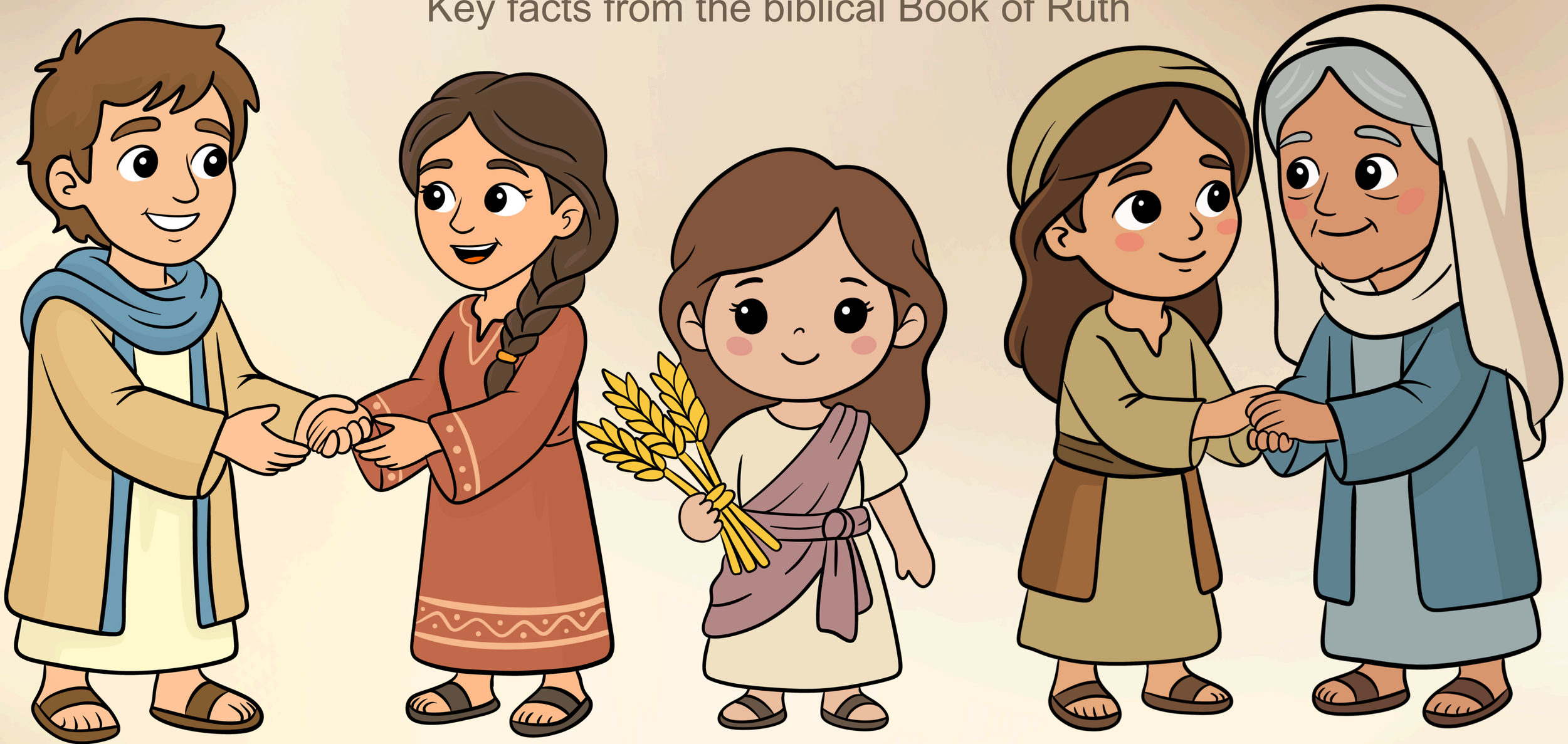
The Story of Ruth

Key facts from the biblical Book of Ruth



Key Facts About Ruth

Moabite Outsider: Ruth was from Moab, a traditional enemy nation of Israel, making her an unlikely heroine in Bethlehem.



Famous Vow of Loyalty: She refused to abandon her mother-in-law Naomi, proclaiming, 'Where you go I will go... your people will be my people.'



