

Ruth

a story of redemption

4-Week Series, Summer 2023

SERIES OVERVIEW

Ruth's world had fallen apart. When the life she enjoyed and the future she anticipated were ripped away from her, there didn't seem to be anything left to live for. How do you recover from a loss that deep? And how do you not become resentful and bitter toward God? In unexpected ways, the story of Ruth is a beautiful demonstration of how God redeems even the worst situations.

JULY 2 LOSS (RUTH 1:1-22)

Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law, goes from "Sweetie" to "Bitter" as she loses her home, husband, and sons. Life is like that sometimes: God seems absent. But there's a glimmer of hope as we see Ruth's loyalty and the return to Bethlehem during harvest time.

JULY 9 KINDNESS (RUTH 2:1-23)

Despite the tremendous loss and resulting poverty and loneliness, Ruth remains loyal to Naomi and works hard. God's sovereign grace is seen in her "random" discovery of field belonging to Boaz, who shows her unexpected kindness.

JULY 16 COMMITMENT (RUTH 3:1-18)

As Ruth & Naomi learn more about Boaz, Naomi devises a plan for Ruth to test the waters for a possible future with Boaz. Although Naomi's plan reflects a degree of human scheming rather than godly trust, Ruth has the wisdom to honor her mother-in-law, while remaining committed to walking in godliness.

God richly honors Ruth's commitment, as the possibility of marriage with Boaz becomes more likely.

JULY 23 REDEMPTION (RUTH 4:1-22)

Boaz's heart is passionately drawn to Ruth, and he takes the necessary legal steps to redeem her and bring her into a marriage with himself. Direct gospel connection.

God works all things for good: a son for Ruth; a grandson for Naomi; Naomi goes from exiled widow to forebear of David...and ultimately of the Messiah. One day the Bread of Life would be born in this same Bethlehem, "House of Bread."