

# Everyday FAITH Family Page

## Old Testament 3

### Law/Gospel

My sins, the sins of others, and the fallen creation cause me to lose hope; I come to think that even God is against me.

**Though I feel overwhelmed, God causes all things to work together for good for the sake of His Son, Jesus, who has already borne my greatest burden, sin, on the cross, forgiving me and enabling me to see His steadfast love.**

### Bible Words

The Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth He is called. Isaiah 54:5

### Fun Facts

Naomi's son Chilion married a Moabitess named Orpah. At Naomi's urging, Orpah returned to her family instead of traveling to Bethlehem.

The mother of an influential media mogul attempted to name her daughter "Orpah," but inadvertently inverted the second and third letters.

### Just Joking

*What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?*

Ruthless

## Ruth

### Book of Ruth

Famine chased Naomi, her husband, Elimelech, and sons Mahlon and Chilion from Bethlehem to Moab, a nearby nation. There, Mahlon married Ruth. After all the men died, Naomi and Ruth went to Bethlehem.

As poor widows, the Law gave the women the right to glean in the fields after harvest, picking up leftover food. Ruth gleaned in the fields of Boaz, a relative of Ruth's deceased husband.

The Law provided Levirate marriage to care for widows without children. This Law required the nearest male relative (kinsman) to marry a childless widow, even if he already had a wife, and provide for her as part of his family. In this way, the relative became the woman's redeemer.

Mahlon inherited family land in Bethlehem, but since death prevented him from possessing it, his closest male relative could redeem it. In Ruth's case, the wife and property were a package deal. If someone redeemed the land, he also took responsibility for Ruth.

Ruth asked Boaz to become her kinsman-redeemer and he obliged, but only after making sure a closer relative chose not to act. Their marriage resulted in a son named Obed, who became the grandfather of King David and ancestor of Jesus.

Christ, our kinsman, redeemed us from sin and death with His own blood. By His resurrection, Jesus gathers believers into His family and promises a new life and a forever home in heaven.

### Sing

The hymn "For All the Faithful Women" (LSB 855) includes a stanza thanking God for Ruth:

For Ruth, who left her homeland / And ventured forth in faith,  
Who pledged to serve and worship / Naomi's God till death,  
We praise You, God of Israel, / And pray for hearts set free  
To bind ourselves to others / In love and loyalty.

### Pray

*Lord Jesus, thank You for redeeming us and making us part of Your family. Draw us closer to You. In Your name we pray. Amen.*

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