



The Harness Devotional

June 22 - June 27

Verses: Ruth 1:16–17, 20–22; 4:11, 14–15

Ruth 1:16-18 - 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 anything but death separates you and me." (NIV)

Ruth 1:20-22 - "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me." So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning. (NIV)

Ruth 4:11-12 - Then the elders and all those at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. Through the offspring the Lord gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah." (NIV)

Ruth 4:14-15 - The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth." (NIV)

Worship Song for the Week

["The Blessing" by Kari Jobe & Cody Carnes](#)

This song echoes the communal blessing over Ruth and Naomi, reminding us that God's favor is for our children and us for a thousand generations.

Monday - Day 1: The Covenant of "Where You Go"

Focus: "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.'" (Ruth 1:16) Ruth's faith began with a radical commitment to a person and a God she had only seen through the lens of a grieving family. True faith is often expressed in our loyalty to others during their darkest hours.

Opening Prayer: Lord, give me a "Ruth-like" heart. Help me to be a person of my word and to stay committed to the people and the path You have called me to, even when the future looks uncertain.

Reflection: Is there someone in my life who is "grieving" or "empty" right now? How can I show them God's loyal love through my presence today?

Tuesday - Day 2: The Radical Surrender

Focus: "...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 1:17) Ruth wasn't just moving; she was dying to her old identity, her old gods, and her old comforts. She went "all in" with the God of Israel before she ever saw a single blessing.

Opening Prayer: Father, I surrender my "old country"—my old habits and false securities. I choose to be "buried" to my old self so that I can live fully for You.

Reflection: What part of my "old identity" am I still clinging to that might be preventing me from fully entering the "new land" God has for me?

Wednesday - Day 3: Honesty in the "Bitter" Seasons

Focus: "'Don't call me Naomi,' she told them.' Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty.'" (Ruth 1:20-21) Naomi was honest about her pain. Faith doesn't mean we have to pretend we aren't hurting. God can handle our "bitterness" as long as we bring it back to Him (the "Almighty") rather than running away from Him.

Opening Prayer: Lord, I bring my "Mara" moments to You. Thank You that You are big enough to handle my honesty and that You are the only One who can turn my bitterness into sweetness.

Reflection: Am I trying to "fake" happiness with God, or can I be honest with Him about the areas where I feel "empty" or "bitter" right now?

Thursday - Day 4: The Silent Hand of Providence

Focus: "So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite... arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning." (Ruth 1:22) They arrived at the exact time the harvest began. While Naomi felt "empty," God was already preparing the "fullness" of the field. God's timing is never late, even when we feel we've lost everything.

Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for Your perfect timing. Even when I feel empty, help me to trust that the "harvest" is just beginning in the hidden places of my life.

Reflection: Can I look at my "coincidences" this week and see them as God's "providence" (His hand providing for me)?

Friday - Day 5: Built for a Greater Purpose

Focus: "Then the elders... said, 'May the Lord make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel.'" (Ruth 4:11) The community recognized that Ruth's loyalty wasn't just a nice story—it was "building" something eternal. She was an outsider who became a pillar.

Opening Prayer: Lord, use my life to build Your kingdom. May my daily acts

of faithfulness contribute to a legacy that lasts far beyond my own lifetime.

Reflection: How am I "building" the lives of those around me today? Am I building with materials of love and loyalty, or with selfishness?

Saturday - Day 6: The God of Restoration

Focus: "The women said to Naomi: 'Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer... He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age.'" (Ruth 4:14-15) The story ends not with Ruth's wedding, but with Naomi's restoration. God used Ruth to "fill" Naomi's emptiness. Our faithfulness to God always results in a "Redeemer" (Jesus) who renews our lives.

Opening Prayer: Lord Jesus, You are my Guardian-Redeemer. Thank You for not leaving me "without a witness" and for being the One who sustains me in every season of life.

Reflection: Looking back at the "empty" start of this story, how has God shown Himself to be my "Restorer" and "Sustainer" this week?