

The Essential Nature of Trust

Ruth & Esther: Trusting God's Hand in Hidden Places

I invite you to walk with me through the Old Testament and discover how God uses the stories of broken men—not perfect ones—to help us learn to trust Him.

These lives aren't just ancient history; they are windows into our own struggles and hopes. Each story leads us closer to Jesus, the one in whom all trust finds its meaning.

Along the way, your “trust muscle” will be stretched and strengthened as we explore what it means to truly follow the One who is trustworthy.

Let's take the journey together.



Series Overview

1. Goal: Strengthen trust in Jesus through Old Testament characters.
2. Theme: Who Do You Trust?
Who Do You Follow?
3. Outcome: Build trust in relationships, make discerning decisions, and deepen your relationship with Jesus.



RUTH: Who is this woman?

Ruth was a Moabite woman who, after losing her husband, chose to stay with her mother-in-law Naomi rather than return to her people. Her story unfolds during the time of the judges — a dark period of instability in Israel's history. Despite being an outsider, Ruth's loyalty and faith led her into God's redemptive plan, making her the great-grandmother of King David and part of the lineage of Jesus.



RUTH: Leaning Trust through a Woman!

1. **LOSS** → Trust God in the Midst of Loss - *Ruth 1:16–17*. Ruth's declaration — "Where you go, I will go; your God will be my God" — reveals her trust in the God of Israel despite deep grief and uncertainty. Her faith shows that trust is not the absence of pain but the courage to follow God through it.

REMEMBER: Trust often begins at the crossroads of sorrow and surrender. Like Ruth, when everything familiar falls away, God's unseen hand is guiding us to something greater.



RUTH: Leaning Trust through a Woman!

2. RESTORATION → Trust God's Redemption Story - *Ruth 4:13–17*.

Through Boaz, Ruth experiences redemption — restoring her dignity, security, and future. This foreshadows Jesus, our Redeemer, who restores what's been lost.

REMEMBER: Trust means believing that no loss is beyond God's power to redeem. Even in the ordinary — gleaning in the fields — God is writing a divine story of restoration.



ESTHER: Who is this woman?

Esther was a Jewish orphan raised by her cousin Mordecai in Persia. When she became queen, she found herself in a position to save her people from extermination. Though God's name is never mentioned in the book, His providence is woven through every detail — proving that even in silence, He is sovereign.



ESTHER: Trusting God's Providence and Timing

1. SOVEREIGNTY → Trust God's Sovereign Placement –

Esther 4:12-14. Mordecai's words —

“Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” — anchor the theme of trust in divine purpose. Esther realized that her influence was not for comfort but for calling.

REMEMBER: Trusting God includes believing He has positioned us exactly where we need to be — not by accident, but by assignment.



ESTHER: Trusting God's Providence and Timing

2. COURAGE → Trust God's Power in Your Courage - *Esther 4:15-17*.

Before approaching the king, Esther declared, "If I perish, I perish." Her courage was not reckless — it was rooted in faith that God's plan was greater than her fear.

REMEMBER: Trust transforms fear into faith-fueled action. Courage is not the absence of fear; it's the conviction that obedience is worth the risk.



RUTH & ESTHER: How each point to Jesus.

1. THE REDEEMER → Ruth points to the Redeemer — the one who rescues and restores what's broken.

2. THE INTERCESSOR → Esther points to the Intercessor — the one who stands in the gap to save His people.

REMEMBER: Both women show that trust in God's unseen work leads to visible redemption through Christ.



REPAIRING BROKEN TRUST

Step 1 – Acknowledge the Breach → You cannot repair what you won't admit. Be specific about what happened and how trust was damaged. TRUST: Denial delays healing; humility begins restoration.

Step 2 – Own Your Role → Take responsibility for your part—even if it's partial. Avoid blame-shifting or minimizing. TRUST = Proverbs 28:13 —
“Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”

Step 3 – Understand the Impact → Show empathy for the pain or consequences caused. Listen fully before offering solutions. TRUST = People trust again when they feel seen, heard, and understood.



REPAIRING BROKEN TRUST

Step 4 – Make Amends → Offer a clear, specific plan to repair the harm done. Follow through on your commitments. TRUST = Trust grows when words and actions align.

Step 5 – Rebuild Through Consistency → Trust isn't rebuilt overnight; it's restored one consistent choice at a time. TRUST = Dr. Cloud calls this the “deposit effect”—small actions that slowly refill the trust account.

Step 6 – Establish Healthy Boundaries → Moving forward requires clarity on expectations, responsibilities, and limits. TRUST = Healthy relationships balance grace



Take Action! Journal This!

1. What woman has helped to shape your faith and inspire you to trust God?
2. Trust means believing that no loss is beyond God's power to redeem. What loss have you experienced that rocked your trust in God?
3. What is the challenge you are facing that God is asking you to trust Him?

