

Welcome to the eleventh week of  
*25 Weeks of Advent!*

*The stories of Advent all give us some insight as to the point and value of Jesus' life for us.*

Rahab—whom we talked about last week—was a foreigner, brought into God's family through obedience and radical transformation.

Ruth was *also* a foreigner, who married Naomi's son. Unfortunately, he died. Instead of returning to her family, as was tradition, Ruth chose to stay on with her mother-in-law, Naomi—*"Ruth replied, 'Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.'"* When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her." Talk about loyalty!

So the two of them travelled to Naomi's old hometown, Bethlehem. God would knit together a foreigner (Ruth) and her mother, ultimately into a very special family—one that would eventually include Jesus! Jesus, born in Bethlehem, would be treated as a foreigner, but He would love us with a tenacity like Ruth!

## Week 12: The Little Things

**Read: Ruth**

Can you see the little miracles in Ruth's life—the things that seemed to just happen in the right way, at the right time? When Ruth and Naomi returned to Bethlehem—the "house of bread" - Ruth *just happened* to harvest wheat in the field of the man who had the right to redeem her family's land. Boaz *just happened* to meet Ruth, who *just happened* to tell him all about her life. And Boaz *just happened* to help Ruth out, buy back Naomi's family land—and take Ruth as his wife! Boaz also *just happened* to be the son of Rahab and Salmon (whom we talked about last week) who *just happened* to have been redeemed by God and brought into his family. Ruth and Boaz then *just happened* to have a son, Obed, who eventually *just happened* to have a son Jesse—who *just happened* to have a son, David. King David! Several generations down this family line, would *just happen* to be Jesus.

### Coincidence? Or little miracles?

From Bethlehem, the house of bread, to Jesus, the bread of life.

*What little miracles have you seen in the past few days?  
How can you keep your eyes open to notice the little things God is doing all around you?*



### Readings for your Week

**Hebrews 13:1-6**

*God will never leave you!*

**John 6:25-59**

*Those who go to Jesus will never hunger or thirst!*

**Exodus 16**

*God teaches to trust for daily provision*

Remember to add this picture to your Jesse tree!

