

RUTH – THE OUTSIDER¹

"Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a guardian-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."
Ruth 4:14–15 (NIV)

FROM SWEET TO BITTER TO SWEET

A tragic story

Love can cause us to _____
even when we _____.

Bitterness can cause us to _____
even when it is _____.

God not only brought the _____
he invited her to sit at the _____.

Ruth shows us

¹ Key lessons contributed by Timothy Keller, *Ruth*, a sermon originally preached December 9, 2001.

Something to think about

In the study Jim spoke of the outsider that God brought into the family, even honored her above the other people in the story. Do you remember a time when you felt like the outsider (unworthy, unloved, or unaccepted)? Look back over the study and note anything that jumps out at you that would have made a difference.

For Ruth, being a Moabite in Israel was an uncomfortable, even dangerous problem (Ruth 2:9, 22). She was inferior to them in their minds. Who could easily be the Moabites in your mind?

Read Ephesians 2:8-14. How should the truth of these verses change our attitude toward those we consider to be separated by nature of their race, ethnicity or their current way of life?