

**Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**  
**1000 Oaks Bible Church**

**Cultivating Biblical Relationships:**  
**“Loyalty”**

## \* INTRODUCTION

A. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Em1FRYFsfg>  
(0:00-1:32)



# I. CHAPTER ONE – SOME DAYS YOU ARE GOING TO BE WEARY

A. Ever have one of “those days?” – well Naomi had “one of those decades.” At one point she is married with two kids. The biggest problems are doing household chores. Then storm clouds come...

1. Still has 2 sons & their wives... with their support she can manage.
2. But within 10 years, both her sons die.

B. Ruth 1:6 – Ruth and her two daughter-in-laws head back home.

C. V8 – Naomi tells them to go back to their parents.

D. Ruth clings to Naomi – V16 **But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.  
17 Where you die, I will die...**

E. Naomi and Ruth finally enter Bethlehem. They receive a huge welcome. Everyone remembers Naomi.

**\* V19 So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?"**

F. V20 "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. ("Mara" = **bitter**)

G. The LORD God will use tough circumstances, He always has.

**1. Psalm 119:67-68 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey Your Word. 68 You are good, and what You do is good; teach me Your truth.**

**71 It was good for me when I was afflicted**

**2. Psalm 34:19 / Proverbs 3:5-6**

## II. CHAPTER TWO – SOME DAYS YOU ARE GOING TO WORK

A. Ruth goes into the fields to glean the small droppings from the crop workers. Kind of like trying grocery shopping in 2024.





B. Ruth 2:4 The property owner, Boaz, comes along and offers a cheerful greeting. **“The LORD be with you.”** Workers reply, **“The LORD bless you.”**

C. About that time he notices Ruth in the field and stops in his tracks. He is overcome with her beauty.

D. Boaz talks with Ruth (V8-18) – his words are a picture of Grace.

### III. CHAPTER THREE – SOME DAYS YOU ARE GOING TO WAIT

A. The first and last verses of the chapter are like bookends

**1 Then Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek **rest** for thee, that it may be well with you?**

**18 Then said she, **Sit still**, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he has finished the thing this day.**

## IV. CHAPTER FOUR – SOME DAYS YOU JUST HAVE TO SAY “WOW!”

A. “**Wow**” is not a word you find directly in the Bible, but it is a biblical word. Many times we see times people were “astonished” or “amazed” or “left speechless” There are “**Wow!**” moments.

B. Matthew 9:33 ...the multitudes marveled and said, “**We have never seen any thing like this.**”

1. The LORD will meet you at the level of your desire.

2. Hebrews 11:6

C. Ruth 4 is a WOW! Chapter. It is like Cinderella 2500 BC. Ruth and Boaz get married. In V13, they have a son. The women gather around Naomi and say, “Remember all that “Call me Bitter” stuff? Now we can call you Blessed - you’re a Grandma!” The child, Obed, is David’s grandfather!

## \* CURBSIDE

A. Psalms 126:5

B. Naomi, looking over 3 graves in Moab didn't see it. Ruth picking out a field at random and collecting grain fragments couldn't have seen it. What looked so unfortunate and accidental was a divine appointment. God was putting the Family Tree together for Jesus.

