

# Basic Training in the Bible

## Andrew Stepp | Ruth

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### Review of Judges:

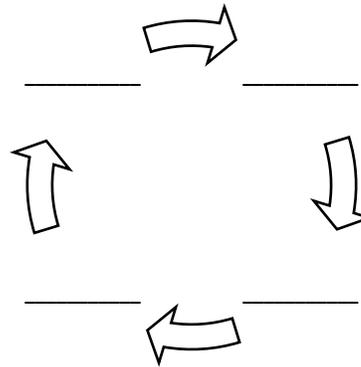
#### Outline:

- 1:1–3:6 – Introduction: What went wrong and what’s going to happen
- 3:7–16:31 – The Twelve Judges
- 17:1–21:25 – Epilogue: Two stories illustrating the main theme

#### What was a “Judge”?

#### Was Israel unified at the time?

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#### Key repeated phrases:

- *The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the Lord...* (Judg 2:11; 3:7; 3:12; 4:1; 6:1; 9:23; 10:6; 13:1).
- *In those days there was no king of Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes* (Judg 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25).

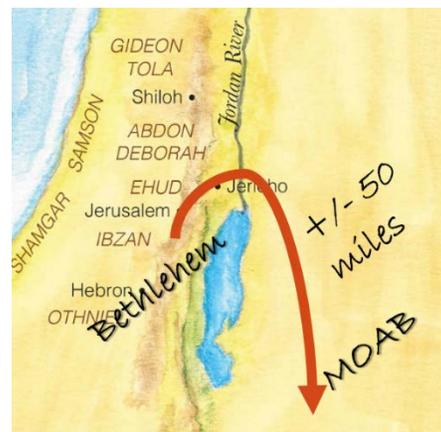
#### The Epilogue/Appendices:

- Gross Idolatry (Judges 17-18)
- Gross Immorality (19-21)

### Ruth:

#### Outline:

1. Tragedy
2. Kindness



3. Hope

4. Joy!

### **Insights:**

- Yahweh’s love for Israel is expressed in Ruth’s love for Naomi, Boaz’s love for both Naomi and Ruth.
- Bethlehem as a town is portrayed as loyal to Yahweh and thus experiences the covenant blessings. See Deut. 28:1-6
- They are adhering to the covenant!
- The narrator assumes the readers will notice all of these covenantal factors. “They are demonstrating covenant loyalty to Yahweh by the way they live and treat people.”
- This story is the fulfilment of God’s covenant with Abraham – “...a blessing to the nations.”

### **Final Thought:**

What does it look like to live with covenant faithfulness to Jesus in the midst of a world in which “the covenant” is profaned, ignored, misused, and/or forgotten?

What can we learn from the little town of Bethlehem about how to live today?

### **Proposed Schedule:**

- April 1 - Easter
- April 8 - Class Choice
- April 15 - 1 & 2 Samuel
- April 22 - 1 Kings
- April 29 - 2 Kings
- May 6 - 1&2 Chronicles
- May 13 - Ezra-Nehemiah
- May 20 - Esther
- May 27 - Class Choice