

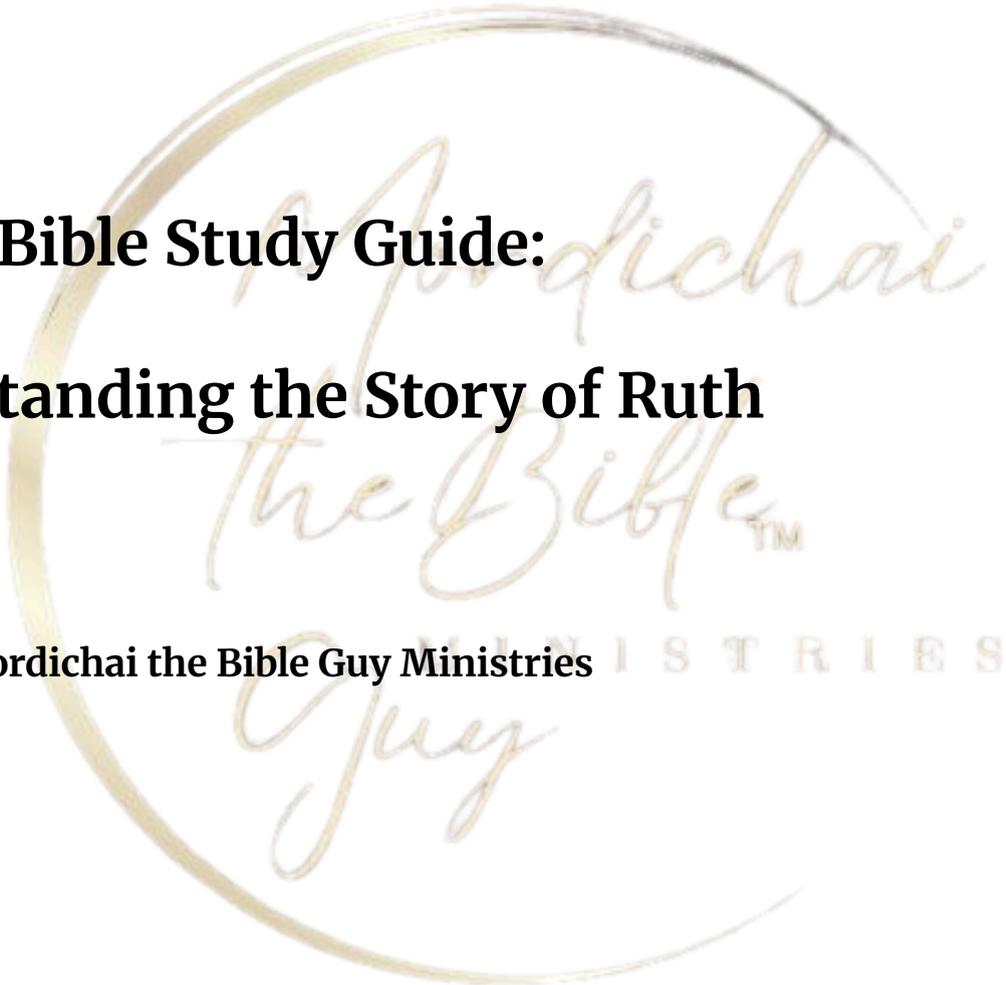
Mordichai the Bible Guy Ministries

**Bible Study  
Guide:**

**UNDERSTANDING**

**THE STORY OF**

**RUTH**

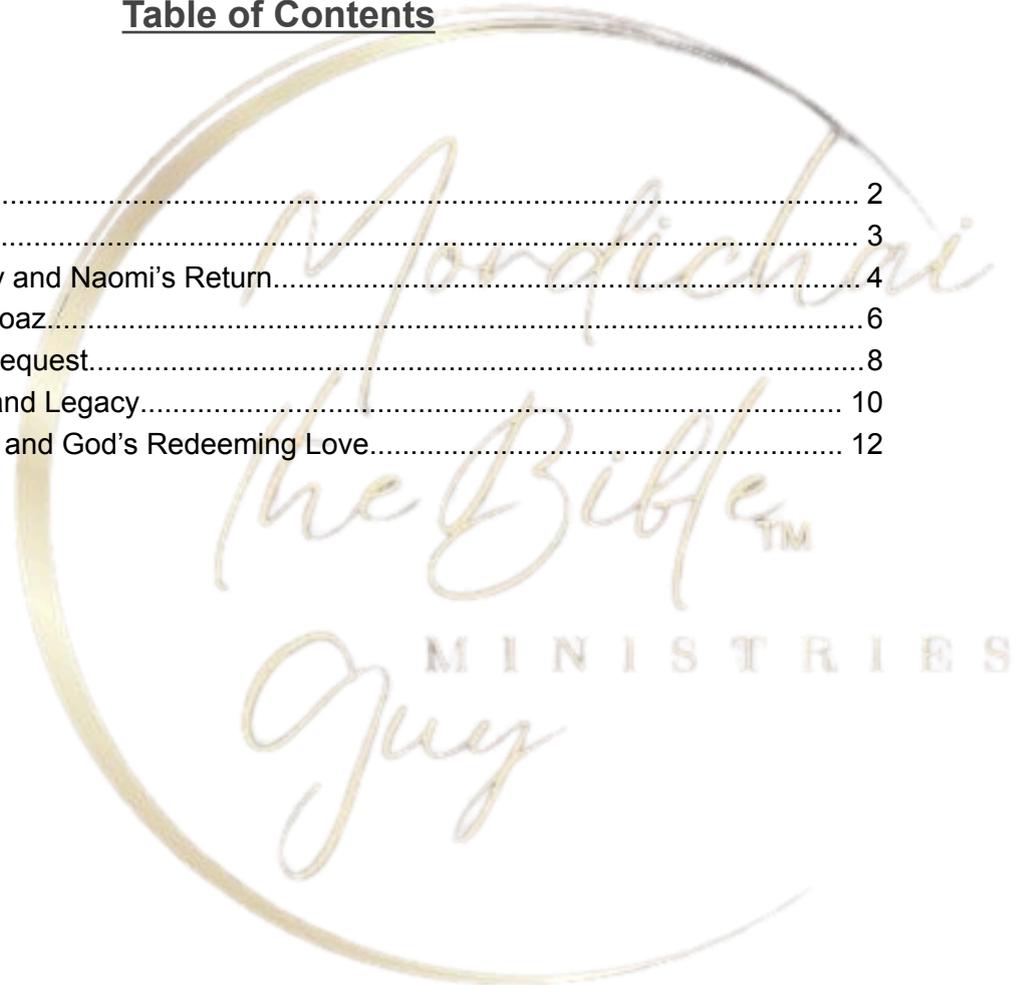


**Bible Study Guide:**  
**Understanding the Story of Ruth**

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## Introduction

The Book of Ruth tells of one of the most heartwarming and hope-filled stories in the Bible. Though it's only four chapters long, it is rich with lessons about loyalty, redemption, and God's providential care. Set in the turbulent days of the Judges, the story follows Ruth, a Moabite woman, who chooses to leave her homeland to stay loyal to her Israelite mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth's story is not just about personal devotion; it is a testimony to how God uses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. Through Ruth's faithfulness and Boaz's kindness, God orchestrates a lineage that leads directly to King David and ultimately to Jesus Christ.

In this guide, you will explore each chapter with tools to help you understand the context, meaning, and life applications. You'll also find cross-references and reflection questions designed to deepen your personal or group Bible study experience.

## Chapter 1: Ruth's Loyalty and Naomi's Return

**READ:** Ruth 1:1-22

### **Context:**

During the time of the Judges, a severe famine strikes Bethlehem. Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and their two sons move to Moab for survival. While there, Elimelech dies, and later, both sons also die, leaving Naomi and her two Moabite daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth, as widows. Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem after hearing that the famine has ended.

### **Explanation and Meaning:**

Naomi urges her daughters-in-law to stay in Moab and remarry, but Ruth refuses. She makes one of the most powerful statements of loyalty in Scripture, vowing to stay with Naomi and worship the God of Israel. This marks Ruth's spiritual turning point and sets the stage for the rest of the story.

### **Cross-References:**

- Matthew 22:37-39 — Love God and love your neighbor.
- Philippians 2:3-4 — Consider others above yourselves.
- 1 Corinthians 13:7 — Love always protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres.

