



## THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF TRUST

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.

### Ruth & Esther – Trusting God's Hand in Hidden Places

Nothing in the world works without trust. Trust is established through relationship.

Who do you trust? Who do you follow?

Highland Colony Men's Roundtable

[www.MensTable.com](http://www.MensTable.com)

October 30, 2025

**Scripture:** Ruth 1:16, 17; Ruth 4:13-17; Esther 4:12-14; Esther 4:15-17

**Music:** The God Who Sees My Redeemer Lives - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxwQ9igyJ80>

**Videos:** Karla and CIC - <https://youtu.be/SZzFIdaeigk?feature=shared>

Audrey and Emotions - <https://youtube.com/shorts/B7re9JDI MoU?si=SqOgU5cffSRqKsbe>

**Resources:** *Hitchhiking with Prophets – A Ride through the Salvation Story of the Old Testament* by Chad Bird

*Trust – Knowing When to Give It, When to Withhold It, How to Earn It, and How to Fix It When It Gets Broken in Life and Business* by Dr. Henry Cloud

**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. \_\_\_\_\_ → **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.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → **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. \_\_\_\_\_ → **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.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → **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. \_\_\_\_\_ → **Ruth** points to the **Redeemer** — the one who rescues and restores what's broken.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ → **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.



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## 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.

**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 and truth.

### 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?

### Scripture – The Message

**Ruth 1:16, 17 - 16** But Ruth said, "Don't force me to leave you; don't make me go home. Where you go, I go; and where you live, I'll live. Your people are my people, your God is my god; **17** where you die, I'll die, and that's where I'll be buried, so help me God - not even death itself is going to come between us!"

**Ruth 4:13-17 - 13** Boaz married Ruth. She became his wife. Boaz slept with her. By God's gracious gift she conceived and had a son. **14** The town women said to Naomi, "Blessed be God! He didn't leave you without family to carry on your life. May this baby grow up to be famous in Israel! **15** He'll make you young again! He'll take care of you in old age. And this daughter-in-law who has brought him into the world and loves you so much, why, she's worth more to you than seven sons!" **16** Naomi took the baby and held him in her arms, cuddling him, cooing over him, waiting on him hand and foot. **17** The neighborhood women started calling him "Naomi's baby boy!" But his real name was Obed. Obed was the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

**Esther 4:12-14 - 12** When Hathach told Mordecai what Esther had said, **13** Mordecai sent her this message: "Don't think that just because you live in the king's house you're the one Jew who will get out of this alive. **14** If you persist in staying silent at a time like this, help and deliverance will arrive for the Jews from someplace else; but you and your family will be wiped out. Who knows? Maybe you were made queen for just such a time as this."

**Esther 4:15-17 - 15** Esther sent back her answer to Mordecai: **16** "Go and get all the Jews living in Susa together. Fast for me. Don't eat or drink for three days, either day or night. I and my maids will fast with you. If you will do this, I'll go to the king, even though it's forbidden. If I die, I die." **17** Mordecai left and carried out Esther's instructions.

### "The God Who Sees & My Redeemer Lives" By Nicole C. Mullen

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| Who taught the sun<br>Where to stand in the morning?<br>And who told the ocean<br>"You can only come this far"?<br>And who showed the moon<br>Where to hide till evening<br>Whose words alone can<br>Catch a falling star?<br>I know my redeemer lives<br>I know my redeemer lives<br>All of creation testify | This life within me cries<br>I know my redeemer lives<br>(yeah)<br>The very same God<br>That spins things in orbit<br>Runs to the weary, the worn and the weak<br>And the same gentle hands<br>That hold me when I'm broken<br>They conquer death to<br>Bring me victory<br>Now I know my redeemer lives | I know my redeemer lives<br>Let all creation testify<br>Let this life within me cry<br>I know my redeemer<br>He lives to take away my sins<br>And He lives forever, I proclaim<br>That the payment for my sins<br>Was the precious life He gave<br>But now He's alive and<br>There's an empty grave<br>(repeat chorus over and over) |
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