

Triptychs (or three-paneled) artwork allows for movement within a story. Many religious triptychs are displayed as a three-panel painting with hinges that allow it to be displayed or closed over or behind an altar.

This coloring triptych is filled with hidden and not-so-hidden details, themes from the story of Ruth that invite us to engage the story more deeply. It's designed for all ages and is bound to introduce you to something you might have missed if you were only reading or hearing the story.

May this resource enhance your personal prayer and reflection, or offer a way into conversation with others of all ages. Take your time with these pages and see what the story of Ruth still has to show us today.

The triptych is an original design by Rev. Emmy Kegler (she/they), who self-describes as, *writer. author. podcaster. doodler. queer Christian wife & mom. seeker of lost coins*. Learn more about Emmy's ministry at www.EmmyKegler.com.

Emmy hints at what you might notice in these doodles, so if you want help seeing the story in these images, read on. If you'd rather explore for yourself, come back later after you've connected with and colored the story. What else did you find?

Famine (Chapter 1)

- Three rock piles for the three husbands lost to death
- Moab in the distance, a fortress-like country far from Bethlehem
- The tree's shadow is not proportional, a nod to the disorientation of grief
- Hesed is there, but seems hidden and scarce (8 times)

Gleaning (Chapters 2 & 3)

- The square container in the foreground is (proportionately to the scythe and sack) the size of an ephah, which is how much Ruth gleans in 2:17
- The scythe, often associated with Death, is attached to Life/Hesed here
- The city scape is modern day Bethlehem with the ancient star overhead
- The birds soaring symbolize God's wings in 2:12 and Boaz's cloak in 3:9, the same word in Hebrew and both signs of protection
- Hesed is still present and increasing (9 times)

Harvest (Chapter 4)

- The olive tree from the first panel is back, more bountiful now
- There are six measures of barley around the threshing floor
- Boaz's cloak and sandals are nearby, a reference to 4:8
- A stump has sprouted (Isaiah 11:1), a hint at Ruth's descendants
- Bethlehem is visible again, but from the other side of the city
- Rocks remind us of the funeral piles, grief that becomes the landscape
- Hesed begets more hesed (10 times)