Gleaning for Survival: She supported them by gathering leftover grain in barley fields, a provision allowed for poor foreigners under Torah law.



The Threshing Floor Proposal: Following Naomi's guidance, she approached Boaz at night, asking him to spread his cloak over her as a kinsman-redeemer.



Ancestress of David & Jesus: Her marriage to Boaz produced Obed, the grandfather of King David, placing this outsider directly in the lineage of Jesus Christ.



The Cultural Custom of the Kinsman-Redeemer

Understanding Goel and Levirate Marriage in the Book of Ruth







The Concept of the Goel (Hebrew: גּוֹאֵל)

- **Definition:** A kinsman-redeemer is a close male relative charged with defending the economic interests and family line of vulnerable kin.
- **Scriptural Basis:** Foundational laws are laid out in Leviticus 25 and Deuteronomy 25.
- **Primary Duty:** Buying back ancestral land sold by a family member during times of severe poverty.
- **Family Protection:** Redeeming family members who had sold themselves into slavery to pay off debts.



The Intersection with Levirate Marriage

- **The Custom:** If a married man died childless, his brother or closest kinsman was obligated to marry the widow.
- **The Purpose:** To carry on the deceased man's name so his lineage would not vanish from Israel.
- **Property Inheritance:** The firstborn son of the new marriage legally inherited the deceased husband's estate.
- **Ruth's Unique Case:** Ruth was a foreigner and Naomi's daughter-in-law, requiring Boaz to merge the land redemption with marrying Ruth.



The Legal Ceremony at the City Gate

- **The Council:** Boaz gathered ten elders of Bethlehem at the city gate to formalize the transaction legally.
- **The Closer Kinsman:** An unnamed closer relative initially agreed to buy Naomi's land but backed out upon learning he must also marry Ruth.
- **The Sandal Ritual:** To seal the transfer of rights, the closer kinsman drew off his sandal and handed it to Boaz.
- **Public Witness:** The elders and townsfolk witnessed the exchange, legally validating Boaz as the rightful redeemer.



The Legacy of Ruth

Faithfulness, Redemption, and Royal Lineage





Unwavering Loyalty & Covenant

The Radical Vow: Ruth abandoned her homeland and gods to care for her mother-in-law, Naomi, declaring: 'Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.'

Hesed in Action: Her legacy embodies 'hesed'—a Hebrew term for sacrificial, loving kindness that goes far beyond standard obligation or legal requirements.

A Model of Devotion: She acts as a model of enduring commitment, standing by her family even during moments of absolute destitution and grief.



Redemption from Marginalization

Overcoming Vulnerability: As an impoverished Moabite widow, Ruth faced extreme social and ethnic vulnerabilities in ancient Israelite society.

Dignity Through Labor: Instead of despairing, she claimed the right to glean in the fields, protecting Naomi and showcasing immense courage and work ethic.

Reversing Tragedy: Her story illustrates how integrity, faith, and communal support can entirely transform individual structural despair into a narrative of restoration.



The Royal & Messianic Lineage

The Birth of Obed: Through her marriage to Boaz, Ruth gave birth to Obed, who became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of King David.

A Bridge to Destiny: Ruth's narrative intentionally lifts a localized family tragedy into national prominence, laying the genealogical foundation for Israel's monarchy.

The Lineage of Jesus: As one of only a few women explicitly recorded in the Gospel of Matthew's genealogy, her name remains permanently woven into messianic history.



A Legacy of Inclusion & Grace

Breaking Boundaries: As a Moabite woman, Ruth's incorporation into Israel proves that faith and moral character transcend ethnic borders.
Universality of Grace: Her story reveals that God's grand plan utilizes individuals from outside conventional chosen boundaries to fulfill redemption.
An Enduring Witness: Ruth leaves an enduring testament that true character is measured by actions of faith and love, rather than lineage or social status.



Key Points to Remember

The Legacy Ruth Left

She chose to honor her mother-in-law & God honored her!



Key Points to Remember

The Legacy Ruth Left

She honored Naomi’s God and He blessed her with Boaz





Your King is Coming!

Let’s Honor Him Today!

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Garden of Eden Ministries



Love you!

Dr. June Knight-Wehr

