

Ruth Part 1 Outline

Notes:

A) Book of Ruth illustrates the 4 Rs of God's work

- 1) God **reaches** across barriers to **reconcile** people to Himself, regardless of ethnicity, class, or background.
- 2) Jesus **redeems** humanity by paying the debt of sin that no one else could pay.
- 3) God **restores** His people, resulting in joy, peace, wisdom, and renewed purpose

B) Background of Ruth

- 1) Takes place during era of the Judges, roughly 100 to 150 years before King David reigned
- 2) It was a time when Israel frequently came under judgement for worshipping the gods of nearby pagan peoples
- 3) The Hebrews had everything they needed to prosper spiritually and physically, but chose to chase their fleshly lusts
- 4) Israel was likely under a period of discipline during the time of Ruth because a famine had struck the land
- 5) The man Elimelech moved his wife Naomi and two sons to nearby Moab to escape the famine

C) Fear leads away from God, but faith keeps us near God

- 1) Elimelech's decision to move to Moab appears based on fear, not faith. Instead of trusting God's promises, he sought security in a land that was hostile to Israel and Jehovah
- 2) Though the move seemed reasonable, Elimelech failed to seek God's guidance; the results showed short-term solutions apart from God can produce long-term sorrow
- 3) Elimelech's decision endangered his family's long-term existence
- 4) Examples from Scripture (Elijah and the widow, Isaiah 40:31) show that God sustains those who wait on Him

Ruth Part 1 Outline

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D) Examples of people living by faith

- 1) George Mueller operated multiple orphanages in England, relying on God to move people to provide resources
- 2) Early in his ministry, missionary Hudson Taylor made significant inroads into China with little or no institutional support
- 3) Brother Andrew smuggled Bibles into Communist countries by miraculously escaping detection at checkpoints
- 4) David Wilkerson asked for no donations, but received resources needed to build the worldwide Teen Challenge ministry

G) God has a perfect record of promises made, promises kept

- 1) Trust in him no matter the circumstances
- 2) Wait and pray for guidance when you're tempted "to run"
- 3) They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength (Isaiah 40:31)

H) God uses trials to get our attention

- 1) Repentance and renewal aren't possible if we keep trying to find our own solutions rather than rely on God to deliver and provide
- 2) Once we're emptied of our own strategies for self-preservation, God can redeem, reconcile and restore us

Ruth Part 2 Outline

Notes:

A) Life is full of forks in the road

- 1) We often face choices between obedience to God's Word or pursuing what looks practical and safe
- 2) Short-term gain often leads to long-term sorrow, while God's narrow way leads to contentment and eternal life

B) God calls his people home

- Naomi returns to Judah after a time of "wandering" in Moab
- God invites His people back to Himself to obtain mercy and restoration
- God is not waiting with anger but with joy, like the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15); repentance brings celebration in heaven

C) The Spirit acts on even a flicker of faith

- Naomi was bitter and broken, yet even a flicker of faith was enough for the Spirit to draw her home
- God honors even weak faith if it is genuine, reminding us to keep moving toward Him despite confusion and pain

D) Christians Represent God to Others

- Orpah and Ruth considered staying with Naomi not out of obligation but because they saw something different in her and her family
- Believers are called to let God's character shine through their kindness, patience, and truth so others are drawn to Him

E) Faith must stand amid pain and confusion

- Job's example shows that even while questioning and suffering, faith clings to God's character and promises
- Sound doctrine is essential — it anchors us when emotions push us toward despair

Ruth Part 2 Outline

Notes:

F) True discipleship requires hard choices

- Orpah turned back to the familiar, but Ruth pressed forward into the unknown, embracing a lifelong covenant of loyalty and faith
- Like Ruth, discipleship requires leaving behind security, culture, and even family ties to follow God fully (Luke 14:33)

