



Women of the Bible in Stained Glass: Ruth and Naomi

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses: women and men who have walked in faith, endured in hope, and loved with courage. As we gather to reflect on the life of your daughters Ruth and Naomi, open our hearts to hear their story. May their strength and struggles illuminate our own paths. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lectio (Scripture Reading) – *Read the following passages aloud:*

- **Ruth 1:1-12 - Ruth's Loyalty and Naomi's Grief**
- **Ruth 1:13-22 – Ruth's Covenant of Faithfulness**
- **Ruth 2:1-12 – Providence and Provision in the Fields**
- **Ruth 4-9-22 – Redemption and New Beginnings**

Activity (Optional): Watch this short, thought-provoking animated recap of the Book of Ruth:

<https://youtu.be/0h1eoBeR4Jk?si=w-cFxJVnupM0li5w>

Visio (Seeing) and Oratorio (Praying) - Gaze at the stained-glass window in silence for 2-3 minutes.

Notice:

- What details stand out to you?
- Where is your eye drawn first?
- What emotions or questions arise?

Ask:

- What do you want to say to God after hearing this story and seeing this image?
- What might God be saying to you through the story of Naomi and Ruth?

Discussion Questions

- In what ways does the story of Ruth and Naomi story confront cultural expectations of women, foreigners, and widows in their time?
- How does Ruth's courage reflect the kind of faith that moves beyond tradition and into transformation? Compare Ruth's response to Abraham's in Genesis 12:1.
- What does Ruth's inclusion teach us about who belongs in God's story?
- How might our communities reflect Boaz's posture of welcome and protection? What does God ask of us? See Exodus 22:21, Deuteronomy 24:19-22, and Matthew 25:35.

Comments / Study Notes

- **Counter-Cultural Courage:** Ruth and Naomi make bold choices despite having little social or economic power. Ruth's vow to Naomi defies cultural expectations and demonstrates love and faithfulness that transcends cultural expectations.
- **Feast and Famine:** notice how famine and provision, grain and harvest are used as rich symbols of exile and restoration—echoing Israel's journey and foreshadowing the redemptive work of Jesus.
- **God welcomes the outsider:** Ruth's inclusion in Israel's story affirms that faith—not background—is what brings us into God's family. Compare to Galatians 3:28.
- **For more insights on Ruth and Naomi:** [Ruth: Bible | Jewish Women's Archive](#), [Naomi: Bible | Jewish Women's Archive](#)

Closing Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God,
we praise and glorify your holy Name
for all your faithful servants,
who have shone with the light of your truth,
nurtured life with courage and compassion,
and borne witness to your love.

Grant that we, inspired by their stories,
may run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

