

Small Group Guide: The Book of Ruth - A Story of Redemption



Link to Message: <https://cometolifebiblechurch.subspla.sh/dc4tvfb>

Summary:

In this exploration of the Book of Ruth, we uncover a beautiful tapestry of God's providence and redemption. This short Old Testament narrative offers profound insights into God's character and His plan for humanity. We see how seemingly chance encounters – like Ruth gleaning in Boaz's field – are actually divine appointments orchestrated by God. The story challenges us to recognize God's hand in the small details of our lives, reminding us that He is constantly working behind the scenes. The concept of the kinsman-redeemer, embodied by Boaz, foreshadows Christ's redemptive work for us. Just as Boaz willingly redeemed Ruth, a foreigner, Christ redeems us despite our unworthiness. This parallel invites us to reflect on the depth of God's love and the extent of His grace. As we contemplate Ruth's faithfulness and Boaz's kindness, we're encouraged to embody these virtues in our own lives, trusting in God's sovereign plan even in times of hardship or uncertainty.

Opening Prayer:

Begin the session with a prayer, asking God to guide your discussion and help the group gain deeper insights from the book of Ruth.

Key Takeaways:

- . The book of Ruth connects the beginning of the Bible to the end, providing a picture of redemption.
2. Ruth, a Gentile, becomes part of the lineage of Jesus, demonstrating God's inclusive love.
3. Boaz serves as a type of Christ, showing grace where the law could not.
4. The story illustrates God's providence working through seemingly chance events.
5. The book foreshadows elements of Revelation, particularly the concept of the kinsman-redeemer.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Ruth's loyalty to Naomi reflect aspects of our relationship with God?
2. Discuss the significance of Boaz being both willing and able to redeem Ruth. How does this parallel Jesus' role as our Redeemer?
3. The sermon mentions God's providence in Ruth "happening" to glean in Boaz's field. Can you share an experience where you've seen God's providence in your own life?
4. How does the concept of the kinsman-redeemer in Ruth help us better understand Jesus' role in Revelation?
5. Reflect on the characters of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz. Which character do you relate to most and why?
6. The sermon draws parallels between Ruth (representing the Gentile church) and Naomi (representing Israel). How does this perspective challenge or enhance your understanding of God's plan for both Jews and Gentiles?
7. Discuss the significance of Ruth being in the lineage of Jesus despite being a Moabite. What does this tell us about God's character and His plans?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, try to identify moments of God's providence in your daily life. Keep a journal of these instances and share them with the group next time.
2. Reflect on areas in your life where you might be relying on "the law" rather than grace. How can you shift towards a grace-centered approach?
3. Consider ways you can show loyalty and kindness to others, as Ruth did to Naomi. Choose one specific action to implement this week.
4. Study the concept of redemption throughout the Bible. How can you live out your identity as one who has been redeemed by Christ?
5. Pray for opportunities to share God's inclusive love with someone who might feel like an outsider, just as Ruth was welcomed into God's family.

Closing Prayer:

Close the session by thanking God for His redemptive plan and asking for His help in applying the lessons from Ruth to your daily lives.

5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:



Day 1: God's Providence in Difficult Times

Reading: Ruth 1:1-22

Devotional:

As we read about Naomi and Ruth's journey, we're reminded that God works even in our darkest moments. Naomi faced tremendous loss, yet God was orchestrating a beautiful story of redemption. In your own life, consider the challenges you're facing. How might God be working behind the scenes? Remember that just as He provided for Ruth and Naomi, He cares for you. Take time today to trust in His providence, even when you can't see the full picture.

Day 2: Faithful Love and Loyalty

Reading: Ruth 2:1-23

Devotional:

Ruth's commitment to Naomi reflects the kind of love God has for us - steadfast and loyal. As Boaz shows kindness to Ruth, we see a glimpse of God's grace. How can you demonstrate this kind of faithful love to others in your life? Consider someone who needs encouragement or support, and take action to show them God's love through your actions. Reflect on how God has shown you undeserved kindness, just as Boaz did for Ruth.

Day 3: The Kinsman-Redeemer

Reading: Ruth 3:1-18

Devotional:

The concept of the kinsman-redeemer in Ruth points us to Jesus, our ultimate Redeemer. Just as Boaz was willing and able to redeem Ruth, Christ is both willing and able to redeem us. Reflect on what it means to be "redeemed" by Jesus. How does this change your perspective on your worth and identity? Take time to thank God for His redemptive plan and consider how you can live in light of this redemption today.

Day 4: Grace Triumphs Over Law

Reading: Ruth 4:1-12

Devotional:

In this passage, we see how Boaz's grace towards Ruth triumphs over the strict interpretation of the law. This mirrors how Jesus fulfills and transcends the law through His grace. Consider areas in your life where you might be relying on your own efforts or "following rules" rather than living in God's grace. How can you embrace God's grace more fully today? Pray for a deeper understanding of how grace transforms your relationship with God and others.

Day 5: God's Bigger Picture

Reading: Ruth 4:13-22

Devotional:

The conclusion of Ruth's story reveals God's larger plan - through this foreign woman, the lineage of David and ultimately Jesus is established. God often works in ways we don't expect, using unlikely people and circumstances to fulfill His purposes. Reflect on your own life story. How has God used unexpected events or people to shape your journey? Trust that even when you can't see it, God is weaving your story into His greater narrative. Pray for eyes to see His work and faith to trust His plan.