



UNDER THE TAPES TRY

July 7 -
Sept 1



A Study in the Book of Ruth



UNDER THE TAPESTRY

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July 7– September 1

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UNDER THE TAPESTRY

“My life is but a weaving
Between my God and me.
I cannot choose the colors
He weaveth steadily.

Oft’ times He weaveth sorrow;
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper
And I the underside.

Not ’til the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Will God unroll the canvas
And reveal the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful
In the weaver’s skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned

He knows, He loves, He cares;
Nothing this truth can dim.
He gives the very best to those
Who leave the choice to Him.”

-Unknown



Under the Tapestry

Loss

Week 1
July 7, 2019





Prepare your Heart

I love well written stories. I particularly love it when the author takes seemingly meaningless, obscure moments in a character's life and uses them in such a way that by the end everything is pointing toward one final climatic ending. To me it is beautiful writing when the author has planned out the end even before he began writing.

Perhaps this is why I love the book of Ruth. It is a story of sovereignty and providence. It is a story of God taking all of our moments, the good, the bad, the exciting, the boring, the meaningful, and the meaningless to accomplish something wonderful for Himself, for His covenant people, and for you.

This Sunday we will begin a nine week series in the book of Ruth, discovering that Naomi has been placed under a beautiful tapestry where not one thread is wasted or miswoven. We will see the plot take many twists and turns. Naomi's faith will be tested. She will bend but not break. The narrator will place before us fortuitous events that "just so happened" to work out the way it did. But this will happen so often it will be glaringly obvious that none of it is happenstance, but rather the hand of God gently guiding His people to green pastures and still waters.

We are spending nine weeks in a four chapter book and even then we will not be able to cover the depths and riches that can be found here. Can I encourage you to read through the book. It will only take about twenty minutes, but I assure you it will be worth it. If I might be so bold, let me ask you to read through it weekly as we too find ourselves "Under the Tapestry."



Scripture

As a group, read Ruth 1:1-5 and write out the tragedy that occurs in these short five verses.

Faith

- What faith crisis did Israel face during the time of the Judges?
- In what ways do you live in "the time of the judges?"
- Have you ever been persecuted for your faith?
- Why does God allow us to suffer persecution?
- How can you stand strong in persecution?

Finances

- Why was there a famine in Bethlehem?
- Why are there famines today?
- How do you reconcile tremendous poverty with an all-powerful God who loves people?
- Do you have any financial concerns that we can pray about?



Familiar

- What cultural struggles do you think Naomi and her family faced?
- Do you think this family compromised their faith in any way because of their cultural surroundings?
- What are some things you have given up to come to China?
- What are your biggest struggles living in China & how can God use them to grow you?
- What are some temptations you face to compromise your faith in this culture?

Family

- What type of losses did Naomi experience through the death of her husband and sons?
- Naomi will later call herself "Mara," have you ever felt this way?
- Which family member(s) do you really miss and why?
- Which Bible verses bring you comfort about the death of a loved one?

Providence

- How do you see God using these losses to bring Naomi back to Himself?
- Do you have any examples of when you eventually saw the hidden hand of God in your life?
- As you survey the book of Ruth, how do you see God working all things out for His glory and His people's good?
- This is more than just a story about Naomi and Ruth, we see God doing something HUGE for His covenant people. Discuss how your life is but under the tapestry of God's eternal plan.



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



Under the Tapestry

Return

Week 2

July 14, 2019





Prepare your Heart

As expats we are all keenly aware that one day our tenure in China will end and we will begin the long arduous journey home. The idea of returning is one filled with joy and sorrow, hope and fear, serenity and worry. Regardless the reason of our return: a failed business, canceled visa, sickness, ending of a contract, frustration with the culture or a company, or new opportunity elsewhere...we are all aware that returning will cost something. We will all experience reverse culture shock having realized that our home has changed, our friends have changed, but most importantly discovering that we have changed. Returning can be exciting, but is rarely easy.

This week is a story of return. Naomi has been away from home for a long time and now she must return. But it is more than just a story of Naomi returning to a land...this is a return to God. She sets out on the journey as Mara, bitterness, but as we will see, somewhere along the way she will be Naomi "pleasant" once again. The story takes a dramatic turn this week, for Naomi isn't the only one to return...Ruth will "return" as well. She will declare, "Your God will be my God." This return, like all returns, will cost these women something. But make no mistake, this return, no matter how costly, is always worth it.

As we contemplate the story of these two women, let us contemplate our own story. Let's us be ever open to the words of the prophet Hosea:

"Come, let us return to the Lord;
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

The cure to Robert Robinson's ill, "prone to wonder Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love," is a constant, continual return.



