



# Made For Friendship: Ruth and Naomi

Ruth 1:1-18 | Ryan Pfeiffer & Jennifer Ahl | April 19, 2026

## **INTRO. Why Made for Friendship?**

Last wk... Mark took us on a tour of scripture from Gen—> Jesus...

Showing us that we're created for friendship with God...

Jesus in Jn 15:14 "You are my friends".... In a way... we're saved by friendship!

- It is thru friendship that we flourish... friendship w/ God... and others.

Jesus built his Church on friendship... thru friendships Church changed world

1. So we've paused our Acts series to dive more deeply into this theme.

Which brings us to Ruth... a curious book... no big miracles or great battles...

Yes... gives us look into David's lineage... and Jesus' ... but...

But it's the friendship between these two women that is the miracle!

**FOCUS.** There's something special about their friendship that points to the kind of friendship we all need to flourish in life.

First I want to look at their friendship through Naomi... a desperate widow who is more concerned for others than herself.

Then I want to have Jenn come up and help us look at friendship through Ruth... someone who stays when all others have left.

**READ** Ruth 1:1-14.

**HESED.** V8 May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me.

That word for Kindness is hesed חֶסֶד - can't define it with just one word:

- Love + loyalty
- Mercy + Grace
- Kindness + faithfulness.

Though usually only used for God... its used here for their friendship.

**NAOMI'S HESED FRIENDSHIP.** 8 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. 9 May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.

4X's Naomi presses her daughters in law to leave her.



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It's pretty clear this isn't out of self pity or rejection —it's hesed.

It's love that chooses the good of the other, tells the truth, and is willing to let go so that others might flourish.

- Hesed friendship looks to the interests of others.
  1. In her tragedy she is looking out for their needs
  2. She is blessing them even when she is feeling cursed.
  3. She's worried for their well-being even in the midst of her hardship.

Jesus with his mother and John at the Cross... mother behold your son.

Life's pain, disappointments, or just busyness can turn us in on ourselves.

Hesed friendship keeps one eye on our own needs and the other on our friend

2) Hesed friendship is non-controlling... non-manipulative... no guilt trips.

- She doesn't cling to them for her own security
- She holds their friendship with open-hands.

For Orpah... its time for her to take a different path...

For Ruth its time to draw even closer to her friend Naomi.

One way to keep open-hands with our friends is to remember friendships are a gift from God.

Secondly friendships have their purposes and seasons in our lives...

Some friendships shift away from us... circumstances, calling, new life stage.

Holding those friendships with open hands means not resenting the change.

And trusting that God has the right friendships for us for each season of life.

Some friendships shift due to hurt and broken trust... opens hands means forgiving and releasing them even if trust can't be rebuilt.

But then there are times when a friendship grows deeper... Invite Jenn.