

RUTH

A FOUR WEEK DEVOTIONAL



The book of Ruth tells the story of a woman who lived in the time of the Judges – a difficult and uncertain period in Israel’s history. Through her life and experiences, we will learn at least 3 lessons

1. How the goodness of God can appear in even the most difficult and unfortunate circumstances.
2. How human kindness - expressed through Boaz’s love and faithfulness - points to the true and better love of Christ that is faithful to redeem us from every kind of circumstance.
3. And that God loves to include “the outsider” in his redemptive plan for the world.

This 4 week devotional (one week for each chapter) includes 5 devotions for each week. Please carve out time to spend with Jesus and ask him to reveal the ways that he is still redeeming his people throughout the whole world.

KEY THEOLOGICAL THEMES:

We learn a lot about the nature and the character of God through this book including these primary themes:

Providence: God is present and active even when unseen.

Redemption: The kinsman-redeemer points to Christ’s ultimate act of salvation.

Loyal Love: God’s covenant faithfulness mirrored in human relationships.

Restoration: God brings new beginnings out of loss and barrenness.

KEY PEOPLE:

Ruth – A Moabite widow who chooses to stay with her Israelite mother-in-law, Naomi. Her loyalty, faith, and obedience to God lead her from loss to redemption.

Naomi – Ruth’s mother-in-law, an Israelite woman from Bethlehem who moves to Moab during a famine. After losing her husband and sons, she returns home in grief but later experiences God’s restoration through Ruth and Boaz.

Boaz – A wealthy and kind landowner in Bethlehem, a relative of Naomi’s late husband. He acts as Ruth’s *kinsman-redeemer*, marrying her and preserving the family line.

Orpah – Ruth’s sister-in-law, also a Moabite widow. She begins to return to Bethlehem with Naomi but decides to go back to her own people.

Obed – The son of Ruth and Boaz, who becomes the grandfather of King David, linking Ruth’s story directly to the lineage of Jesus Christ.

WEEK 1 – When It All Falls Apart (Ruth 1)

Theme: God's presence in our pain.

Day 1 - Famine and Flight

Reading: Ruth 1:1-2

Devotional Thought: The story begins with famine – a symbol of both physical hunger and spiritual emptiness. Elimelech's family fled Bethlehem, the "house of bread," seeking provision in Moab. Yet even when we wander, God's hand is not far. He uses famine and hardship to draw our hearts toward dependence on Him.

Cross References: Psalm 33:18-19; Proverbs 16:9

Reflection Question: Where have you seen God's hand guiding you in seasons of lack?

Prayer Prompt: "Lord, teach me to trust You even when resources are few."

Day 2 - Loss and Lament

Reading: Ruth 1:3-5

Devotional Thought: Naomi's life collapsed under the weight of loss. Her husband and sons died in a foreign land, leaving her broken and bitter. Yet lament is not a sign of weak faith – it's an act of honest worship. Even in our tears, God is quietly preparing redemption.

Cross References: Psalm 34:18; Lamentations 3:22-24

Reflection Question: How have loss and lament shaped your relationship with God?

Prayer Prompt: "God, meet me in my grief and remind me of Your faithful love."

Day 3 - A Costly Choice

Reading: Ruth 1:6-14

Devotional Thought: Ruth's decision to stay with Naomi wasn't easy – it meant leaving her homeland, her culture, and her security. True faith often requires walking into uncertainty with trust. God honors those who cling to Him even when the outcome is unclear.

Cross References: Psalm 37:5; Hebrews 11:8

Reflection Question: What step of faith might God be calling you to take today?

Prayer Prompt: "Lord, help me to follow You wherever You lead."

Day 4 - The Power of Commitment

Reading: Ruth 1:15-18

Devotional Thought: Ruth's vow – "Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God" – is one of the most beautiful statements of covenant loyalty in Scripture. Her love for Naomi mirrors God's own steadfast love toward us. Redemption begins where faithfulness takes root.

Cross References: Proverbs 17:17; Psalm 89:1-2

Reflection Question: How can I show steadfast love to others like Ruth did to Naomi?

Prayer Prompt: "God, shape my heart to love faithfully as You love me."

Day 5 - Returning Home

Reading: Ruth 1:19-22

Devotional Thought: Naomi returned to Bethlehem feeling empty, but harvest season had just begun – a quiet hint that God was already at work. Our return to God may begin in bitterness, yet He welcomes us with grace. Sometimes, redemption begins when we simply go home.

