



# THE STORY *continues...*

*Join us each week as God weaves His Story into the fabric of our daily lives.*

Chapter 9: The Faith of a Foreign Woman

## **L**isten to *The Story*

*Read **Chapter 9** of *The Story* this week.*

***Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God,*** is one of the most famous quotes from the book of Ruth. Today you heard it in scripture and in Ruth's Song. Naomi's God and her faithfulness to Him won over her foreign daughter-in-law from her foreign gods to the one true God. There is no greater connection and influence than one's family.

## **L**earn *The Story*

*Look for ways in which God's story and your story connect this week.*

Your family has been on a journey. It might not have many distance miles within that journey ... but it has endurance miles. Draw out a family map.

- Where were you first living when this family became one?
- Where all has your journey taken you?
- Have there been any foreign lands within yours?
- What did those foreign lands look like?
- What did you need to give up in order to make this new place "home?" Who is the Naomi in your family? (the faithful one, who welcomes and encourages the foreigners).
- Who is the Ruth? (the courageous one, who leaves everything & everyone behind and who isn't afraid to speak her mind).
- Who is the Boaz? (the kind one, who generously gives as needs are identified, without drawing attention to themselves).

## **L**ove *The Story*

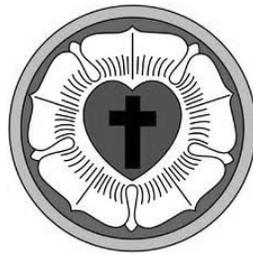
*Intentionally take a step forward in faith.*

Get out of your comfort zone. Go eat at a restaurant with a foreign cuisine to you.

## Luther's Explanation

The Book of Ruth relates a beautiful story in the history of King David's family, showing how God guides history for the sake of his people. God works through suffering and redemption to preserve his people and to welcome all the nations of the earth. True, God chose Abraham and Sarah to be the parents of the nation of Israel, but God also said this to them: "...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:3) We see this in Ruth.

Martin Luther writes, "God adds companions in blessing, just as Ruth, who was a daughter of Lot, says to her mother-in-law (Ruth 1:16): 'Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.' That is: 'Even though I am not of your people, your God will not cast me aside. He will take care of me and will grant that I shall not live as a widow.'" (*Luther's Works*, vol. 2, p. 276) God's embrace is wide, indeed! As you read Ruth, consider how the LORD calls you to show love and faithfulness to *all* people.



## PROMISE

This week, cling to God's promise for you:  
"I have chosen you for a journey—trust in my plan."

## The EXTRA Mile



Watch the *retro* (circa "The 10 Commandments") video "[Ruth](#)" from Concordia Films.