



Lesson Six

Ruth Is a Loyal Servant



Nourishing Your Heart

Scripture

Ruth 1–4

Bible Truth

Ruth the Moabite chose to leave her land to serve God with his covenant people. God blessed her and made her an ancestor of Jesus the Redeemer.

Lesson Aim

To choose to be loyal servants of God in the church, which is his covenant community.

The book of Ruth is heartwarming and encouraging. It focuses on Ruth's loyalty and devotion to Naomi, and Boaz's care for these two widows. The key concepts of faithful obedience, God's blessing on his covenant people, and redemption are emphasized again and again throughout this account, set in a bleak period in Israel's history.

Ruth, a Moabite, had married into an Israelite family. When Ruth's husband died, her mother-in-law, Naomi, decided to return to Israel. It was then that Ruth made a pivotal decision: "Your people will be my people," Ruth declared, "and your God my God" (Ruth 1:16b).

Her selfless determination to follow Naomi was rooted in her desire to identify with God and his covenant people. God honored her faith and service, covered her with his blessing and protection, and gave her a son—the grandfather of King David and thus an ancestor of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of all God's people.

What a beautiful story of promise to share with your children! Like Ruth and Boaz, our response to God's faithfulness can be one of loving obedience. Pray that both you and your children will be willing to do the "good works" (Ephesians 2:10) God has called us to do.

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Bible Background

Naomi had lost her inheritance—the parcel of land that had been given to her husband's family. Because the inheritance was so important in God's covenant with his people, God had provided that a kinsman—a relative—could buy back or redeem property that a family lost because of poverty or death.

Boaz, a relative of Naomi's husband, was willing to marry Ruth, thereby redeeming Naomi's land and restoring her name and place in Israel.

Obed, the son born to Boaz and Ruth, was a distant ancestor of Jesus Christ—our "Kinsman-Redeemer." He was both eligible and willing to buy back his people, guaranteeing our name and place in the family of God.

Memory Verse

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

EPHESIANS 2:10