



Session Five: Redemption and Hope

Welcome to our final session in this journey of **Becoming the Neighbors the World Needs**. Today, we turn to the closing chapter of Ruth's story—a moment of redemption, hope, and restoration that ripples far beyond one family.

Opening Devotional

Jesus replied, *you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.* [Matthew 22:37-39]

Prayer

May the Lord help us to be faithful in loving God and loving our neighbors. May we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Scripture*

[Ruth 4:13-17](#)

Explore

How does Ruth's story bring restoration not only to Naomi but also to the broader community of Israel?

Discuss

- How does Boaz function as a redeemer?
- How does God work in the lives of Ruth and Naomi to create a future?
- What does it mean that Jesus is descended from Ruth, a Moabite woman?

Summary

Our devotional verses, *Matthew 22:37–39*, remind us of the greatest commandments: to love God and to love our neighbor. Ruth's story embodies both. Her faithfulness and courage, Boaz's compassion, and the community's embrace all become part of God's redemptive work. Ruth 4 shows us that neighboring isn't just about acts of kindness—it's about participating in the restoration God is already bringing about. What began in grief and loss now ends in joy and new

life—not only for Naomi and Ruth, but for the whole lineage of Israel. Out of this story comes King David... and ultimately, Jesus himself. As we reflect today, we'll consider how our own communities can be places of hope, healing, and redemption—especially for those who are vulnerable and unseen.

Reflection

- Ruth was a Moabite, a foreigner—and yet she's woven into the lineage of the Messiah. Her inclusion highlights that God's redemptive story includes outsiders, the marginalized, and those often deemed unlikely by human standards. This challenges us to consider who we overlook, and how God sees and includes them. What does her presence in Jesus' family tree say to you about who God includes, how He redeems broken stories, and the kind of love that reflects the heart of Christ?
- For what should our community of faith be praying?
- How can we step into the story of God's love for the stranger and neighbor?

Call to Action

As we reflect on the call to love our neighbors—not just in words, but in tangible, transformative ways—what next step might you take?

Research organizations in your community that are creating spaces to love and support neighbors in need. Look for those walking alongside people experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, or social isolation. Ask: Where is God already at work—and how can I join in?

One place to start is [Bridge of Hope](#), a national organization that equips Christian faith communities to walk with families facing homelessness. Through intentional communities of support, Bridge of Hope provides families facing homelessness with the hope and help they need. If there isn't a Bridge of Hope in your area, you can reach out to explore starting a location.

The call to love your neighbor is also a call to pay attention. Let your curiosity lead to compassion—and let compassion lead to action.

Let Bridge of Hope know you've completed this Bible Reading Plan by clicking [here](#)!

More about Bridge of Hope

Bridge of Hope started on March 2, 1987, when 37 Christians gathered in a church basement in

Southeastern Pennsylvania to hear three homeless women share their stories. The group represented a cross section of churches but was united by a deep sense of Christ's call to compassion. As they explored ways churches could make a real and lasting difference in the lives of homeless families, God's Spirit prompted ten women and men to respond.

Bridge of Hope co-founders, Sandy Lewis and Linda Witmer, believed strongly that when church communities engaged in authentic relationship with families facing homelessness, they were demonstrating Jesus' deep love and care for vulnerable women and their children. They developed a ministry model using a three-way partnership between one family facing homelessness, a group of six to ten volunteers from a Christian faith community and a Bridge of Hope case manager. The first homeless single mother and her child were matched with a group of Neighboring Volunteers in December 1989.

Word about Bridge of Hope's successful model began to spread and that first Bridge of Hope location received numerous inquiries from other communities about replicating services. In April 2002, Bridge of Hope National was founded to launch new locations and support the growing number of communities implementing the Bridge of Hope model. Since that time, more and more churches have been stepping forward to partner with Bridge of Hope by providing tangible support and building encouraging relationships with families facing homelessness. God's people responding to God's leading. It's a powerful story that continues today as Christians actively respond to God's call to engage in relationship with families facing homelessness. In 2025, Bridge of Hope is serving families and church Neighboring Volunteers in 20 locations throughout 12 states and continuing to expand