Cross References: Psalm 126:5-6; Romans 8:28

Reflection Question: Where might God be planting new hope in your life?

Prayer Prompt: "Father, restore joy where I've known loss."

WEEK 2 – Kindness in the Fields (Ruth 2)

Theme: God provides through His providence.

Day 6 - Stepping Out in Faith

Reading: Ruth 2:1-3

Devotional Thought: Ruth didn't know where to go – she only knew she needed to act. Her humble decision to glean was an act of courage wrapped in obedience. Faith often looks like doing the next right thing, trusting God to guide our steps.

Cross References: Psalm 37:23-24; Proverbs 16:3

Reflection Question: How can I act in faith while trusting God's unseen plan?

Prayer Prompt: "Lord, order my steps and open the doors You've prepared."

Day 7 - Favor in the Field

Reading: Ruth 2:4-9

Devotional Thought: Boaz noticed Ruth – not her status, but her character. His kindness was God's favor made visible. When we walk in integrity and humility, we often find that God's favor meets us in unexpected places.

Cross References: Psalm 84:11; Proverbs 19:17

Reflection Question: How can I show God's favor to someone in need this week?

Prayer Prompt: "Father, make me an instrument of Your kindness."

Day 8 - Grace Beyond Expectation

Reading: Ruth 2:10-13

Devotional Thought: Ruth was astonished that Boaz would treat her with such grace. In the same way, God lavishes mercy on those who least deserve it. Grace isn't earned; it's received with humble gratitude.

Cross References: Psalm 103:8-12; Ephesians 2:8-9

Reflection Question: How does God's unearned grace shape your gratitude?

Prayer Prompt: "Thank You, Lord, for loving me beyond what I deserve."

Day 9 - Provision in Abundance

Reading: Ruth 2:14-17

Devotional Thought: Ruth came to the field hungry and left with more than she could carry. God's provision often exceeds our expectations when we walk faithfully before Him. What begins as survival can become a story of abundance.

Cross References: Psalm 23:1-5; Philippians 4:19

Reflection Question: Where have you seen God's abundance overflow in your life?

Prayer Prompt: "God, fill me with gratitude for Your overflowing goodness."

Day 10 - The God Who Provides

Reading: Ruth 2:18-23

Devotional Thought: Naomi's heart began to soften as she saw God's hand in Ruth's blessings. Providence often appears through people and daily provision. God's goodness is both personal and precise – He knows exactly what we need.

Cross References: Psalm 9:9-10; Proverbs 3:5-6

Reflection Question: How has God's hidden hand guided you recently?

Prayer Prompt: "Lord, open my eyes to Your faithful provision."

WEEK 3 – Redeeming Love (Ruth 3)

Theme: The Redeemer steps in.

Day 11 - A Bold Request

Reading: Ruth 3:1-6

Devotional Thought: Naomi urged Ruth to approach Boaz – a plan rooted not in manipulation, but in faith. Sometimes faith requires taking initiative while trusting God's sovereignty. God honors boldness when it's birthed in humility and guided by trust.

Cross References: Psalm 27:13-14; Hebrews 4:16

Reflection Question: What bold prayer of faith might God be inviting you to pray?

Prayer Prompt: "God, give me courage to step out in faith."

Day 12 - At the Threshing Floor

Reading: Ruth 3:7-9

Devotional Thought: Ruth's gesture at Boaz's feet was an act of trust and surrender, symbolizing her appeal for redemption. Like Ruth, we come to God not demanding, but depending – seeking His covering and care. True rest begins when we place ourselves under His wings.

Cross References: Psalm 91:1-2; Ezekiel 16:8

Reflection Question: Where do you need to rest under God's covering?

Prayer Prompt: "Cover me, Lord, with Your mercy and protection."

Day 13 - The Redeemer Responds

Reading: Ruth 3:10-13

Devotional Thought: Boaz's reply was filled with honor, grace, and integrity. He didn't take advantage of Ruth's vulnerability; he protected it. His character gives us a glimpse of Christ – the Redeemer who acts with compassion and righteousness.

Cross References: Psalm 145:8-9; John 10:11

Reflection Question: How does Boaz's kindness reflect Jesus' heart toward you?

Prayer Prompt: "Jesus, thank You for being my Redeemer and friend."