G) Ruth's love mirrors God's love

- **Selfless:** Ruth expected nothing in return
- **Unconditional:** She stayed regardless of hardship
- **Persevering:** She vowed faithfulness until death
- This reflects God's covenant love for His people—faithful, unbreakable, and sacrificial

H) God works in our weakness

- Even in Naomi's brokenness, God used her to draw Ruth into faith
- Our usefulness to God is not destroyed by doubt or suffering; He produces fruit even in dry seasons

I) Redemption breaks through bitterness

- Naomi returned to Bethlehem empty and bitter ("Call me Mara"), but God had already arranged provision through the barley harvest
- What begins in grief can become the soil for God's redemption

Ruth Part 3 Outline

Notes:

I) Introduction

- 1) God's people are His representatives to a lost world, reflecting His light through compassion, patience, and humility
- 2) Christians are called to be "lighthouses" — letting God's light shine through attitudes and actions
- 3) Believers share burdens within the body of Christ; because we are all members of one body, when one member suffers, others feel their pain
- 4) This sharing of pain strengthens our connectiveness, builds faith, and aids in recovery (1 Corinthians 12:21–26)

II) Ruth the burden-bearer

- 1) Ruth commits to Naomi's care despite the hardships involved
- 2) Her actions parallel Christ's self-sacrifice — enduring suffering to redeem others
- 3) Christians should be willing to go beyond their comfort zones to those in need, particularly those in the body of Christ

III) A Look at Boaz

- 1) Boaz, described as a man of great wealth and influence, represents a Christ-like figure — generous, moral and protective
- 2) He, like Christ, is "lord of the harvest;" they call for their workers to take part in planting, tending, and reaping physical and spiritual harvests (Matthew 9:37–38)
- 3) His greeting to Ruth as *my daughter* signifies both his personal concern and acceptance of her place among God's people

Ruth Part 3 Outline

Notes:

- 4) The theme of spiritual adoption is echoed in Romans 8:14–15 and John 1:12–13 — through faith, believers become God’s children and joint heirs with Christ
- 5) Boaz’s provision symbolizes God’s sufficiency: His fields provide all that is needed for life and fruitfulness
- 6) Lesson: Stay where God places you; His provision and protection are complete within His will

IV) Ruth’s response – a lesson in Christian humility

- 1) Ruth acknowledges her unworthiness in response to Boaz’s kindness
- 2) Her response mirrors the humility required for repentance and faith in Christ
- 3) Boaz recognizes Ruth’s faithfulness and service to Naomi
- 4) Her works flow from a transformed heart, not as a means to earn favor, but as an expression of faith in Jehovah
- 5) The phrase “under whose wings you have come to take refuge” depicts God’s protection and intimate care
- 6) Believers rest under God’s mighty and tender covering, secure in His love and adoption

Ruth Part 4 Outline

Notes:

I) Power of a Gentle Voice

- 1) Boaz's kind and comforting speech toward Ruth reflects how God communicates with His people in tenderness and love.
- 2) God often speaks to His people in quiet revelations rather than dramatic signs, guiding them by His Word and Spirit.
- 3) When fearful or uncertain, believers should listen for God's still, small voice that comforts and restores them to faith and purpose.
- 4) God's gentle instruction builds up rather than tears down, and believers should model this in their own speech (Ephesians 4:29)

II) The Power of Humility and Gratitude

- 1) Ruth's humble response to Boaz—falling at his feet and expressing unworthiness—illustrates that humility precedes grace
- 2) Her dependence on Boaz's mercy mirrors the believer's dependence on Christ for salvation.
- 3) Ruth's gratitude for Boaz's kindness produced deeper service and obedience, just as Christians serve from hearts overwhelmed by Christ's mercy (Psalm 103:2-4, Luke 7:47)
- 4) True disciples do not treat God's grace as "fire insurance," but respond with lasting devotion and gratitude.

