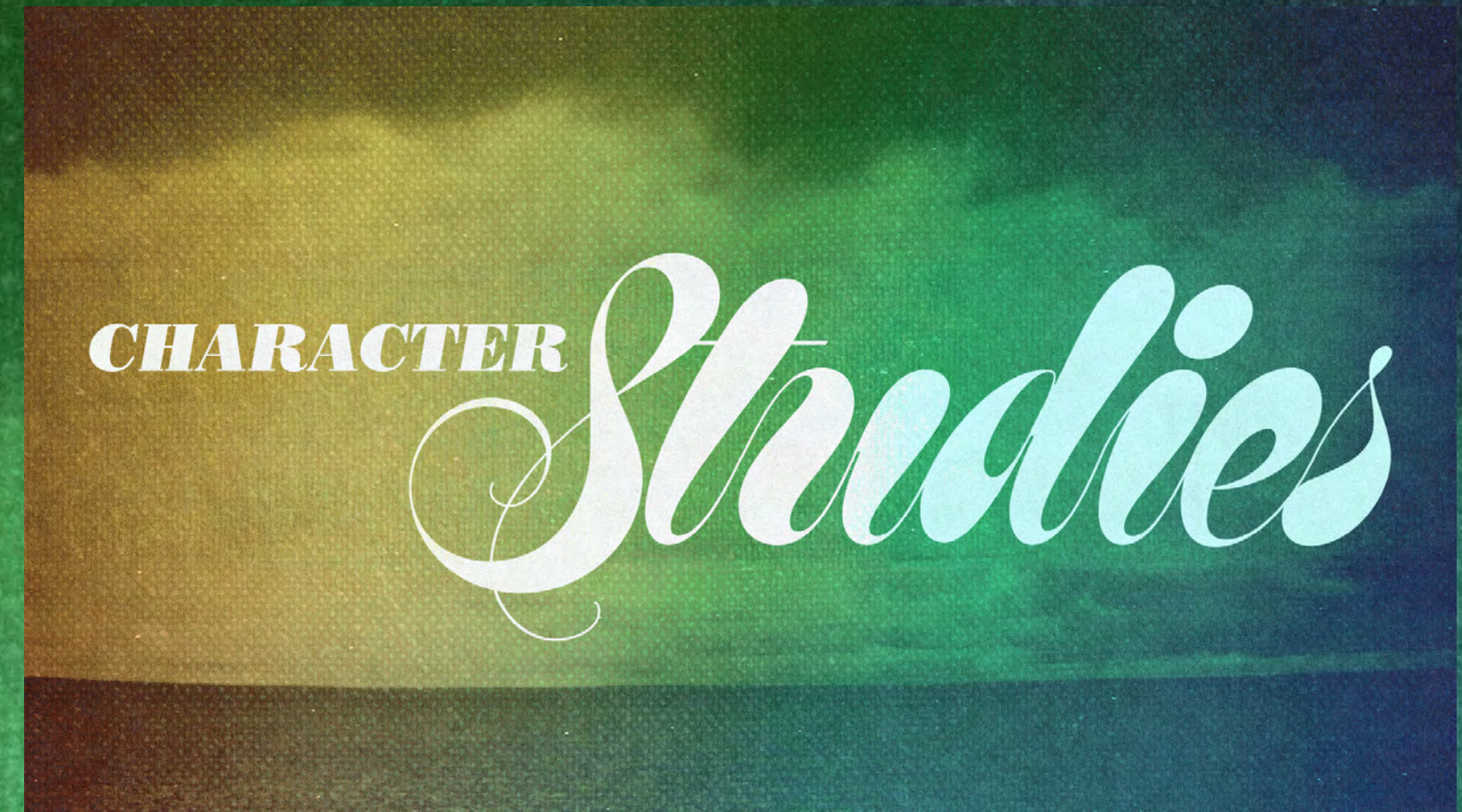




Character Studies

Week 3

Ruth

Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp — Reston Bible Church — Sunday, July 26, 2026

In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there.

But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They **lived there about ten years**, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Ruth 1:1-5 ESV



The Place Of Women In The Ancient World

...Naomi heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them...

Ruth 1:6 NIV

Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law,
“**Go back**, each of you, to your mother’s
home. May the Lord show you kindness, as
you have shown kindness to your dead
husbands and to me. May the Lord grant that
each of you will find rest in the **home of
another husband.**”

Ruth 1:8-9 NIV

Ruth Remains Loyal

But Ruth replied, “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.** Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”

Ruth 1:16-17 NIV

Boaz – Wealthy landowner. Part of larger clan of Elimelech.

**A Worthy Man – Of worth or excellence.
Character, wealth, position or strength.**

Ruth's Loyalty Leads To Initiative

And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the field and **glean** among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor.” And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.” So she set out and went and **gleaned** in the field after the reapers, and **she happened** to come to the part of the field belonging to **Boaz**, who was of the clan of Elimelech.

Ruth 2:2-3 ESV

Gleaning – Lev 19, 23; Deut 24. Not to edges of field, leave what falls, produce that is missed.

The Character Of Boaz

Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but **keep close** to my young women. Let your eyes be on the field that they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men **not to touch you?**”

Ruth 2:8-9 ESV

So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked and said, “The man’s name with whom I worked today is Boaz.” And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May he be blessed by the Lord, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!” Naomi also said to her, “The man is a close relative of ours, **one of our redeemers.**”

Ruth 2:19-20 ESV

Kinsman-redeemer - a male relative who had the privilege or responsibility to act on behalf of a relative who was in trouble, danger, or need.

Naomi's Troubling Advice

Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you? Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the **threshing floor**. Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the **threshing floor**, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

Naomi's Troubling Advice

But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and **uncover his feet** and lie down, and he will tell you what to do.” And she replied, “All that you say I will do.”

Ruth 3:1-5 ESV

At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth, your servant. **Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer.**"

And he said, “May you be blessed by the Lord, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman.”

Ruth 3:8-11 ESV

Spread Your Wings Over Your Servant

Then the redeemer said, “I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it.”

Ruth 4:6 ESV

Boaz's Loyalty Leads To Initiative

Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, “You are witnesses this day that I have bought from the hand of Naomi **all that belonged** to Elimelech and **all that belonged** to Chilion and to Mahlon. Also Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, I have bought **to be my wife**, to perpetuate the name of the dead in his inheritance...”

Ruth 4:9-10 ESV

So Boaz took Ruth, and **she became his wife.**
And he went in to her, and the Lord gave her
conception, and **she bore a son.**

Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you **a restorer of life and a nourisher** of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.”

Ruth 4:13-15 ESV

Loyalty Leads To Initiative

Loyal In Relationships

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And **above all these put on love**, which binds everything together in **perfect harmony**.

Colossians 3:12-14 ESV

Going “no contact”

Boomers: 20%

Gen X: 38%

Millennials: 50%

Gen Z: 60%

Loyalty In The Workplace

Whatever you do, work **heartily**, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your **reward**. You are **serving the Lord Christ**.

Colossians 3:23-24 ESV

Loyalty To Your Church Community