Day 14 - Waiting in Faith

Reading: Ruth 3:14-18

Devotional Thought: Ruth waited while Boaz went to settle her redemption – a beautiful picture of trust. Our waiting seasons are not wasted; they're where God works behind the scenes. Faith rests, knowing redemption is already in motion.

Cross References: Psalm 37:7; Isaiah 64:4

Reflection Question: What does it mean for you to wait expectantly on God today?

Prayer Prompt: "Lord, help me trust that You're working while I wait."

WEEK 4 – From Emptiness to Fullness (Ruth 4)

Theme: God restores all things.

Day 15 - Redemption Secured

Reading: Ruth 4:1-10

Devotional Thought: Boaz fulfilled his role as kinsman-redeemer, restoring Naomi's name and Ruth's future. Redemption always requires a price – and Boaz paid it willingly. Through Jesus, our greater Redeemer, we too have been bought back and restored to the family of God.

Cross References: Psalm 130:7-8; Galatians 4:4-5

Reflection Question: What does redemption mean to you personally?

Prayer Prompt: "Jesus, thank You for buying me back and calling me Yours."

Day 16 - Joy Restored

Reading: Ruth 4:11-12

Devotional Thought: The people blessed Ruth and Boaz, not realizing their union would bring forth a royal lineage. God's redemption doesn't just restore—it multiplies. His plans always extend beyond our moment into generations to come.

Cross References: Psalm 126:2-3; Ephesians 3:20

Reflection Question: How is God using your story to bless others?

Prayer Prompt: "Lord, make my life a testimony of Your faithfulness."

Day 17 - From Bitterness to Blessing

Reading: Ruth 4:13-17

Devotional Thought: Naomi, once bitter and broken, now held her grandson – living proof that God brings beauty from ashes. Her joy was not a replacement for pain but a redemption of it. In God's hands, even sorrow has purpose.

Cross References: Psalm 30:11-12; Romans 8:28

Reflection Question: Where has God turned your mourning into joy?

Prayer Prompt: "Thank You, Lord, for turning my pain into praise."

Day 18 - A Legacy of Redemption

Reading: Ruth 4:18-22

Devotional Thought: The book ends with a genealogy, connecting Ruth's story to King David – and ultimately, to Jesus Christ. God's redemption writes a story far larger than we can see. Our faithfulness today can become someone else's testimony tomorrow.

Cross References: Psalm 103:17-18; Matthew 1:5-6

Reflection Question: What kind of spiritual legacy are you building through faith?

Prayer Prompt: "God, let my life echo Your redeeming story for generations to come."

There's more! Keep going for special bonus content.

BONUS:

The Kinsman-Redeemer - A Picture of Redemption

Scripture Focus: *Ruth 4:1-10; Leviticus 25:25, 47-49; Deuteronomy 25:5-10*

The Meaning of the Kinsman-Redeemer

In Hebrew, the word **go'el** (גוֹאֵל) means "one who redeems" or "restores."

Under the Mosaic law, the go'el was a **close male relative** with the responsibility to rescue or restore what had been lost by a family member.

He could:

- Buy back family land sold during hardship (Leviticus 25:25)
- Redeem relatives sold into servitude (Leviticus 25:47-49)
- Marry a childless widow to continue the family name (Deuteronomy 25:5-10)

The role was rooted in **covenant faithfulness**—a reflection of God's own steadfast love and care for His people.

Boaz: The Redeemer in Ruth

When Ruth appealed to Boaz at the threshing floor, she asked him to "spread your cloak over me, for you are a family redeemer" (Ruth 3:9).

Boaz stepped into that role:

- He redeemed Naomi's family property.
- He married Ruth, preserving the family line.
- He brought hope and restoration to two widows who once felt forgotten. Boaz's redemption wasn't merely legal—it was **loving, generous, and personal**.

Jesus: Our Ultimate Redeemer

Boaz's act of redemption points forward to **Jesus Christ**, the true and better Redeemer.

Like Boaz, Jesus was willing and able to redeem.

But His redemption reaches far beyond one family—it restores the entire human story.

Through His life, death, and resurrection:

- Jesus redeems us from slavery to sin (Titus 2:13-14)
- He restores our inheritance in God's family (Ephesians 1:7, Galatians 4:4-7)
- He brings us from emptiness to fullness, from despair to hope

Boaz paid silver; Jesus paid with His **blood**.

Reflection Question

Where have you experienced God's redeeming love turning loss into restoration in your own story?

I also wonder how you might need the redemption of God to appear to you today?