*\* Loyalty between 2 women was essential.*

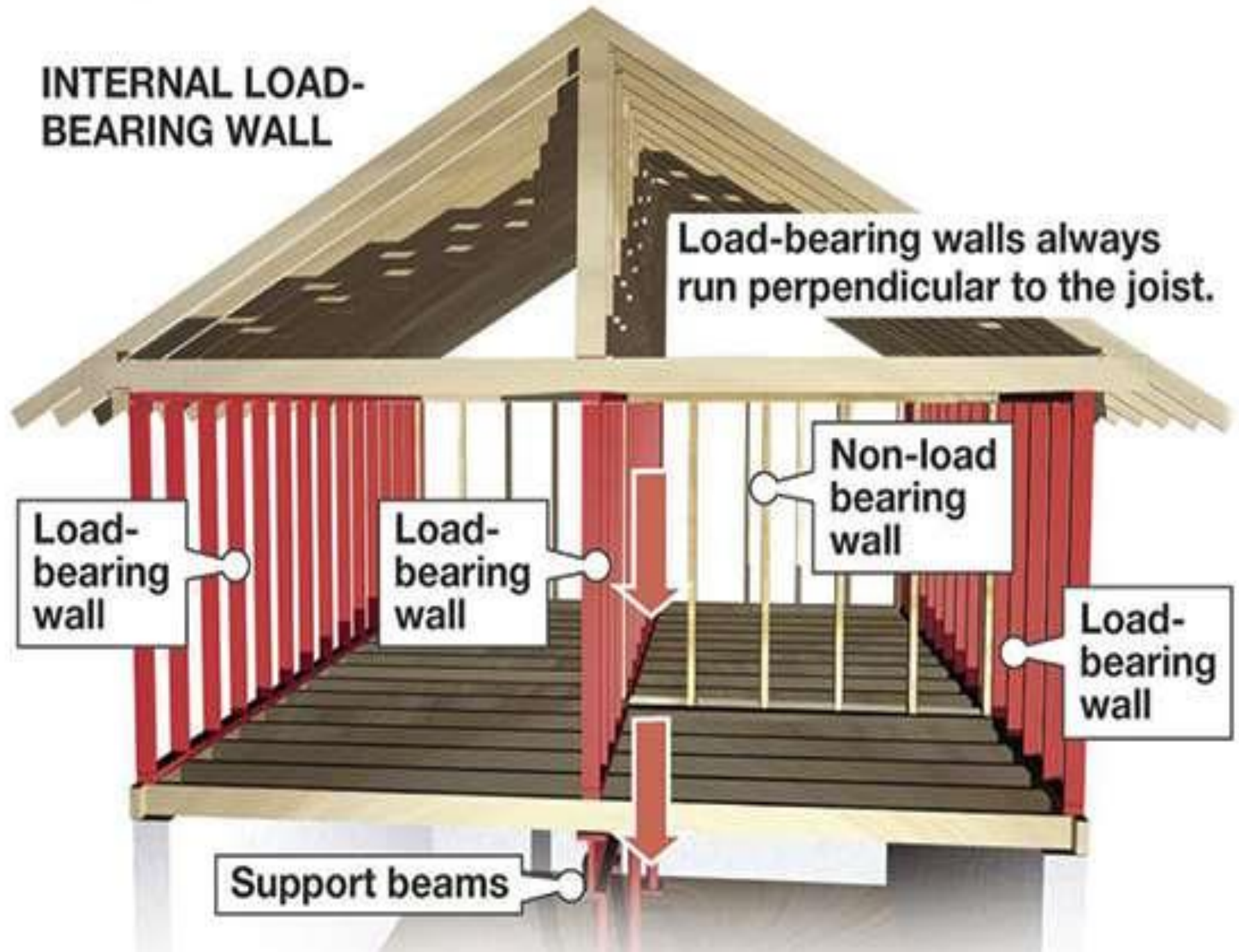
C. Loyalty means being there and supporting someone through the highs and lows, and staying by their side regardless of the circumstances.

\* A loyal friend is like a “**load bearing wall**” – it provides essential support.



# INTERNAL LOAD-BEARING WALL

Load-bearing walls always run perpendicular to the joist.



Load-bearing wall

Load-bearing wall

Non-load bearing wall

Load-bearing wall

Support beams

**D. Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.**

**E. Proverbs 18:24 There are companions who harm one another, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.**

**F. Proverbs 27:10 ...Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother far away.**

G. You want to have a loyal friend like Ruth, then BE a loyal friend yourself. In 1000 Oaks Bible Church, our relationships ought to abound with Loyalty toward each other.

**LOYALTY!**