

# XXXIX

## THE OLD TESTAMENT

### Leader Conversation Guide – Ruth

#### Main Idea

Life doesn't always go the way we hoped. Disappointment, loss, and unexpected detours can leave us feeling bitter, empty, or forgotten. Naomi's story in the book of Ruth begins in heartache—but it doesn't end there. Through her journey, we see that even in our darkest seasons, God is quietly at work, redeeming what's been broken.

God used Ruth's loyalty, Boaz's kindness, and the ordinary routines of daily life to restore hope to Naomi's heart. Her story reminds us that God's redemption often comes not in dramatic moments, but in faithful steps, divine timing, and His relentless love.

As we open this conversation, let's consider the places in our own lives where God might be working—perhaps quietly, but powerfully—to bring healing, hope, and purpose out of our pain. Wherever you are on the journey, God hasn't forgotten you. He's still writing your redemption story.

**"Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer."**

RUTH 4:14

#### Make It Practical

1. God is still present—even when life feels empty.

- Naomi felt abandoned and bitter, but God never left her.
- We often misinterpret God's silence as absence.
- His presence is constant, even when we don't feel it.
- Ruth 1:20–21 – “The Almighty has made my life very bitter... I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty.”

2. God works through everyday faithfulness.

- Ruth's decision to stay and serve was quiet but powerful.
- God's plan unfolds through small acts of obedience.
- Redemption often begins in the mundane.
- Ruth 2:2–3 – Ruth “went out to the field... it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz.”

3. God redeems what we thought was lost.

- Naomi's pain gave way to praise as God's plan unfolded.
- He brings beauty from brokenness in His perfect timing.
- Our story isn't over—God is still writing it.
- Ruth 4:14–15 – “Praise be to the Lord... He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age.”

## Talk About It

1. Naomi believed she had returned home empty, even though Ruth was with her. How can grief or heartache cause us to overlook the blessings that remain in our lives?

- Ruth 1:20–21 – “Don’t call me Naomi... The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.”

2. The sermon emphasized that “God uses the mundane rhythms of life to redeem our pain.” What are some ordinary or overlooked parts of your life right now that God might be working through to bring redemption or purpose?

- Ruth 2:2–3 – Ruth “went out to the field and began to glean behind the harvesters... As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz...”

3. Naomi’s journey moved from heartache to hope, redemption, and ultimately worship. Where would you place yourself on that path today, and what would it look like to fix your eyes on God in this season?

- Ruth 4:14–15 – “Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer... He will renew your life and sustain you...”

## God is working in your waiting, and redeeming what you thought was lost.

### Prayer

God, thank You for reminding us through Naomi’s story that You are always working—even in our pain, even in the waiting. Help us to trust You in the ordinary moments and believe that You are writing a story of redemption in our lives. Open our eyes to see Your hand at work, and give us faith to keep walking with hope. Use us to bring encouragement to others, just as You’ve encouraged us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

### Next Steps

1. Reflect on God’s faithfulness in your past.

Take time this week to write down 3–5 ways God has shown up for you—especially in difficult or uncertain seasons. Let this list serve as a reminder that He’s still working, even if you can’t see it yet.

2. Stay faithful in the ordinary.

Like Ruth gleaning in the fields, commit to showing up faithfully in the small, everyday responsibilities God has placed in your life. Trust that He can use your obedience—even in the mundane—for a greater purpose.

3. Encourage someone who feels overlooked or forgotten.

Reach out to a friend, family member, or group member who may be struggling. Offer a listening ear, a kind word, or a prayer. You never know how God might use your compassion to bring hope to someone else’s story.