



Creating a Legacy of Inductive Bible Study

Since the publication of the first LifeGuide® Bible Study (LBS), *Genesis*, in 1985, InterVarsity Press has been striving to create accessible Bible studies for individuals and groups.

In 1982, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship staff member Jack Kuhatchek and IVP editors Andy Le Peau and Jim Hoover conceptualized what became LifeBuilder Bible Studies (soon renamed LifeGuide® Bible Studies). The idea was to produce a quality series of Bible study guides that would be relevant and inductive and appeal to both Christian students and laypeople in churches. The first seven studies were published in 1985, with a plan to have an LBS for almost every book of the Bible as well as numerous topical studies.

“Over ten million LifeGuide® Bible Studies have been distributed around the world since InterVarsity Press first started publishing them in 1985,” says Cindy Bunch, associate editorial director and LBS series editor. “They are designed to create conversation around Scripture passages. The discussion format is easy to lead, and the focus on a single chapter of Scripture allows everyone to enter the conversation, even those with little prior knowledge about the Bible. LifeGuide® Bible Studies create a context for God’s Word to speak into our lives today.”

Editors and authors include the late John Stott, J. I. Packer, Jack Kuhatschek, Dale and Sandy Larsen, Rebecca Pippert, Patty Pell, James Sire, Paul Borthwick and many others. With over one hundred titles currently in print, IVP has accomplished its original goal to cover the Old and New Testaments, Bible characters and major Christian themes.

In this most recent LifeGuide, which examines the book of Ruth, we learn that this Old Testament text covers her story but also those of other significant players who populate the drama: Naomi, Elimelech, Mahlon, Kilion, Orpah and Boaz. In addition there are a whole host of unnamed kinsmen, reapers, elders and neighbors. Like us, each of these characters in their own way needs the Redeemer who is foreshadowed here.

Dale and Sandy Larsen unpack the importance of Ruth in the introduction:

The unknown author of Ruth was a master storyteller. The book is carefully and deftly constructed. Like any well-told story, it contains conflict, but not the classic clash of good versus evil. . . . What does the book of Ruth have to do with us today? Although Ruth and Boaz are mentioned in the New Testament only in Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:5), Christians have long seen in the book of Ruth a foreshadowing of our redemption through Christ. As Ruth and Naomi were destitute, with no status and no hope, we were in spiritual poverty and could not rescue ourselves. Like them, we were in need of a guardian-

Ruth: Rescued by the Redeemer (LBS)

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“One of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship’s most important contributions to the evangelical church at large has been the popularization of, motivation for, and training for inductive Bible study.” – Andy Le Peau, editorial director, IVP

Other Old Testament LifeGuides:

- *Daniel: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*
- *Proverbs: Learning to Live Wisely*
- *Psalms: Prayers of the Heart*
- *Isaiah: Trusting God in Troubled Times*

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BOOK DETAILS

redeemer who would come to our aid. As Boaz in love intervened and took responsibility to save Ruth and Naomi, Christ in love has become our ultimate Redeemer who assumes the burden of our need and gives us a place in his kingdom.