### **Life Application:**

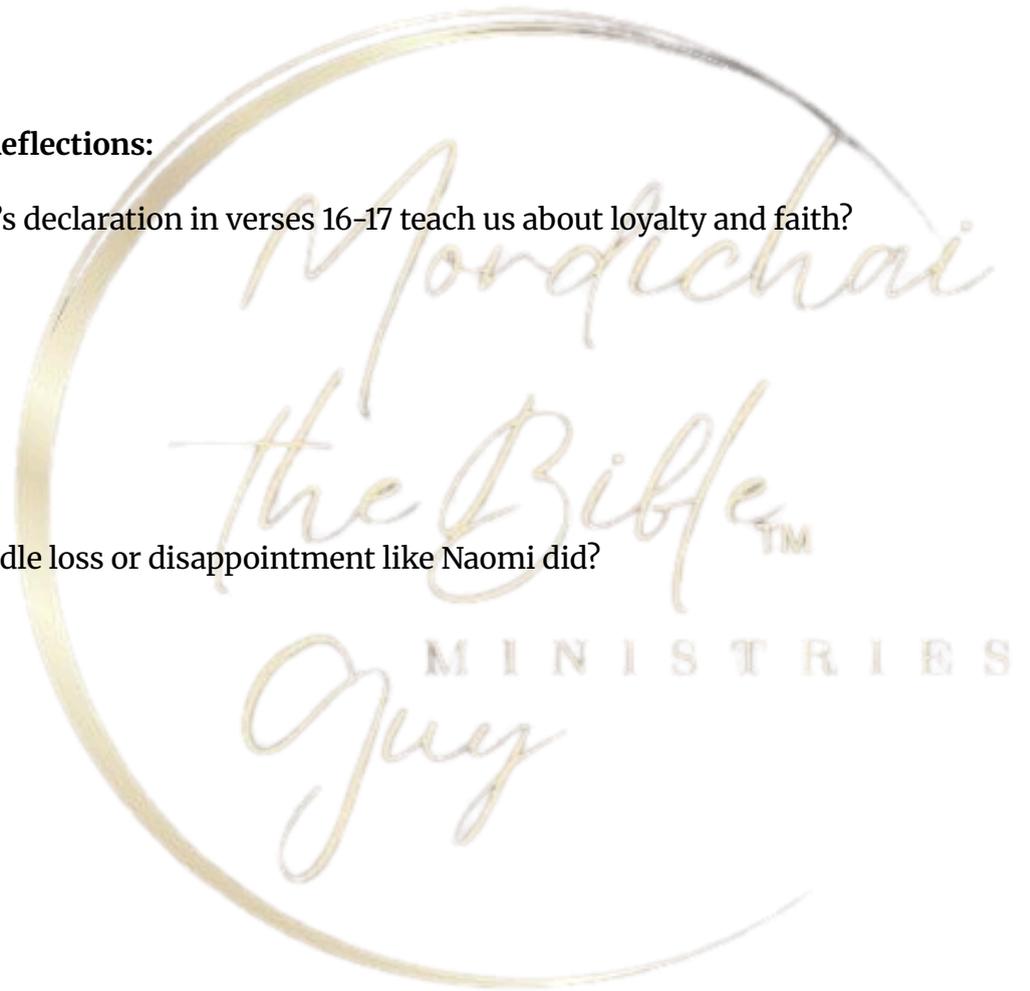
Ruth's commitment to Naomi shows us what true loyalty and faith look like. Sometimes faith means stepping into the unknown, trusting that God will provide.

**Study Questions and Reflections:**

1. What does Ruth's declaration in verses 16-17 teach us about loyalty and faith?

2. How do you handle loss or disappointment like Naomi did?

3. Who has God placed in your life to show this kind of love and loyalty toward?



## Chapter 2: Ruth Meets Boaz

**READ:** Ruth 2:1-23

### **Context:**

Back in Bethlehem, Ruth goes out to gather leftover grain in the fields to provide for herself and Naomi. She unknowingly enters the field of Boaz, a relative of Naomi's late husband.

### **Explanation and Meaning:**

Boaz notices Ruth and extends protection and kindness to her. He praises her for her loyalty to Naomi and offers her safety and provision. Ruth's humble response shows her gratitude and character.

### **Cross-References:**

- Leviticus 19:9-10 — God's provision for the poor through gleaning.
- Psalm 91:1-2 — God's protection over His people.
- Galatians 6:9 — Do not grow weary in doing good.

