

- I. ONE THING—The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

II. APPLICATION AIDS

A. MEDITATION

1. Think about your One Thing from this week's lesson. Ask yourself and ask the Lord what it would look like for this truth to be integrated into your life. Record your thoughts here:

B. PRAYER

Bring your petitions to God using the following principles modeled by Ruth:

1. Asking—Ruth found favor when we asked for help in the suffering of uncertainty, pain, loss and disappointment:
 - Jm 5:13--Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.
 - Jm 5:16 NIV-- Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.
 - Ps 138:3-- When I pray, you answer me; you encourage me by giving me the strength I need.
 - Insights:

2. Being at His Feet—Ruth took her petition to the feet of Boaz and we are wise if we imitate her:
 - Ps 27:4 MSG— I'm asking God for one thing, only one thing: To live with him in his house my whole life long. I'll contemplate his beauty; I'll study at his feet.
 - Lk 10:39-42 NCV— Martha had a sister named Mary, who was sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to him teach. But Martha was busy with all the work to be done. She went in and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me alone to do all the work? Tell her to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things. Only one thing is important. Mary has chosen the better thing, and it will never be taken away from her."
 - Insights:

3. Winnowing-- The Lord uses prayer to do a refining work in our hearts, separating the wheat from the chaff, the pure from the impure motives:
 - Jm 4:2-3 NIV-- You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives
 - Prov 16:2-3 NIV-- All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the Lord. Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.
 - Insights:

4. Listening: Ruth joins Jesus in setting for us an example of drawing close to the Redeemer to listen to his words of comfort and instruction:
 - Jn 14:21— He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.
 - Jn 5:19, 30 NLT-- Jesus replied, "I assure you, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. ... I do nothing without consulting the Father."
 - Insights:

5. Teachable: Ruth was willing to obey simple instructions that may not have made very much sense to her at the time. She was committed to obey and wasn't stubborn or argumentative or complaining or stiff-necked:
 - Ps 32:9 NAS-- Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, otherwise they will not come near to you.
 - Prov 3:5-7 MSG-- Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all.
 - Insights:

6. Trusting Heart: Ruth made a decision to trust Boaz (and God) based on the character, credibility, and track record of the relationship:
 - Ps 28:7 NIV-- The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.
 - Is 50:10 AMP-- Who is among you who [reverently] fears the Lord, who obeys the voice of His Servant, yet who walks in darkness *and* deep trouble and has no shining splendor [in his heart]? Let him rely on, trust in, *and* be confident in the name of the Lord, and let him lean upon *and* be supported by his God.
 - Insights:

7. Receiving or Refusing Comfort: Ruth heard and believed the words of her redeemer when he pledged to act on her behalf:
- Heb 10:23-- Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.
 - Ps 77:2-3--My soul refused to be comforted. I remembered God, and was troubled; I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah
 - Ps 77:11-14 MSG-- Once again I'll go over what God has done, lay out on the table the ancient wonders; I'll ponder all the things you've accomplished, and give a long, loving look at your acts. O God! Your way is holy! No god is great like God! You're the God who makes things happen; you showed everyone what you can do
 - Hos 2:14-15 AMP-- Therefore, behold, I will allure her [Israel] and bring her into the wilderness, and I will speak tenderly *and* to her heart. There I will give her her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor [troubling] to be for her a door of hope *and* expectation. And she shall sing there *and* respond as in the days of her youth and as at the time when she came up out of the land of Egypt.
 - Insights:
8. Waiting: Ruth was instructed to sit still until she saw how the matter would turn out. Patience develops and comfort comes as we focus on the promises and faithfulness of God:
- Jm 1:3-4 NLT-- When your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.
 - 2 The 3:5—Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.
 - Ps 40:1, 5, 17 NLT-- I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry... 5 O LORD my God, you have done many miracles for us. Your plans for us are too numerous to list. If I tried to recite all your wonderful deeds, I would never come to the end of them... 17 As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord is thinking about me right now. You are my helper and my savior. Do not delay, O my God.
 - Ps 138:8 NAS—The Lord will accomplish what concerns me
 - Phil 1:6 MSG-- There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.
 - Insights:

C. THE WORD: Deepen your understanding about the principle of redemption by continuing to practice these applications:

- Begin your day by asking the Lord to continue to help you believe for and recognize His goodness and generosity in your day. Ask Him to remind you to reflect on the evidence of His lovingkindness when the day is over.
- Start with the verses from class and the worksheets to build your faith in God's redeeming power. Apply them to the specific situations where you are asking God to intervene.
- Seek God's counsel as you spend time with the Lord and your Bible. Ask Him for promises & personal words that bring guidance and vision to your issue.
- Appropriate the promises. Pray them back to God, asking Him to make them your experience. Thank Him that He always keeps His Word.
- Ask God for concrete action steps you can take to make at least one of these promises your experience. Ask Him to remind and empower you to take these steps when the opportunity arises this week. List them here:
- Keep a written record of the things God reveals to you and His redemptive work in your life.
- Be ready to share what God is doing in your life. Be encouraged by walking alongside others who are seeking to know God as Redeemer.