

# KEYS TO A GREAT FRIENDSHIP

Ruth • June 13, 2010 • Mike Newman, Senior Pastor

## CHARACTER LESSONS

May 30, 2010 .....	Esther – “Make The Most of Life’s Circumstances”
June 6, 2010.....	Jonah – “Second Chances”
June 13, 2010 .....	Ruth – “Keys to a Great Friendship”
June 20, 2010 .....	Youth Choir Presentation
June 27, 2010 .....	Aaron – “We Need Each Other”
July 4, 2010 .....	July 4 <sup>th</sup> Choir Presentation
July 11, 2010 .....	Elijah – “How To Be Bold for God”

We encourage you to read the book of Exodus with a special focus on the life of Aaron between now and June 27 in preparation for the June 27th message.

**Ruth 1:6–18 (NLT)** <sup>6</sup> Then Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again. So Naomi and her daughters-in-law got ready to leave Moab to return to her homeland. <sup>7</sup> With her two daughters-in-law she set out from the place where she had been living, and they took the road that would lead them back to Judah. <sup>8</sup> But on the way, Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back to your mothers’ homes. And may the LORD reward you for your kindness to your husbands and to me. <sup>9</sup> May the LORD bless you with the security of another marriage.” Then she kissed them good-bye, and they all broke down and wept. <sup>10</sup> “No,” they said. “We want to go with you to your people.” <sup>11</sup> But Naomi replied, “Why should you go on with me? Can I still give birth to other sons who could grow up to be your husbands? <sup>12</sup> No, my daughters, return to your parents’ homes, for I am too old to marry again. And even if it were possible, and I were to get married tonight and bear sons, then what? <sup>13</sup> Would you wait for them to grow up and refuse to marry someone else? No, of course not, my daughters! Things are far more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD himself has raised his fist against me.” <sup>14</sup> And again they wept together, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye. But Ruth clung tightly to Naomi. <sup>15</sup> “Look,” Naomi said to her, “your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. You should do the same.” <sup>16</sup> But Ruth replied, **“Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.”** <sup>17</sup> **Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!** <sup>18</sup> When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.

**Proverbs 17:17 (NLT)** <sup>17</sup> A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.

**Proverbs 18:24 (NLT)** <sup>24</sup> There are “friends” who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.

**Philippians 2:3–4 (NLT)** <sup>3</sup> Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

### Four Qualities:

- 1) Ruth and Naomi were \_\_\_\_\_ to one another.
- See Ruth 1:6-18 and Proverbs 17:17

*Does loyalty characterize your life?*

- 2) Ruth and Naomi were interested in \_\_\_\_\_ for the other person.
- See Proverbs 18:24 and Philippians 2:3-4

*Great friendships are made up of unselfish people who are committed to do what is best for the other person.*

*It is impossible to have a great friendship if either person is selfish!*

- 3) Ruth and Naomi gave \_\_\_\_\_ to one another.
- See Ruth 3:1-6, Ruth 3:16-18, Proverbs 27:9, and Proverbs 27:17

*Great friends do more than just listen.*

**Ruth 3:1–6 (NLT)** <sup>1</sup> One day Naomi said to Ruth, “My daughter, it’s time that I found a permanent home for you, so that you will be provided for. <sup>2</sup> Boaz is a close relative of ours, and he’s been very kind by letting you gather grain with his young women. Tonight he will be winnowing barley at the threshing floor. <sup>3</sup> Now do as I tell you—take a bath and put on perfume and dress in your nicest clothes. Then go to the threshing floor, but don’t let Boaz see you until he has finished eating and drinking. <sup>4</sup> Be sure to notice where he lies down; then go and uncover his feet and lie down there. He will tell you what to do.” <sup>5</sup> “I will do everything you say,” Ruth replied. <sup>6</sup> So she went down to the threshing floor that night and followed the instructions of her mother-in-law.

**Ruth 3:16–18 (NLT)** <sup>16</sup> When Ruth went back to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “What happened, my daughter?” Ruth told Naomi everything Boaz had done for her, <sup>17</sup> and she added, “He gave me these six scoops of barley and said, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’” <sup>18</sup> Then Naomi said to her, “Just be patient, my daughter, until we hear what happens. The man won’t rest until he has settled things today.”

**Proverbs 27:9 (NLT)** <sup>9</sup> The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.

**Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)** <sup>17</sup> As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

**Ruth 4:13–15 (NLT)** <sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the LORD enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. <sup>14</sup> Then the women of the town said to Naomi, “Praise the LORD, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel. <sup>15</sup> May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age. **For he is the son of your daughter-in-law who loves you and has been better to you than seven sons!**”

**Romans 5:10–11 (NLT)** <sup>10</sup> For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. <sup>11</sup> So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the pastors or elders following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office at 717-762-7147 to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website:

[www.otterbeinchurch.org](http://www.otterbeinchurch.org)

4) Ruth and Naomi’s relationship was strengthened by a \_\_\_\_\_ and a desire to follow His teachings.

- See Ruth 4:13-15

**Three Concluding Thoughts:**

1) If you are married, your spouse should be one of your \_\_\_\_\_.

2) Great friendships always begin with \_\_\_\_\_.

3) \_\_\_\_\_ wants to be your friend.

- See Romans 5:10-11

*What do you need to do in response to today’s message?*