### **Life Application:**

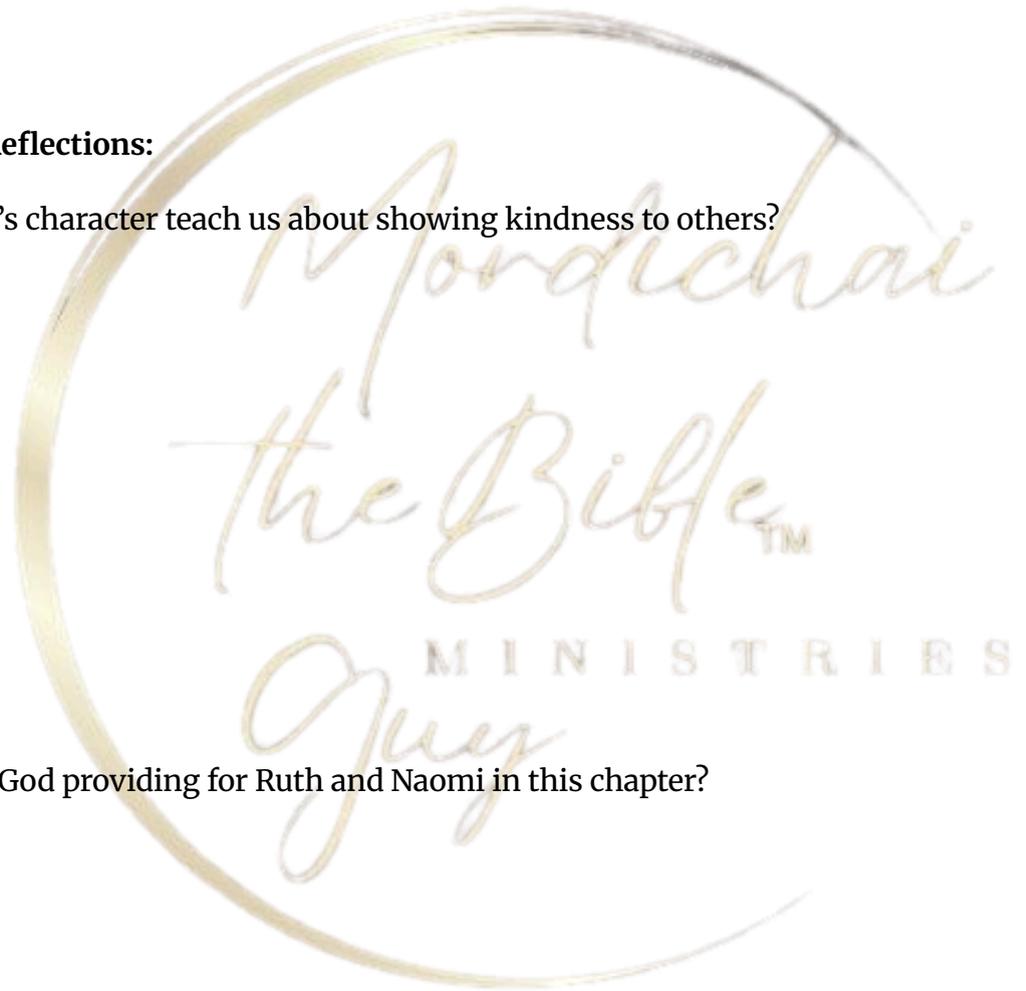
Boaz's kindness reflects God's heart for the vulnerable and marginalized. Ruth's hard work and humility remind us that God blesses faithfulness.

**Study Questions and Reflections:**

1. What does Boaz's character teach us about showing kindness to others?

2. How do you see God providing for Ruth and Naomi in this chapter?

3. How can you be someone's "Boaz" by extending kindness today?



## Chapter 3: Ruth's Bold Request

**READ:** Ruth 3:1-18

### **Context:**

Naomi instructs Ruth to approach Boaz at the threshing floor to request that he fulfill his role as their kinsman-redeemer. This practice allowed a close relative to marry a widow to preserve the family line.

### **Explanation and Meaning:**

Ruth follows Naomi's guidance, demonstrating courage and trust. Boaz responds with integrity, agreeing to settle the matter publicly and properly, showing his own commitment to righteousness.

### **Cross-References:**

- Deuteronomy 25:5-10 — The law of the kinsman-redeemer.
- Isaiah 43:1 — God is our Redeemer.
- Hebrews 4:16 — Approach God with confidence.

