

LIZ CURTIS HIGGS

Best-selling author of *Bad Girls of the Bible*

The
Girl's
Still
Got
It

Take a Walk
with Ruth and the God
Who Rocked Her World



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P R E S S

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Discussion Questions

If your book club will be chatting about *The Girl's Still Got It* in a single session, here's a brief list of questions to kick-start your discussion. Or you might use them to enhance your personal takeaway once you've finished reading the book.

1. In *Seasons of Friendship*, Marjory Zoet Bankson wrote, "The Book of Ruth introduces another view of God who is more feminine and relational: nurturing, protective, and creative."¹ In what ways does God nurture Ruth's faith? When is his protection of Naomi apparent? And how does God show his creative nature through Boaz's actions?
2. Our story begins with a funeral as Naomi and her daughters-in-law bury Mahlon and Kilion. Do you feel more sympathy for Naomi or for Ruth at this point in the narrative, and why? How might such a tragic loss affect your faith?
3. Add up all that Ruth is leaving behind in Moab. Then consider her future in Israel, "with its dark, forbidding hills, its alien faces, its unknown trials."² What qualities does Ruth possess that would empower her to make such a move? Of those characteristics, which one do you admire most, and why?
4. For my Scottish historical novel *Here Burns My Candle*, inspired by the first chapter of Ruth, I chose the title from Shakespeare's *The Third Part of King Henry VI*: "Here burns my candle out; ay, here it dies."³ In what ways does the old Ruth die? Now consider the words of Sinclair Ferguson: "It is a gospel secret that death is the way to life."³ How might you apply that truth to Ruth's spiritual journey? And to your own?

5. When Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem, the whole town is stirred, yet it's the women who do the talking. When they exclaim, "Can this be Naomi?" what are they really asking, do you think? Sometimes we find it hard to show compassion to people who are suffering the consequences of their poor choices. Why might that be so? Practically speaking, how can we do a better job of loving one another rather than judging one another?
6. In chapter 5 I describe my friend Evelyn helping a woman in need by hiding canned goods in a Dumpster. What unique expressions of generosity have you observed? When you've been on the receiving end of someone else's largess, how have you responded outwardly? And how did you feel inwardly? In what ways does Ruth's humble gratitude for Boaz's kind treatment speak to you?
7. Victorian writer Phineas Camp Headley believed Ruth was "endowed with every virtue and charm that render a woman attractive."²⁴ If you've always imagined Ruth as beautiful, why might that be the case? We may champion inner beauty, yet most women secretly (or not so secretly!) long to be more physically attractive. What steps can we take to focus more on our internal rather than our external selves? What direction might Proverbs 31:30 offer us: "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised"?
8. Why does the eighteenth-century hymn "Amazing Grace" still touch us so deeply? Think through the lyrics—or look them up in a hymnal or on the Internet—and choose one line that resonates with you, then explain why. Which line from the hymn might have spoken most powerfully to Naomi? And to Ruth?
9. Ruth told her mother-in-law, "I will do whatever you say." Have you ever made such a promise to another person? If not, what might have stopped you? If so, when, where, how, and why did you commit to follow another's lead? What was the outcome? We read in 2 John 1:6, "And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands." How is obedience to God an expression of our love for him?
10. Boaz made an equally open-ended promise to Ruth when he said, "I will do for you all you ask." Our Redeemer makes the same astound-

ing offer to us, as recorded in Matthew 7:7: “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” Why are we often hesitant to ask, seek, and knock? If you need something that only God can provide, take a moment to write out your request, keeping in mind his assurance about giving, finding, and opening.

11. At the close of each chapter of *The Girl's Still Got It*, one or more “Ruth In Real Life” stories appear. Look through them and pick a favorite. Why are those words particularly meaningful to you? If you have neither a Naomi nor a Boaz in your life right now, how might these real-life stories apply to other relationships that are important to you?
12. The most vital relationship we'll ever have is with our Redeemer. What new truths have you discovered about the Lord after spending time with Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz? And what changes will you make in your life because of what you've learned?