

## RUTH

*God's blessing and salvation extend to people of every nation.*



THE STORY: RUTH 1

MONDAY

## Ruth's conversion

Ruth's conversion - Ruth was a Moabite woman, not an Israelite. The Moabites traced their origin back to Lot's descendants, particularly the offspring of his union with his daughters (see Genesis 19:36-37). Although the Moabites were not as despised as the heathen peoples of Canaan, they were foreigners and worshipped the god Chemosh. Ruth learned about Naomi's faith and when she refused to go back to the land of Moab, she was in no uncertain terms pledging her loyalty to the Lord and adopting the faith of Naomi. After returning to Bethlehem with Naomi, God blessed Ruth for her obedience and kindness by providing her with the opportunity to gather food in Boaz's field.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

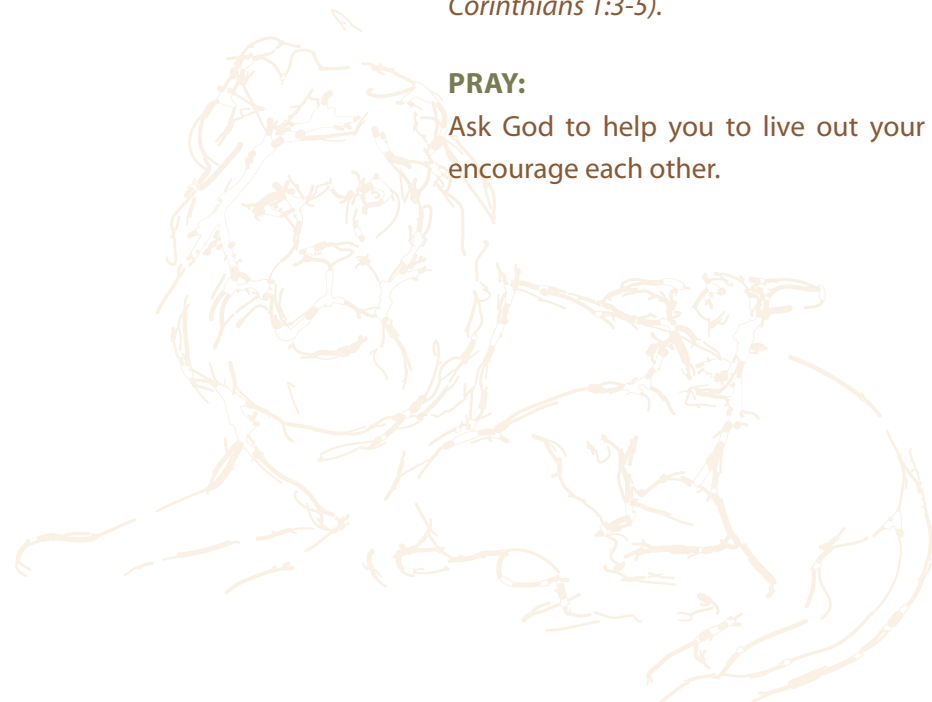
What do we learn about Naomi from the way she addressed her daughters-in-law in this chapter? (*Naomi clearly loved the Lord. She mentioned the Lord several times when urging the young women to return to their families.*)

How did Naomi's faith influence Ruth? (*Ruth answered Naomi by saying, "your people shall be my people, and your God my God." (see Ruth 1:16).*)

How can our faith encourage another person? (*Just as in the case of Naomi, we can strengthen one another with the encouragement we have received from God (see 2 Corinthians 1:3-5).*)

### PRAY:

Ask God to help you to live out your faith in front of others so that we might encourage each other.





## Ruth's appeal

Ruth's appeal - Boaz's kindness to Ruth continued for several months—throughout the wheat and barley harvests. By the end of the harvests, Naomi recognized that Boaz was acting as Ruth's redeemer. Being a redeemer meant that he was willing to care for them after the loss of their husbands. Naomi instructed Ruth to end her time of mourning for her husband, get dressed up, and lay at Boaz's feet the next evening. This action was intended to signal Ruth's desire to marry Boaz. Ruth did as Naomi commanded her and when Boaz awoke at midnight to find a woman lying at his feet, Ruth appealed to him using the same language he had earlier prayed over her. She asked him to cover her with his wings. Although marriage was not required in order to redeem Ruth, it was the noble thing to do. Boaz understood what Ruth was saying and was honored that she preferred him to the younger men. Boaz was the instrument used by God to care for Ruth.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Boaz began the work of a kinsman-redeemer by caring for Ruth. What did he do to care for Ruth? *(Boaz allowed Ruth to glean in his fields and ordered that she be watched over and cared for. He also provided food for her, telling his workers to leave extra behind for her to gather.)*

How is Boaz's kindness to Ruth a picture of God's kindness to us? *(Boaz gave freely to Ruth who did not work for the blessing and therefore did not deserve it. Similarly, God showers his blessings on us by His grace.)*

### PRAY:

Have each person in your family list at least two ways God shows His kindness to your family. Afterwards, pray a prayer of thanks to God for His provision.





## Where is Jesus?

Ruth lost her husband and father-in-law and then chose to serve her mother-in-law with God's people instead of returning home to her own family. She was a very special person in God's plan to bring His Son into the world. We learn in one of the genealogies of Jesus that Ruth was one of the great-grandmothers in Jesus' genealogical line. In fact, Ruth's grandson, Jesse, was King David's father.