### **Life Application:**

Faith sometimes requires bold steps. Ruth models the courage to trust God's provision, and Boaz models integrity in honoring God's law.

**Study Questions and Reflections:**

1. What risks did Ruth take in approaching Boaz?

2. How does Boaz's response model godly character and integrity?

3. Is there an area in your life where God is calling you to take a step of faith?



## Chapter 4: Redemption and Legacy

**READ:** Ruth 4:1-22

### **Context:**

Boaz goes to the city gate to resolve the legal matter of redemption. After gaining the right to marry Ruth, they are married and have a son named Obed, who becomes the grandfather of King David.

### **Explanation and Meaning:**

God turns Naomi's and Ruth's sorrow into joy. Ruth, a foreigner, becomes part of the lineage of Israel's greatest king and ultimately of Jesus Christ. This highlights God's redemptive plan for all people.

### **Cross-References:**

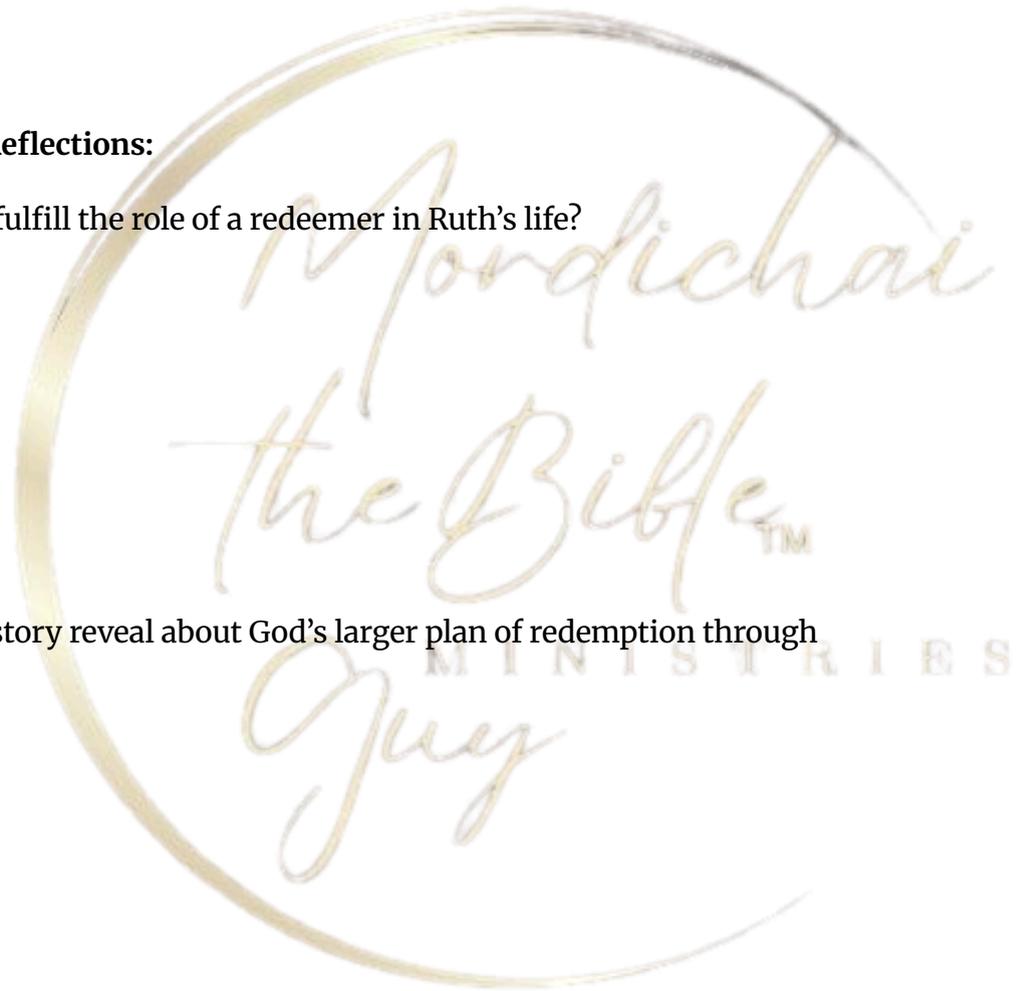
- Matthew 1:1-17 — Genealogy of Jesus.
- Romans 8:28 — God works all things for good.
- Revelation 5:9 — Jesus is our ultimate Redeemer.

