



February 24-25, 2018
Ruthless: Seeing God In Restoration

MESSAGE NOTES

Ruth 4

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Reference:

Open in prayer and read Ruth 4:11-17.

Review:

What was one thing from this weekend's message that challenged, confused, or stood out to you?

Reflect:

1. The Book of Ruth has a happy ending. Although we know that not all lives of faith turn out that way. Consider Hebrews 11:32-40. How do we, as God's people, accept lives that don't seem to "turn out OK," despite their best efforts to be faithful Christians?
2. In Ruth's life, much of the ultimate good done for her happened in the day-to-day activities of life and not in miraculous happenings. How can we help each other see the redemptive "hand of God" in our daily routines? What are some ways you and your Life Group can embody God's redemptive influence in each other's lives?
3. In the blessing given to Boaz (vs. 11-12), one of the desired outcomes is that he would "be famous in Bethlehem" (NIV). This is probably the equivalent of "having a good name" in our culture. How do you think your family name is perceived in your hometown? What legacy would you like for future generations to attach to your name?

4. Read Genesis 38 which tells the sordid tale of Perez, the distant relative of Boaz. Perez was born through the sin and deceit of both Tamar and her father-in-law, Judah. These are the ancient relatives of Jesus. How does this story, as it connects with the story of Ruth, inform you about God's work of redemption through very sinful people?

5. When in your life have you seen God turn a major mistake, sin, or failure into something wonderful?

6. Imagine the life of Naomi - famine, a refugee in a foreign land, the death of her husband and both sons, a life of poverty, a glimmer of hope when Boaz shows favor to Ruth, and then the marriage of her daughter-in-law. Her story begins with a funeral and ends with Grandma Naomi bouncing her grandson on her lap. What can we learn from Naomi's life about the importance of remaining faithful to God in all circumstances?

Respond/Reinforce:

In theological terms, Boaz is considered to be a "type" of Christ - meaning that he is an Old Testament character who provides us with a glimpse of who Jesus would be. Take time this week to make a list of the attributes of Jesus that you see in Boaz. As you do, praise God for how Jesus has provided salvation for you. If you have not trusted in Jesus for salvation yet, you may want to take some time to think about these attributes and consider how they help you connect some dots in your own faith.