

## Trusting the Author

Ruth 4:11 to 22 • Small Group Discussion Guide

**Big Idea:** Ruth and Naomi never saw chapter 4 from chapter 1. They simply trusted the Author. Faith does not require knowing the ending. It requires trusting the One writing the story, the same One who wrote ruin into redemption and Ruth into the lineage of Jesus.

**Big Question:** Have you ever looked back and realized God was doing something much bigger than you understood at the time?

**Key Texts:** Ruth 4:11 to 22; Matthew 1:5 to 6; Proverbs 3:5 to 6 (ESV)

### Sermon Notes

**1. Faith trusts God before you know the ending.** Naomi went away full and came back empty. Ruth refused to leave her, declaring “your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.” They could not see chapter 4 while living in chapter 1. They simply trusted.

**2. God is writing a bigger story than we realize.** The women of Bethlehem celebrated a grandson. God was preparing a king. The family saw a child named Obed. God saw a dynasty. Obed fathered Jesse. Jesse fathered David. Generations later, a child was born in Bethlehem named Jesus.

**3. Jesus is the Greater Redeemer.** Boaz redeemed one widow, one family, one inheritance. Jesus redeems every tribe and every nation. Boaz gave up wealth. Jesus gave up His life. From ruin to redemption, Jesus can redeem your life. He loves a good redemption story.

*“Faith does not require knowing the ending. Faith requires trusting the Author.”*

### Opening the Conversation

1. Have you ever looked back on your life and realized God was doing something much bigger than you understood at the time? Share an example with the group.
2. As we close out the Ruth series, what is one moment or truth from the book that has stuck with you?

### Digging Into the Text

Read Ruth 4:11 to 22 together as a group, then read Matthew 1:5 to 6 out loud. Notice the blessing, the birth of Obed, and Ruth’s name in the lineage of Jesus.

3. The women of Bethlehem pronounced a blessing over Boaz and Ruth, including comparisons to Rachel, Leah, and Tamar (another unlikely outsider in the line of promise). What does it tell you about God that He keeps weaving the unlikely into His biggest stories?
4. The preacher said, “The town sees Obed, God sees David. The family sees a child, God sees a dynasty.” Where in your life right now might God be doing something bigger than you can presently see?
5. Faith trusts God before you know the ending. What is one current situation where you need to take a step of faith without yet seeing how it will turn out?

### Jesus, the Greater Redeemer

6. “Boaz redeemed one widow. Jesus redeems every tribe and every nation. Boaz gave up wealth. Jesus gave up His life.” Which of those contrasts hits hardest for you in this season, and why?

### Bringing It Home

7. “Faith does not require knowing the ending. Faith requires trusting the Author.” What part of your life are you still trying to author yourself, instead of trusting Him with the pen?
8. Name one specific next step of faith you can take this week. Tell the group, and ask one person to check in with you about it.

### Closing Prayer

Father, thank You that ruin never gets the final word. Redemption does. Thank You for writing Ruth and Naomi into a story they could not see from where they were standing, and thank You that You are still writing ours. Grow great faith in us this week. Help us trust the Author when the next page is blank. In Jesus’ name, amen.

