5:5-7).
- B. Isaac was the son of promise (the one God had declared would be Abraham's heir through Sarah (Genesis 18:9-10; 21:5-6; Galatians 4:21-22, 28; Hebrews 11:11-12).
- C. Isaac shared in the greatest of all promises (the seed of Abraham through whom all nations would be blessed: viz. the Christ) (Genesis 12:3; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14; Galatians 3:8; 3:16).
- D. Isaac had good parents who tended to important spiritual things in his younger years (Genesis 21:1-8).
- E. Isaac had complete trust in his father at Mount Moriah (Genesis 22:1-13; especially vv. 7-8)
- F. Isaac readily accepted his father's choice of a bride for him (Genesis 24:55-67).
- G. Isaac was a man who trusted in God (Genesis 25:21-24; 26:23-25).
- H. Isaac's physical efforts reaped bountiful results with God's blessings (Genesis 26:12-14; 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Matthew 6:33).
- I. Isaac seems to prefer peace to conflict (Genesis 26:17-25).
- J. Isaac had a full and complete life (Genesis 35:28-29; Mathew 8:11; Luke 13:28).

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## **ADDENDUM:** [Further Thoughts on the Midweek Bible Study: *Ordinary People Rising*]

### **RUTH: A Character Study**

This Addendum is to include some character traits of Ruth that we can appreciate and learn from:

- A. Ruth respected her late husband. She was prepared to enter into a Levirate marriage with Boaz to bring forth a son in her husband's name and was able to maintain his family's inheritance in the land.
  - 1. She did not "go after young men, whether poor or rich" (Ruth 3:10).
  - 2. She was prepared to marry a "next of kin" relative without question and trusted what Boaz told her about another person (Ruth 4:1-6).
- B. Ruth was compassionate, understanding and caring toward Naomi (Ruth 1:14; 2:11; 2:14; 2:17-18). In spite of Naomi's bitterness (Ruth 1:19-22) the woman who came at the time of the birth of Obed said to Naomi: "for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him." (Ruth 4:15).
- C. Ruth is a young woman of total commitment (Ruth 1:16-17). She is prepared to give up whatever she must in order to be with Naomi and to support her in her distress. She left her homeland of Moab, her people, and the gods of Moab for the true God. She was prepared to stand with Naomi and to remain faithful to her until "death parts you and me".
- D. Ruth is trustworthy she stands by her words (Ruth, the entire book) Too many people today make promises or vows and dismiss them as readily as they made them, but God doesn't see it that way. Ruth stood by her words.
- E. Ruth was recognized for her virtue (Ruth 3:11)
- F. Ruth is industrious and hardworking (Ruth 2:7; 2:17-18)
- G. Ruth (from Moab) is proof that God's plan was to include all people in His blessings through Christ (Ruth 2:12; 4:13; and Matthew 1:5 has her name mentioned in the earthly family lineage of Christ.)
- H. Ruth is proof that we reap what we sow (look at Ruth 2:10-13; Galatians 6:7).

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## **ADDENDUM:** [Further Thoughts on the Midweek Bible Study: *Ordinary People Rising*]

### **BOAZ: A Character Study**

This Addendum is to include some character traits of Boaz that we can appreciate and learn from:

- A. Wealth did not destroy Boaz or make him feel above everyone else (Ruth 2:1, 2:4-5).
- B. Working in the field or threshing floor was not below Boaz (Ruth 3:2, 3:7).
- C. Boaz made certain that Ruth was provided for in the field (water, food, etc.) (Ruth 2:8-16)
- D. Boaz respected young women and did not want Ruth to be in peril in his fields (Ruth 2:8-9)
- E. Boaz was acquainted with Naomi and her daughter-in-law's care (Ruth 2:10-13).
- F. Boaz shows his willingness to share his blessings (Ruth 2:15-16)
- G. Boaz was a honorable man who respected Ruth's person and reputation (Ruth 3:6-13)
- H. Boaz was a God-fearing man (one who revered or respected God) (Ruth 2:12).
- I. Boaz was an honest man who knew that a nearer-relative existed than he who had to be contacted. He looked after that matter himself (Ruth 4).
- J. Boaz knew that the firstborn son would be given Mahlon's inheritance in Israel, but was rewarded with a child that would be in the earthly lineage of the Christ through David's line (Ruth 4:18-22; Matthew 1:5).

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**ADDENDUM:** [Further Thoughts on the  
Midweek Bible Study: *Ordinary People Rising*]

## **JOCHEBED: A Character Study**

This Addendum is to include some character traits of Jochebed that we can appreciate and learn from:

- A. Jochebed married within her own tribe in Israel (both her and her husband were from the tribe of Levi (Exodus 6:20)
- B. Jochebed brought forth three children all of whom would serve God in significant ways: Miriam as a prophetess (Exodus 15:20); Aaron as a spokesman for Moses to the people (Exodus 4:14-16); and Moses (Lawgiver, leader, prophet and in a special relationship with God (see Deuteronomy 34:10-12).
- C. Jochebed was a God-honoring mother who had compassion, caring and a mother's love for her own offspring (Exodus 2:2-3).
- D. Jochebed had a plan and worked her plan to spare Moses (Exodus 2:3-10).
- E. Jochebed's wisdom preserved Moses and allowed her to spend time with Him (Exodus 2:8-11; Acts 7:20; Hebrews 11:23-26)
- F. Jochebed had instilled fear and respect for God in Moses (Exodus 3:1-6)
- G. Neither Jochebed or any of her children actually got to the promised land of Canaan, but they made it possible for others to find freedom and joy in crossing the Jordan in their day. The entire older generation with the exception of Joshua and Caleb would never make it to the land (Numbers 14:29-30)

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