

Monday (Nov 17 th)	<p><u>Scripture: Ruth 3</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does this story reflect some kind of romantic love, or a proper sense of duty to an ethical code of conduct? Why? 2. What “do’s” and “don’ts” of sexual morality prevail? What “rules” are first to be broken or bent? Why?
Tuesday (Nov 18 th)	<p><u>Scripture: Ruth 4</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does it say about Boaz, being willing to take on all the expenses and duties, when he will not get anything tangible in return? What ancestor of Boaz was born from the same practice of this kinsman-redeemer law (ref. verses 12, 18-21; Gen. 38)? How might having a foreigner for a mother (ref. Mt. 1:5), have influenced his choice of a wife? 2. What would someone reading this artful story of David’s roots have to conclude about the righteousness of Ruth and Boaz? 3. Who is the “untouchable Moabite” in your life—the one whom you keep at arm’s length? How will you bridge the gap between you?
Wednesday (Nov 19 th)	<p><u>Scripture: Ezra 1:1-11</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which factors from Cyrus’ story have also shaped who you are: (a) Building projects? (b) Mercy toward others? (c) Service offerings? (d) Family ties? 2. God moves hearts of kings and families alike to do his will (verses 1,5). How has God “moved your heart”? 3. If you must wait, as Israel did, for God to restore your place in his service, are you content to do so? Or would you be pushing for change?
Thursday (Nov 20 th)	<p><u>Scripture: Ezra 2:1-70</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are you a part of any ethnically diverse group? How does that group help you celebrate differences? 2. What would an inventory of your family records indicate about the kind of person you are, or the kind of family you’re from? 3. This chapter emphasizes the importance of spiritual ancestors to Israel. Do you know who yours are? What has been passed on to you, spiritually, from your ancestors? 4. What one quality are you now developing as one of God’s people that you want to pass along to any children and grandchildren? How do you intend to do this?

Friday (Nov 21 st)	<p><u>Scripture: Ezra 3:1-13</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the value (symbolic and actual) of building the altar on “its foundation” and “in accord with the law of Moses”? 2. Why have the people sacrificed before laying the temple foundations? 3. Does worship comes first to you? Or when most convenient? Why? 4. From reading verses 7-13, what “cornerstone ceremony” has helped you celebrate new beginnings (e.g. in your marriage, in your workplace, your life with God)? 5. How patient are you when waiting for a new beginning?
Saturday (Nov 22 nd)	<p><u>Scripture: Ezra 4:1-24</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What psychological ploy is used here against Israel? With what effect? 2. What clues tell you who has a part in God’s work, and who is opposed to him? 3. Rahum’s complaints against Israel remind us that our past sometimes lives on to haunt us. Where do you see that today in national or international affairs? In churches and denominations? In your personal and family life? 4. Why was Israel right to insist on religious exclusivity and spiritual purity? Today, when is it valid to assert one’s expression of the faith as “the only way”? Over against whom? Other denominations? Cults? State religion? Government interference?
Sunday (Nov 23 rd)	<p><u>Scripture: Psalm 76</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Psalm 76 falls into four sections of three verses each. How would you summarize the contents of each section? What was God’s purpose in acting in judgment?

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