

TEXT: Ruth
ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Serving as a group with the Connect Team** – leaders to share which week your group will serve.
 - **Upcoming Schedule:**
 - Week of November 18 (Thanksgiving) – no Life Group meetings
 - Weeks of November 25 & December 2 – regular meetings
 - Week of December 9 - Life Group Christmas parties
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LEADING OFF...

1. Why are we endeared to stories where outsiders are brought in?

BIG IDEA: JESUS WELCOMES THE UNWELCOMED

Read Ruth 1:1-5

2. What was life like *“in the days when judges ruled”*?
3. What do we know about Moab, and why is this important in understanding the story of Ruth?
4. What did Elimelech do wrong as a husband and father?
5. How do we sometimes live our lives like Elimelech?

Read Ruth 1:11-15

6. Would you say Naomi is a pessimist or a realist?
7. In verse 13, what do we learn about Naomi’s view of God?
8. What can we learn here from Naomi?

Read Ruth 1:16-19

9. In verses 16-17, what is so significant about Ruth’s words to her mother-in-law?
10. In verse 19, why do you think the town was all stirred up over Naomi and Ruth coming home to Bethlehem?

Leader: summarize Ruth 2:1-7

Read Ruth 2:1-8, 14-16

11. What does Boaz do for Ruth?
12. Who does Boaz remind us of?
13. How does Jesus do this for us?
14. How does the grace of Boaz inspire you to likewise seek to give grace to the outsider?

Leader: summarize Ruth 3 and 4:1-3

Read Ruth 4:4-6

15. Why is “the redeemer” (AKA “Dirk”), not willing to take Ruth as his wife?
16. Was this “redeemer” wrong for refusing to take in Ruth and all her baggage?
17. Seeing how this “redeemer” would not take her, how does this make Boaz’s actions all the more astounding and scandalous?

Read Ruth 4:13-17

18. What change do we see in Naomi and how did she ultimately get more than she could ever have hoped for?
19. Can you think of a dark time in your life, when now in retrospect, you can clearly see the hand of God?
20. What is the significance of Ruth, an outsider shown grace, becoming part of the bloodline of Messiah Jesus?
21. Discuss with your group how Jesus is the true and better Boaz, the ultimate Redeemer, who purchases us and welcomes us in as outsiders. What has he done in your life?

WRAPPING UP...**Restate the Big Idea: JESUS WELCOMES THE UNWELCOMED**

22. In what ways does this story of Ruth motivate you to give grace to the unwelcomed outsider, and in doing so share the grace of Jesus?