



Ruth

Other References

Moabite Origin & Enmity with Israel

- ❖ Genesis 19:30-38
- ❖ Deuteronomy 23:3-6
- ❖ Judges 3:12-14; 11:11-18
- ❖ Numbers 22 & 25

God's Heart for the Outsider

- ❖ Leviticus 19:9-10; 23:22
- ❖ Deut. 10:19; 24:19-22

Kinsman-Redeemer

- ❖ Leviticus 25:25, 47-49
- ❖ Deuteronomy 25:5-10

Boaz's Genealogy (Past & Future)

Rachel & Leah: Gen 29:16-30:24

Tamar: Genesis 38:6-30

Rahab: Joshua 2; 6:15-17, 22-25

Jesus: Matthew 1:1-6

Further Study

Major Use of Heseḏ in the Bible

David & Mephibosheth: 2 Samuel 9

Honesty With the Lord About Our Hurts & Frustrations

Lamentations 3:21-33, 55-58

Benefits of Hard Work

- ❖ Genesis 2:15-22
- ❖ Ecclesiastes 9:10
- ❖ Proverbs 6:6-11; 14:23
- ❖ Colossians 3:22-24

Waiting on the Lord

- ❖ Psalm 27:14; 37:7; 38:15
- ❖ Isaiah 40:29-31

God/Jesus Calls His People by Name

- ❖ Isaiah 43:1
- ❖ John 10:1-3; 20:10-18

Discussion Points:

- ✚ Who has shown you Heseḏ? How?
- ✚ Have you ever made assumptions about God's character because of your circumstances? Brainstorm some ways to shift your perspective in times of hardship.
- ✚ Can you think of a time when you were faithfully going about a routine task or job and you "happened" upon someone or something special? If you feel comfortable, share with your group.
- ✚ Do you think Ruth thought she'd ever be noticed for her acts of service to Naomi or the sacrifices she made in leaving Moab? Why or why not? How has God used your work, no matter how impressive or humble, to show you His presence and activity in your life?
- ✚ What sacrificial, scary, risky, or costly decision have you made in obedience to God? And what were the results?
- ✚ Ruth was described as the Moabitess, the foreigner, and the woman beneath servant girls. Now she was a celebrated wife and a true Israelite. How has God changed your life? What has He brought you from?

Personal Reflection:

- ✚ Think about a time when God pursued you— even drew you back when you were in a far off place (like He did for Naomi in Moab). What did you discover about His nature through that experience?
- ✚ Think about a time when you obeyed in the midst of consecutive trials or temptations (like Ruth did when heading to Bethlehem with Naomi). What did you discover about Christ and His blessings?
- ✚ What causes you to turn to God in suffering? On the other hand, what causes you to blame him for it?
- ✚ What are some things about your own history or your family's history that bother you in your quietest moments, that make you think God can never really love or use you? (like "Ruth the Moabitess")
- ✚ How could you be more intentional about noticing the hearts of one another over and above beauty and status (like Boaz did for Ruth)? What's a specific way you can use your home or table to more closely reflect the heart of Christ?
- ✚ Do you sense that God is asking you to throw off some weighty garments? Old attachments, unforgiveness, bitterness, anger, despair, unhealthy habits, or anything else that might be keeping you in a stagnant place? (Isaiah 43:18-19)