



**GENEROSITY Week 1 | November 2-3, 2013**  
**The Beauty and Blessing of Generosity | Ruth 4:13-17; Luke 1:26-38**

For the next three weeks we will be discussing generosity. This week, we'll study two women who accepted the challenge of living in a radically generous way with no specific promise of reward.

### Ruth

As time allows, review the short book of Ruth or the attached summary.

[Q] What needs did Naomi have?

[Q] Ruth was just as poor and desolate as Naomi when they returned to Israel. What did Ruth have to give Naomi?

The generosity of Ruth included moving to a foreign country and caring for a cranky, depressed mother-in-law by going to the fields every day and scavenging for grain that had fallen off the harvest wagon.

[Q] In what ways were both Ruth and Naomi blessed? (See Ruth 4:13-17.)

### Make It Personal:

[Q] Is there someone in your life who needs the gift of time or loyalty? What step can you take to be like Ruth?

### Mary | Read Luke 1:26-38.

[Q] From this passage, why do you think God chose Mary to give birth to His Son?

[Q] What did Mary risk in giving her life to God's purpose?

### Extra: Read Mary's song in Luke 1:46-55.

List the attributes of God celebrated by Mary.

[Q] Which do you appreciate the most and why?

[Q] How was Mary blessed in her generous choice?

[Q] True generosity ultimately comes from a strong trust in God. How did Ruth and Mary demonstrate this principle?

**Make It Personal:**

God has entrusted you with everything you have.

1. Your time—Psalm 90:12 tells us that Your time isn't actually yours but is entrusted to you.
2. Your spouse—Proverbs 19:14 reminds us that your spouse comes from the Lord.
3. Your children—Psalm 127:3 says your children are heritage from the Lord and therefore His gift.
4. Your property—Luke 16:12 says that you are to be trustworthy with the property given to you.
5. Your spiritual gifts—Romans 12:6 indicates that you receive spiritual gifts by God's grace.
6. God's truth—1 Corinthians 4:1 calls you a servant who has been entrusted with truth, the "secret things of God."
7. Your body—1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says even your own body doesn't belong to you; you were bought at a price.

[Q] As you consider living generously, which items in the above list are more difficult to trust God with and why? Which are easier and why?

[Q] What do you think of our **Sharing Grace and Mercy** goal? Do you think it is possible?

*"Every person living in Hartford and Litchfield counties will be reached relationally with the grace and mercy of God."*

[Q] What is your part in the coming weeks?

**Pray**

---



---



---



---



---



---



---

## Ruth Bible Story Summary

[The book of Ruth](#) contains an interesting story about a Moabite woman who was redeemed into a Hebrew family.

### A Dreadful Time in a Strange Country

Because of a famine in Israel, a Hebrew family moved to Moab. This was a country not far from Israel on the east side of the Dead Sea. The family was from the city of Bethlehem-judah in Israel. Elimelech and his wife Naomi had two sons, Mahlon and Chilion. Each of them married a wife from Moab. In time Elimelech and his two sons died which left the three widows in Moab.

### A new beginning

After her husband's death, Naomi planned to return to Bethlehem-judah to be with family. She prepared to leave her two daughters-in-law. However, they begged to be able to go with her. She said that she had no more children and even if she were to marry again and bear sons that the two daughters would not be able to wait for them to grow up. She planned to return to Israel alone and empty.

### True love and selfless giving

One of the daughters-in-law, Orpah, returned to her people in Moab. The other daughter-in-law, Ruth, said that she would stay with Naomi. It was during this conversation that Ruth said these words which have become the basis for many Christian wedding vows:

<sup>16</sup>... *"Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.*

<sup>17</sup> *Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me."*

Ruth 1:16-17 (NIV)

Ruth and Naomi returned to Bethlehem-judah together. Naomi was financially and emotionally despondent, but her family and friends accepted her with joy.

As they had no money and no men to take care of them, Ruth went into the fields to gather whatever grain she could. One land owner, Boaz, noticed Ruth and asked his workers to be kind to her and leave plenty of grain for her and her mother-in-law. He did not know at the time who Ruth was, but out of kindness he chose to care for the new stranger in their land.

Ruth returned to Naomi and told her about the generous landowner. Naomi asked about the man and was pleased to learn that it was Boaz. Boaz was a near family member of Elimelech, her late husband. This meant that Boaz had the opportunity to take Naomi and Ruth into his care as well as free them from their financial debt.

### A husband for Ruth

Naomi instructed Ruth on how to ask for Boaz's help in the matter. She approached Boaz and asked him to become the kinsman-redeemer for them. Before Boaz could accept the care of these two ladies he had to negotiate with another kinsman for the privilege. This other man was closer to Elimelech and therefore had the responsibility to care for the ladies. This man chose not to exercise his duty for their care which left Boaz with the opportunity to buy them out of their debt and take Ruth as his wife.

Boaz and Ruth were married and became the great-grandparents of King David.

### A Redeemer for all

Like Ruth and Naomi, humanity has become enslaved to sin. Jesus Christ had the right to redeem us to himself by paying our sin debt and accepting us into his family. Jesus paid the debt on the cross and has offered to redeem us through His blood.

Adapted from [whatchristianswanttoknow.com/ruth-bible-story-summary/#ixzz2j7mUi8PI](http://whatchristianswanttoknow.com/ruth-bible-story-summary/#ixzz2j7mUi8PI) by David Peach.