

# **Lutheran Foundations: A Confirmation Curriculum<sup>©</sup>**

## **It Starts Here! Stories of the Old Testament**

### **The Tomorrow River Lutheran Parish**

#### **Year 1, Lesson 17: Ruth**

The Book of Ruth is set “in the days when the Judges ruled”. It is one of the shortest books in the Bible, but it contains one of the longest stories: four chapters are given over to Ruth’s life story. And obviously, this is a story about the life of a woman – and not just a woman, but a Moabite woman! This story carves out an exception to the prohibition against marrying outside of Israel. Kindness, loyalty and love are presented as being more important than any bloodline! Ruth is also important for her descendants; Ruth is the great grandmother of King David and a distant grandmother of Jesus!

Another interesting part of the story is that there are no villains, no one behaves badly. Instead, everyone named works very hard to do the right thing and to keep God’s law. There is an unspoken idea that “this is how community is supposed to work”.

- Ruth 1:1-5** Elimelech, Naomi, Mahlon & Chilion in Moab.
- Ruth 1:6-22** Naomi and Ruth travel to Bethlehem.
- Ruth 2:1-17** Ruth gleans in Boaz’ fields.
- Ruth 2:18-23** Naomi reveals that Boaz is a near relative. Ruth gleans in Boaz’ fields through both the barley and the wheat harvests.
- Ruth 3:1-18** Naomi makes a plan!
- Ruth 4:1-12** Boaz claims Elimelech’s fields and Ruth.
- Ruth 4:13-17** Boaz and Ruth marry, Obed is born.
- Ruth 4:18-22** Genealogy of David including Boaz and Obed.