In Matthew 1:5-6 it reads, "Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David." Boaz and Ruth also had another connection to Jesus—they lived in Bethlehem, the very town where Jesus was born!

Boaz was a type of Christ in the story. Not only did he redeem the blood line of Elimelech, but he also redeemed the land sold by Naomi. To "redeem" something is to pay a price to buy it back. Jesus is our redeemer.

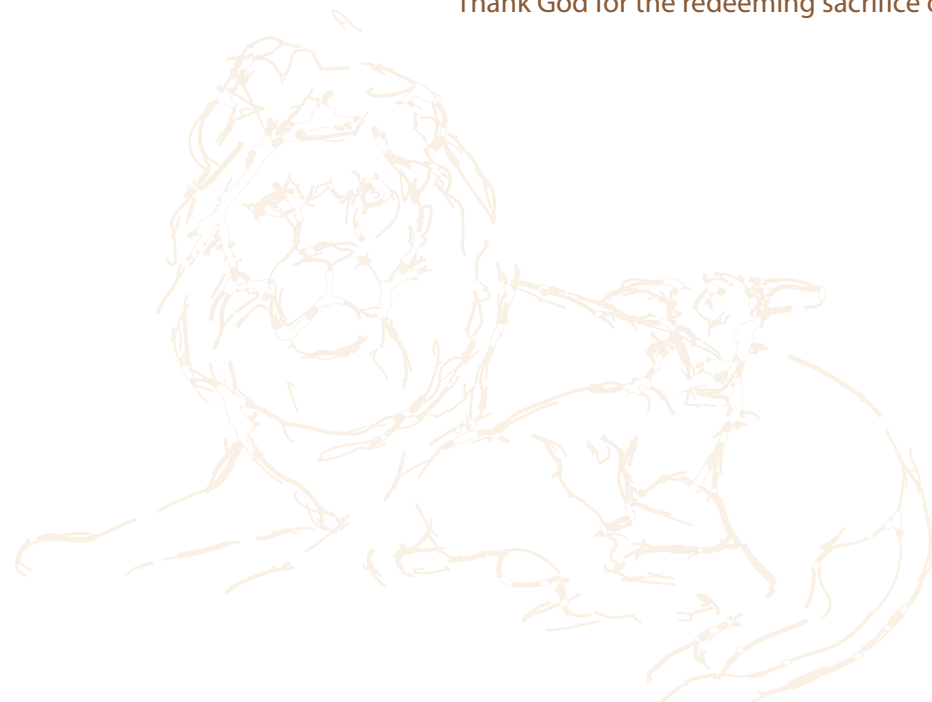
### TALK ABOUT IT:

How is Jesus our redeemer? *(We were lost in our sin and without hope when Jesus died on the cross for us, paying the price to redeem us back from the curse. Jesus did this by taking the punishment we deserved.)*

How is Jesus' love for us similar to Boaz's love for Ruth? *(Like Ruth, we are not of Israel. Boaz cared for Ruth even though she was a Gentile. Jesus' salvation extends to people of all nations, both Jews and Gentiles alike.)*

### PRAY:

Thank God for the redeeming sacrifice of his Son, Jesus.





## Ruth's redemption

Ruth's redemption - Boaz accepted Ruth's proposal and made a commitment to redeem her. Before Boaz could do so, he had to deal with a problem that stood in the way: there was another kinsman-redeemer more closely related to Ruth who had the first right to assume her care. Boaz arranged to meet with him and, as they talked in front of witnesses, it became clear that this man was only interested in the benefit he would receive in the property. He did not want to care for Ruth or Naomi. The other kinsman-redeemer released his right and, according to custom, he and Boaz exchanged sandals to seal the agreement. Boaz announced his intention to redeem Naomi and Ruth and his intention to marry Ruth. Boaz's redemption of Naomi and Ruth is a picture of God's redemption of His people, both Jew and Gentile.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

How was Boaz different from the other kinsman-redeemer? *(Boaz went after Ruth and gladly took her and redeemed her. The other man was only interested in himself.)*

How is Boaz a wonderful picture of the way God redeems us? *(The Bible tells us that God loved us and that is why He sent His Son. God doesn't redeem us out of obligation but out of love (see John 3:16).)*

### PRAY:

Thank God for His wonderful redeeming love.





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## On the road to Emmaus.

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Jesus is the Redeemer for whom Job longed and to whom he looked. Job was suffering greatly but he had a strong faith. He believed that one day he would be redeemed, even if it happened after all of his skin was destroyed.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

How do we know that Job's reference to a Redeemer points to Jesus? *(There is only one redeemer who could satisfy Job's plight and enable him to see God. Jesus is the only Redeemer who can so redeem us from the curse that we stand before God with confidence.)*

How does Job's prayer set an example for us? *(If Job trusted God's plan of redemption, knowing very little about what the plan was, how much more should we trust God! We have the plan of God's redemption explained for us in the Bible.)*

### PRAY:

Ask God for grace to trust Him given all we know about His plan from the Bible. Also ask God to help us not become too familiar with what we read, as Bible truths are a treasure we must always hold dearly.

