

The Big Picture: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament:

Week 7: Ruth: More Than a Love Story

Ruth 1:1-16; Matthew 1:1-6

Opening Prayer:

Gracious God, thank You for bringing us together to study Your Word. As we read the story of Ruth, open our hearts to see Your faithfulness in both the ordinary and the extraordinary moments of life. Help us recognize that You are always at work, even when we cannot see Your hand. Draw us closer to Jesus, our true Redeemer, and teach us to trust You more deeply. In His name we pray. Amen.

Theme:

God often accomplishes His greatest work through ordinary acts of faithfulness. Ruth reminds us that redemption is rarely flashy—it is found in everyday obedience, unexpected kindness, and the quiet providence of God. Ultimately, her story points us to Jesus Christ, our perfect Redeemer, who welcomes outsiders into God's family through His grace.

Secular Quote:

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."
—Martin Luther King Jr.

Starter Question:

Have you ever looked back on an event in your life and realized afterward that what seemed like a coincidence was actually God opening or closing a door? Share your story.

Digging Deeper Questions

1. Naomi's Story

Naomi believed God had abandoned her and even asked to be called "Mara," meaning "bitter."

- Why do you think grief can distort our perspective?
- Have you ever experienced a season where it was difficult to recognize God's presence?
- What encouragement does Naomi's story offer to someone walking through loss today?

2. Ruth's Commitment

Read Ruth 1:16–17. Ruth leaves behind her homeland, culture, and security to follow Naomi and Israel's God.

- What stands out most about Ruth's commitment?

- Why do you think faithful obedience often requires leaving something behind?
- What is God asking you to trust Him with today?

3. God's Quiet Providence

One of the most interesting parts of Ruth is that God never speaks directly, yet His fingerprints are everywhere. Read Ruth 2:3

- Why does the author say Ruth "happened" to arrive in Boaz's field?
- Have you ever recognized God's guidance only after looking back?
- Why do we often expect God to work through dramatic miracles instead of ordinary circumstances?

4. Boaz the Redeemer

Boaz willingly chooses to redeem Ruth and Naomi's family. Read Ruth 4:9–10.

- What qualities do you admire most about Boaz?
- How does Boaz reflect the character of Christ?
- What did redemption cost Boaz?

5. Jesus Our Greater Redeemer

Read Matthew 1:5 and Hebrews 2:14–17. Ruth, a foreigner, becomes part of Jesus' family tree.

- Why is it significant that Matthew includes Ruth in Jesus' genealogy?
- How does Jesus welcome outsiders today?
- What does it mean that Jesus became like us so He could redeem us?

6. Seeing Yourself in the Story

Every person in Ruth represents someone we may become during different seasons of life. Which character do you identify with most today? Why?

- Naomi, carrying grief?
- Ruth, stepping out in faith?
- Boaz, called to bless others?
- The townspeople, witnessing God's redemption?

Actionable of the Week:

Choose one way to become a "Boaz" for someone else this week.

Some ideas include: Invite someone who may feel alone to share a meal. Encourage someone going through a difficult season with a handwritten note or phone call. Offer practical help to someone in need. Pray intentionally for someone who feels like an outsider. Look for God's hand in the ordinary moments of each day by keeping a simple gratitude journal. At the end of the week, ask yourself: **Where did I see God quietly at work?**

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for being our Redeemer. Thank You for welcoming us into Your family through Your grace and for working in our lives even when we cannot see what You are doing. Help us trust You in seasons of uncertainty, remain faithful in the ordinary moments, and become people who extend kindness and hope to others. As we leave this place, may we recognize Your presence in every step and point others to Your redeeming love. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

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Week 7: Ruth: More Than a Love Story

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Monday: Ruth 1:1–18

Focus Verse: *"Where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God."* — **Ruth 1:16**

Reflection: Faith often begins with a single step of trust, even when we cannot see where God is leading.

Tuesday: Ruth 2:1–13

Focus Verse: *"So she set out and went and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz..."* — **Ruth 2:3**

Reflection: What appears to be coincidence is often God's quiet providence at work.

Wednesday: Ruth 2:14–23

Focus Verse: *"May the Lord reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!"* — **Ruth 2:12**

Reflection: God often provides for us through the kindness and faithfulness of others.

Thursday: Ruth 3:1–18

Focus Verse: *"Wait, my daughter, until you learn how the matter turns out, for the man will not rest, but will settle the matter today."* — **Ruth 3:18**

Reflection: Waiting is rarely easy, but God's timing is always purposeful.

Friday: Ruth 4:1–17

Focus Verse: *"Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin."* — **Ruth 4:14**

Reflection: Redemption changes not only our present circumstances but also our future.

Saturday: Matthew 1:1–6 and Ephesians 2:11–22

Focus Verses:

"Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth..." — **Matthew 1:5**

"But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." — **Ephesians 2:13**

Reflection: Ruth's story reminds us that God's plan of salvation has always been bigger than one nation or one family. Through Jesus Christ, those who were once outsiders are welcomed into God's family by grace. As you prepare for worship tomorrow, thank God for His redeeming love that brings us all home.