

## The Story 09: "The Faith of a Foreign Woman"

### Ruth 1-4

**Main Idea:** God brings redemption through faithful obedience—even when it comes from the least likely people.

#### Background on Ruth

When someone says, "*Let me tell you about my mother-in-law*," we normally expect a punch line. The book of Ruth, however, tells a different story. Ruth loved her mother-in-law, Naomi. There are 3 central characters:

- Naomi lost Hope** – Ruth's mother-in-law; a widow.
- Ruth the Outsider** – a young Moabite; also a widow.
- Boaz the Redeemer** – married Ruth and became great-grandparents to King David.

#### Interesting

In the Hebrew Bible, the book of Ruth follows the book of Proverbs. It was placed there because she is described in the last chapter of Proverbs as "the virtuous woman." In our Bible Ruth follows Judges because Judges exposes humanity's inability to save itself, and Ruth reveals God's commitment to redeem.

#### 1. Naomi – When Faith Turns Bitter (Ruth 1)

While in Moab, Naomi's life collapses. Her husband dies. Both sons die. What began as a temporary solution becomes permanent loss. This would sentence Naomi to a life of poverty for the most part. Many people find themselves right here. Personal suffering either drives us to Jesus or drives us away. Naomi had not abandoned faith, but her disappointment had drained her hope. Perhaps you can relate. This is a tough spot.

#### 2. Ruth – Faith That Makes No Sense (Ruth 1-2)

Ruth is a widow, a foreigner, and a Moabite—an outsider both culturally and spiritually. Following Naomi to Bethlehem is a terrible decision. Staying in Moab would have offered familiarity, safety, and a better chance to remarry. Yet Ruth chooses faith over logic. It's providence through simple obedience. From the lower story perspective Ruth's meeting Boaz is simple coincidence. But from the upper story perspective, it is providence. God is quietly guiding the steps of a woman who has trusted Him.

#### 3. Boaz – Did the Right Thing at the Right Time (Ruth 3-4)

Boaz is the hero. Heroes simply do the right thing at the right time. Boaz was a man who thought of others before he thought of himself. He is the hero in this story. Boaz notices Ruth not because she demands attention, but because her faithfulness is visible. He protects her, provides for her, and treats her with dignity.

**The Closing** – Ruth gives birth to a son. Naomi's emptiness is replaced with joy. Boaz is the hero. And then Scripture reveals that this child becomes the grandfather of King David. God uses a foreign woman from Moab to shape the future of Israel.

#### Family Night – Read Ruth 1:1-22

- **Elementary School:** Ask, "Why did Naomi's family travel to Moab? Why did she return to Bethlehem with Ruth? Why is Naomi so sad? What should we do when we are sad?"
- **Middle / High School:** Ask, "When is it easiest for you to doubt God? How does God use difficulty for our good? Have you ever witnessed God's Providence in your life? What do you admire about Ruth?"

**Prayer:** "Father, thank You that when things look dark and difficult, we can always trust You. Amen"

#### Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

**Velocity:** Meets on Wednesdays here at the church.  
**Gravity:** Today in Both Services

#### Today's Songs

*Running Home*.....Cochren & Co.  
*Goodness of God*.....Bethel  
*Praise*.....Elevation Worship

#### "The Story" New Series

We cover Chapter 9 today. Books are \$5 in the lobby.

#### Ghost Pirates Hockey Game

Join us March 20<sup>th</sup> in a private section at the Enmarket Arena in Savannah. Tickets are \$35 and available on the GCC Website: [gracestatesboro.com](http://gracestatesboro.com).

#### Invitation to Love and Serve Our Kids

Join us in our Children's Ministry to build God's kingdom. A great way to connect to others at GCC is to serve. We have lots of serving opportunities. Don't let age or gender determine your service. At present we need nursery workers. We will schedule you for one Sunday and one service a month. Join by using the Communication Card.