

# re[new]

WEEK 3

This weekly devotional will shine a spotlight on biblical characters that teach us about renewal, discernment and moving forward. The highlights of their faithfulness, leadership and service illuminate us and make us better.

---

## SPOTLIGHT ON RUTH

Ruth means “friend,” and she lives out the meaning of this name throughout the book of Ruth. She is faithful, loyal, loving and steadfast. Ruth is also a foreigner - a Moabite - who moves with her mother-in-law Naomi to Bethlehem after their husbands die in famine in Moab.

### CENTER STAGE The Story of Ruth – Ruth 1-4

The main theme of Ruth is *hesed*, loyalty and faithfulness born of a sense of caring and commitment. *Hesed* is a Hebrew term used to describe God’s relationship to Israel, as well as the relationship among members of a family or a community. *Hesed* is usually translated as “steadfast love.” *Hesed* is a loving kindness that desires the very best for another. Ruth lives this out with grace and beauty.

How does Ruth become a part of the family of Elimelech? What does she carry with her and what becomes completely new? (Ruth 1:1-22)

**Gleaning for survival (Ruth 2:1-23).** What relationships are forming? What is left behind? What is collected? What is made new?

**Ruth and Boaz at the threshing floor (Ruth 3:1-18).** What promises are made?

**The marriage of Boaz and Ruth & the genealogy of David (Ruth 4:1-21).** What is left behind? What is made new? Why is the genealogy of David important?

How does the Lord re{new} Ruth and the people of Israel?

### IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

READ – MATTHEW 1:1-17 – THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS THE MESSIAH

Did you know that Ruth is one of five women mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus? The other women mentioned are Tamar, Rahab, the wife of Uriah (Bathsheba) and Mary. Why do you think that Ruth is included?

The Meaning of Names – In the Hebrew language, the meaning of names is very significant. Below are some key characters and places in the book of Ruth. How do these names help bring depth and meaning to the story?

Elimelech – “My God is kind”

Naomi – “Pleasantness” --- then she calls herself Mara which means “Bitter”

Moab – “From the father”

Mahlon (son of Elimelech and Naomi) – “Sickness”

Chilion – (son of Elimelech and Naomi) -- “Complete”

Orpha – “Fawn”

Ruth – “Friend”

Boaz – “In him is Strength”

Bethlehem – “House of Bread”

## WHERE IS GOD?

God is not mentioned in the entire book of Ruth, yet He is providentially everywhere. How do you see God moving and present in this story?



## SHINE THE LIGHT ON FAITH

As we consider this season’s focus on re[new] consider the following questions:

As you reflect on Ruth’s story, how did things start over for Ruth? What did she bring with her? What was completely new?

As you reflect on your own life, if you could start over again what would you want to bring with you? What would you want to be completely new?

How will you live differently this week because of your encounter with God’s Word?

## MORE INSIGHT TO ILLUMINATE YOUR PATH

Listen to this podcast from The Bible Project:  
Overview of Ruth  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0h1eoBeR4Jk>

NOTES:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---