III) The Importance of Staying Put

- 1) Boaz instructed Ruth not to glean in another field, but to remain where he could provide safety and blessing (Ruth 2:8–10).
- 2) Psalm 4:8 affirms that safety is found in God alone, and Psalm 27:1 proclaims His strength and deliverance.
- 3) There is strength in fellowship with God's people—believers are to encourage one another and grow together in the church family, which is the body of Christ (Hebrews 10:25).

Ruth Part 4 Outline

- 4) Those who wander from fellowship weaken both themselves and the church's witness; they are more vulnerable to spiritual attack.
- 5) Believers who stay close to Christ are nourished, strengthened, and equipped for every good work (John 7:37–39).

IV) Lessons Learned

- 1) God's voice is often subtle and gentle, shaping believers who listen and obey.
- 2) Ruth demonstrated humility and gratitude, which inspired further devotion and service.
- 3) To grow strong and mature, believers must remain steadfast in God's presence — among His people, in His Word, and under His care.

Ruth Part 5 Outline

Notes:

I) Rest and Work in the Life of Faith

- 5) Boaz's interaction with Ruth demonstrates how believers can experience both rest and work simultaneously in God's will.
- 6) True rest is found in being where God has called us—to Christ, His church, and His mission among the lost.
- 7) As believers rest in God's protection and purpose, they are empowered to labor joyfully for His kingdom.
- 8) Our labor is not for earthly reward but for the spiritual joy of seeing God's work accomplished through us (Romans 8:31, Psalm 18:2a).

II) Nature of Our Work

- 1) Ruth's work in the fields shows that God's calling is not without difficulty, but His grace makes the burden light.
- 2) Christian service involves self-denial, perseverance, and faithfulness during hardship (Luke 9:23, Galatians 6:9).
- 3) Through sacrifice and endurance, believers experience spiritual fruit and the joy of God's sustaining presence.
- 4) The story of missionaries to the Huaorani tribe illustrates how faith can transform suffering into eternal harvest.

III) God's Provision and Redemption

- 1) Boaz's generosity provided Ruth with abundant provision—symbolic of Christ's care for His people.
- 2) Naomi's despair gives way to renewed faith as she recognizes God's redemptive hand working through Boaz.
- 3) The kinsman-redeemer reflects Christ, who restores what was lost and gives life to both the living and the dead.

Ruth Part 5 Outline

IV) The True Source of Rest

- 1) Naomi seeks “security” for Ruth, pointing her to Boaz —the one able to provide lasting peace and refuge.
- 2) Boaz foreshadows Christ, who alone offers spiritual rest to the weary and soul-deep satisfaction to the longing heart (Matthew 11:28–30).
- 3) Worldly pursuits promise rest but cannot sustain it; only Jesus’ grace fulfills the human need for communion with God.
- 4) In Christ, believers rest from striving for acceptance and find empowerment to love and serve others (Hebrews 4:9–11).

III) Lessons Learned

- 1) Rest in God’s care and provision...He has already secured your acceptance through Christ.
- 2) Like Ruth, we find peace and purpose by abiding in our Redeemer’s field...close to His presence, provision, and people.
- 3) The life of faith is both restful and active, working in the strength that flows from abiding in Christ.

RUTH OUTLINE #6

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I) Communion and Fellowship with God

- a) God desires intimate relationship with His people, not just outward association with His name
- b) The shared meal between Boaz and Ruth reflects closeness, fellowship, and relational unity
- c) This mirrors Christ's desire for fellowship with His disciples, seen in the Last Supper
- d) Communion reminds believers of who Christ is, what He has done, and what He will do
- e) Believers are called to partake in communion with reverence, gratitude, and self-examination

Notes:

II) Acting in Faith and Wisdom

- a) Naomi seeks rest and security for Ruth
- b) Ruth is instructed to approach Boaz at the threshing floor in humility
- c) Faith is not passive; it often requires bold, thoughtful action aligned with God's will
- d) Naomi demonstrates spiritual awareness, recognizing God's timing and opportunity
- e) Believers should act with wisdom and appropriate sensitivity to circumstances