### **Life Application:**

Your faithfulness today can have ripple effects for generations. God's redemption reaches far beyond what we can see.

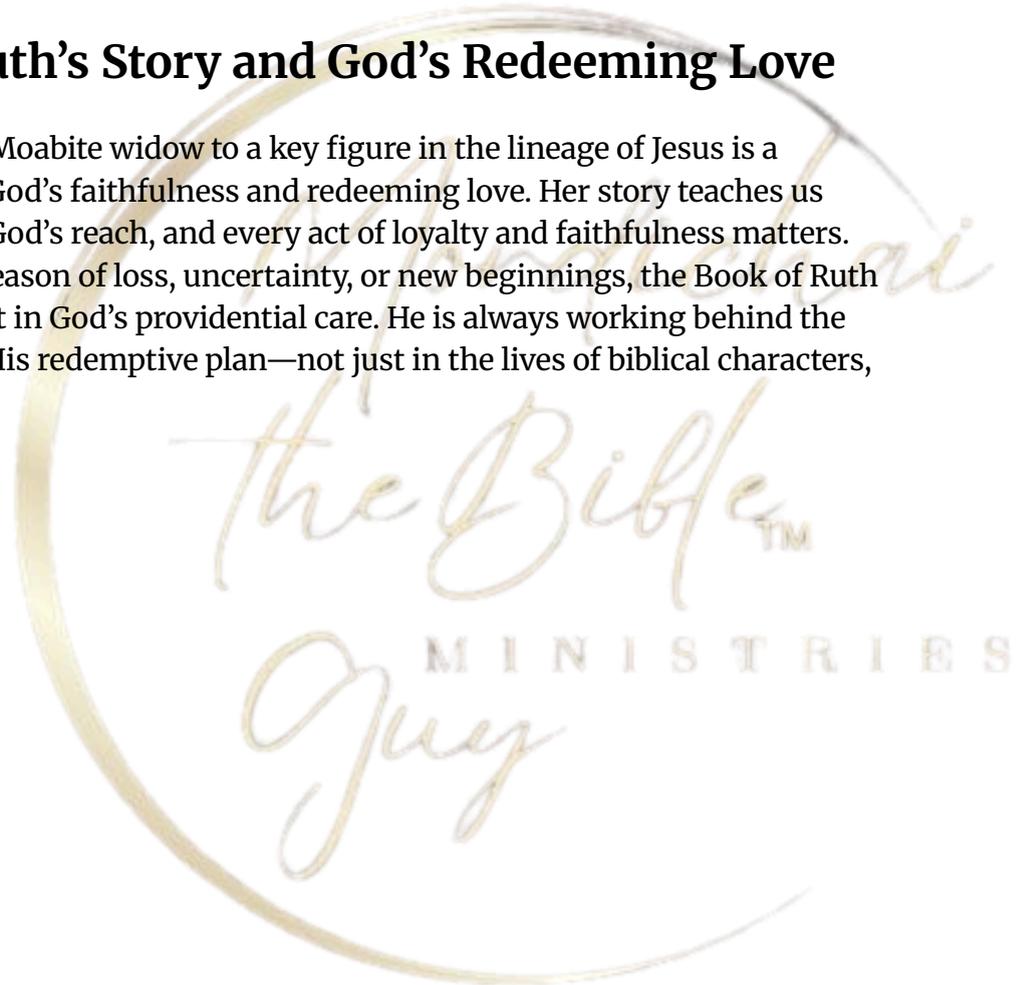
**Study Questions and Reflections:**

1. How does Boaz fulfill the role of a redeemer in Ruth's life?
2. What does this story reveal about God's larger plan of redemption through Jesus?
3. How can you trust God to use your story for His purposes?



## Conclusion: Ruth's Story and God's Redeeming Love

Ruth's journey from a Moabite widow to a key figure in the lineage of Jesus is a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness and redeeming love. Her story teaches us that no one is beyond God's reach, and every act of loyalty and faithfulness matters. Whether you are in a season of loss, uncertainty, or new beginnings, the Book of Ruth encourages you to trust in God's providential care. He is always working behind the scenes to bring about His redemptive plan—not just in the lives of biblical characters, but in your life as well.



NOTES

