**Strength for Tough Times Series**

**“The Story of Ruth”**

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**God’s Big Story Includes You and Me**

**Our lives have meaning and begin to make sense when we realize our part in God’s Story.**

**Once upon a time, in the little town of Bethlehem, Boaz and Ruth had a baby named Obed. Obeds’ grandmothers name was Naomi and Obeds’great great great… grandsons name was Jesus.**

**Getting into God’s Story**

1. **Naomi got into the story by complaining**

Ruth 1:20-21 20“Don’t call me Naomi,” she responded. “Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. 21I went away full, but the Lord has brought me home empty. Why call me Naomi when the Lord has caused me to suffer and the Almighty has sent such tragedy upon me?”

Ruth 3:17 Ruth told Naomi everything Boaz had done for her, 17and she added, “He gave me these six scoops of barley and said, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’”

Ruth 4: 17 The neighbor women said, “”Now at last Naomi has a son again!”

* **Come empty and let God fill your life.**
1. **Ruth got into the Story by asking for what she wanted.**

Ruth 3:4 4Be sure to notice where he lies down; then go and uncover his feet and lie down there. He will tell you what to do.”

Ruth 3:8-9 8Around midnight Boaz suddenly woke up and turned over. He was surprised to find a woman lying at his feet! 9“Who are you?” he asked. “I am your servant Ruth,” she replied. “Spread the corner of your covering over me, for you are my family redeemer.”

Ruth 2:12 12May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done.”

* **Step out boldly – speak your own story lines**
1. **Boaz got into the Story by using his strength to help others.**

**Ruth 2:1  Now there was a wealthy and influential man in Bethlehem named Boaz, who was a relative of Naomi’s husband, Elimelech.**

**Ruth 2:13 13“I hope I continue to please you, sir,” she replied. “You have comforted me by speaking so kindly to me, even though I am not one of your workers.”**

**Ruth 4:10 “And with the land I have acquired Ruth, the Moabite widow of Mahlon, to be my wife. This way she can have a son to carry on the family name of her dead husband and to inherit the family poroperty here in his hometown. You are all witnesses here today.”**

* **My strength comes with responsibility.**
* **Your life matters. It is part of God’s grand redemption story**

**God’s Geneology**

Ruth 4:18-22

18This is the genealogical record of their ancestor Perez:

Perez was the father of Hezron.
19Hezron was the father of Ram.
Ram was the father of Amminadab.
20Amminadab was the father of Nahshon.
Nahshon was the father of Salmon.[[h](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ruth%201-4&version=NLT#fen-NLT-7187h)]
21Salmon was the father of Boaz.
Boaz was the father of Obed.
22Obed was the father of Jesse.
Jesse was the father of David.

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