

# THE STORY

THE BIBLE AS ONE CONTINUING STORY OF GOD AND HIS PEOPLE

## CHAPTER 9 – THE FAITH OF A FOREIGN WOMAN

### DISCUSSION OF GENERAL QUESTIONS

- ❶ What is God saying?
- ❷ For what does this section lead me to give thanks? (See God’s grace and promises!)
- ❸ What sins does this section lead me to confess? (See God’s expectations for his people)
- ❹ For what does this section lead me to pray? (As you ponder the Word, what needs of heart and life for yourself and others come to mind? Consider every word you read as an invitation to turn it into a prayer you speak back to your Lord!)

### DIGGING IN

- 1) Make a list of all of the things that had gone wrong for Naomi. Why would a gracious God allow such tragedy to come into the life of a believer? When difficult times comes what causes believer to continue to hope in God?
- 2) Read Ruth’s reply to Naomi on page 122. It begins, “Don’t urge me to leave you...” How can we explain Ruth’s commitment to her mother-in-law? These verses are sometimes chosen to be read at a wedding ceremony. While they are not really talking about marital love, what can we learn about love from Ruth?

**NOTE** on pages 124 and 125: A guardian-redeemer (or kinsman-redeemer) was a close family relative who had the right to redeem (buy back or regain) the land belonging to Elimelek (Naomi's dead husband whose sons died). In this case it required marrying the widow of Mahlon (Elimelek's dead son). Ruth's appeal to Boaz, "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a guardian-redeemer of our family," was a request for marriage based on Boaz's kinsman obligation.

- 3) Ruth had a God-given ability for demonstrating humility and boldness at the appropriate times. Under what circumstances should a Christian be meek and humble? Under what circumstances should a Christian be assertive and bold?
  
- 4) The word *redeem* is a key theme in the story of Ruth. What does it mean to be redeemed? Compare and contrast the Ruth's redemption by Boaz and our redemption found in Christ.
  
- 5) Ruth was a foreigner, yet God included her in the family-line of Jesus. What does Ruth's story reveal about how God views people of all nations? How will this affect our mission together as a church?

#### **FOR NEXT TIME**

Chapter 10: Standing Tall, Falling Hard  
Bible Reference: 1 Samuel 1-4; 8-13; 15