III) Humility, Risk, and Godly Character

- a) Ruth's nighttime journey involves risk, yet she proceeds in faith and obedience
- b) Her approach to Boaz is marked by humility, dignity, and respect
- c) Godly character avoids entitlement, harshness, or self-centered demands

Notes:

- d) Believers are called to act with grace, patience, and humility
- e) True effectiveness in God's service comes from aligning action with His leading

IV) A Bold Request for Redemption

- a) Ruth's act of lying at Boaz's feet symbolizes submission and trust
- b) Her request for Boaz to cover her represents a plea for protection and redemption
- c) The imagery reflects God's covering care over His people
- d) Believers, like Ruth, are invited to come boldly before God for grace and mercy
- e) There are no second-class citizens in God's kingdom—all share in His promises

V) Boaz's Character and Integrity

- a) Boaz responds with kindness, honor, and affirmation of Ruth's virtue
- b) He respects the law by acknowledging a closer redeemer before acting himself
- c) His integrity contrasts with selfishness and lawlessness in the world
- d) Boaz protects Ruth's reputation and physical safety
- e) His generosity demonstrates a heart aligned with God's provision and care

VI) Trust, Generosity, and Faithfulness

- a) Boaz's actions build trust through consistent godly behavior
- b) His generosity reflects God's abundant provision for His people
- c) Naomi recognizes Boaz's character and trusts him to fulfill his promise
- d) Believers are called to live in a way that earns trust and reflects Christ faithfulness in small and large actions reveals true spiritual maturity

VII) Lessons Learned

- a) Believers should respect laws and customs while maintaining a godly attitude
- b) God calls His people to protect, provide for, and support others in need
- c) Generosity should be practiced without limitation when led by God
- d) True rest is found through communion with God and His people
- e) A life of humility, faith, and obedience positions believers for God's blessing

Ruth Part 7 Outline

Notes:

I) The God Who Reaches

- a) God's compassion reaches into the darkest places to restore broken lives and relationships.
- b) From Moab to Bethlehem, the Lord's steadfast love draws Naomi and Ruth back into His covenant family.
- c) In Luke 15, Jesus reveals the heart of the Father who seeks the lost — leaving the ninety-nine coins or sheep to rescue the one.
- d) God's reach is limitless; He embraces all who repent and turn to Him — no life is beyond redemption.

II) Redeemer at the Gate

- a) The unnamed redeemer seeks gain without sacrifice, while Boaz models Christlike love by offering all of himself to gain Ruth and Naomi
- b) Redemption in Ruth 4 shows that the law alone cannot save — it requires a willing and loving redeemer.
- c) Boaz's commitment prefigures Christ's atonement: our Redeemer did not shrink back from the cross but gave Himself fully to secure our eternal inheritance.
- d) Through His sacrifice, He covers us, restores our inheritance, and makes us righteous before the Father.

III) Restoration and Blessing

- a) Through Boaz and Ruth, Naomi's loss is transformed into abundance and joy.
- b) God restores what sin and sorrow had destroyed—turning bitterness into blessing.
- c) The birth of Obed renews Naomi's hope and establishes a lineage leading to King David and ultimately to Christ, the Redeemer of the world.

Ruth Part 7 Outline

Notes:

- d) Ruth, once an outsider, is honored above “seven sons” and becomes part of God’s covenant story.
- e) This demonstrates God’s healing power—to lift the fallen, restore the broken, and bring eternal hope through His Son.

IV) Lessons Learned

- a) God reaches into our darkness to bring light, healing, and reconciliation.
- b) True redemption requires love that acts, not convenience that retreats.
- c) The Lord restores what is lost when we trust His redemptive plan.
- d) Like Ruth, cling to the Redeemer’s hand and follow Him into blessing and peace.
- e) In Christ, the story of despair becomes a testimony of joy and healing.