

# Prayer in the Book of Ruth



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## Introduction

A considerable component of the theology of the Book of Ruth consists of its prayers and blessings. As Murray Gow puts it, “The author of Ruth expected readers to be alert to the work of God in answering prayer, as should we today.”<sup>1</sup> A believing, praying mother is one of God’s most precious gifts for anyone faced with life’s challenges.

## Naomi’s First Prayer (Ruth 1:8–9)

1. A mother-in-law’s prayer.
2. Prayer for the LORD’s loyal love upon those who have shown loyal love in the family. (The word *hesed* indicates loving and sacrificial loyalty—a total commitment.)
3. Prayer for rest in the context of a husband and his family.

*How can we improve our devotion to family?*

## Boaz’s First Prayer (Ruth 2:12)

1. A future husband’s prayer—the start of an answer to a mother-in-law’s prayer.
2. Prayer for blessing from the LORD because of the evidence of loyal love.
3. Prayer acknowledging Ruth’s faith in finding refuge in the LORD in the midst of her trials.

*What qualities does Boaz demonstrate that make him an excellent potential husband?*

## Naomi’s Second Prayer (Ruth 2:20)

1. A mother’s prayer for her daughter’s future husband.
2. Prayer for the LORD’s loyal love upon one who is showing loyal love in the family.

*Why should we view Naomi as Ruth’s mother?*

## Boaz’s Second Prayer (Ruth 3:10)

1. A fiancé’s prayer for blessing on his bride to be.

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<sup>1</sup> Murray Gow, “Ruth,” in *Theological Interpretation of the Old Testament: A Book-by-Book Survey*, ed. by Kevin J. Vanhoozer (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008), 106.

2. Prayer for one who has shown loyal love to him.  
*How does Proverbs 31:10–31 apply to identifying a future wife?*

### **The Community's Prayer (Ruth 4:11–12)**

1. Prayer by witnesses to the public wedding of Ruth to Boaz.
2. Prayer for the bride's fruitfulness (children) in the marriage.
3. Prayer for the groom's success within the community.
4. Prayer for a home filled with children.

*How is it that a mother of a child might become the mother of a nation?*

### **The Women's Prayer (Ruth 4:14–15)**

1. Prayer of praise to the LORD for Naomi's redemption.
2. Prayer for Naomi's restoration and provision through the love of a daughter-in-law and a grandchild.

*Why is praising the LORD a fitting final prayer in the Book of Ruth?*

### **Faith of Our Mothers**

Words by A. B. Patten

And He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you"—Luke 7:50

1. Faith of our mothers, living still  
In cradle song and bedtime prayer;  
In nursery lore and fireside love,  
Thy presence still pervades the air:  
Faith of our mothers, living faith!  
We will be true to thee to death.
2. Faith of our mothers, loving faith,  
Fount of our childhood's trust and grace,  
Oh, may thy consecration prove  
Source of a finer, nobler race:  
Faith of our mothers, living faith,  
We will be true to thee till death.
3. Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,  
For youthful longing, youthful doubt,  
How blurred our vision, blind our way,  
Thy providential care without:  
Faith of our mothers, guiding faith,  
We will be true to thee till death.
4. Faith of our mothers, Christian faith,  
Is truth beyond our stumbling creeds,  
Still serve the home and save the Church,  
And breathe Thy Spirit through our deeds:  
Faith of our mothers, Christian faith!  
We will be true to thee till death.

- Why should a believer always be prepared to pray?
- How can you make prayer a greater part of your life?
- How can you improve the Bereans class prayer time?