Scripture

As a group, read Ruth 1:6-22 and write out the verses where the word "return" is used (or the idea of return).

Rejection

- Take some time to discuss how these three women respond differently to God.
- What are some reasons people turn away from God? See Matthew 13
- Can you think of people in your own life that fall into these categories?
- What are some things we can do to strengthen our faith in preparation to stand firm against temptation to fall away?

Bitterness

- Naomi changes her name to Mara, where else is this word used in the Bible and what hope was found?
- How do you know if you have bitterness in your heart toward God?
- Read Hebrews 12:15 and discuss the importance of destroying bitterness.
- Read Ruth 1:21 and discuss how Naomi's bitterness has tainted her view of reality.



Faith

- Look at Ruth's declaration of faith and discuss how that mirrors conversion.
- Remember that Ruth has lost much as well, but still responds in faith. What are some areas in your life we can pray for you to increase your faith?
- Naomi's faith isn't perfect, but there is a mustard seed of faith. Discuss what faith she does show.
- Read Mark 9:24 and share how we can have faith even in our doubt.
- Ruth gave up much to be a part of the covenant people of God. Discuss what we must give up in order to be a part of the covenant people of God. (see Matthew 13:44)

Return

- This section is about returning to the Lord. In what ways is Naomi returning to God?
- Why do you suppose that it uses "return" for Ruth as well?
- The story of return is a common one in the Bible. Share with the group different times and peoples where this theme is repeated.
- What are some things you need to return to the Lord on?
- What are the things that keep us from returning to the Lord?



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



Under the Tapestry

Providence

Week 3

July 21, 2019





Prepare your Heart

My oldest son loves to play soccer, or as everyone else in the world calls it, football. I did not grow up in the football environment, so when Noah started playing in leagues I quickly noticed a word being used over and over. If the goalie happened to not block a shot the team would shout, “unlucky.” If the ball happened to hit the crossbar the team would shout, “unlucky.” If a shot went wide, “unlucky.” If a pass was too short or too long, “unlucky.” I found it interesting that they never shouted “lucky” when their goalie did block the shot or if their striker did find the back of the net or if a pass did reached its intended target.

As humans we like to attribute all the good things in life to our own hard work, adversely we typically attribute failure to misfortune. What we find this week in the book of Ruth is that the invisible hand of God is holding back or bring forth those “lucky” and “unlucky” moments in our lives to accomplish something far greater than we could ever think or imagine, for a much larger audience than just ourselves.

It is a story of God’s sovereignty and it is beautiful. It’s what J.R.R. Tolkein tried to get across in his book, “The Hobbit.” “You don’t really suppose, do you,” asks Gandalf to Bilbo on the last page of The Hobbit, “that all your adventures and escapes were managed by mere luck, just for your sole benefit? You are a very fine person, Mr. Baggins, and I am very fond of you; but you are only quite a little fellow in a wide world after all!” To which Bilbo replies, “Thank goodness!”

Pray that the Lord would reveal to you how providential He is in your life as you open up His word and study it.



Scripture

As a group, read Ruth 1:22-2:1-9 and write out the providential encounters Ruth and Naomi happened upon then discuss them in your group

Guidance

Use James 4:13-15 and Psalm 139:1-18 to help you think through these questions.

- Often times people use the word “coincidence” or “luck” to describe a situation. As a Christian, are these ideas that we should believe in?
- We can see that God is highly personal to people in the Bible, is the same true for us today? If so, give examples.
- What are some areas you need God's personal guidance on?
- What are some ways in which God guides us?
- Can you share with the group a past experience of how God has guided you in a special way?

Provision

Use Philippians 4:10-20 and Matthew 6:25-34 to help you think through these questions.

- What are some ways that God provided for Ruth and Naomi?
- What are some things that God didn't do for them?
- Does God always give us everything we want? Why or Why Not?
- Have you ever felt God hasn't provided for you? Explain. Do you think Ruth ever felt the same?



Provision

Use Philippians 4:10-20 and Matthew 6:25-34 to help you think through these questions.

- Ruth followed God even before these miraculous provisions came. She is a model of one who followed the giver, not the gifts. How can we fight against loving God only when things are going well.
- Has God ever provided for you in an unusual way?

Extra

- One of the greatest ways we see providence in this story is actually found outside the book of Ruth. Who was Boaz's mother and how did this prepare him to accept a Moabite woman?
- Boaz is commended for extravagant provision of Ruth and Naomi. Read Leviticus 19:10, 34 and discuss how this was much more than just the kindness of Boaz.
- What are some ways you have experienced the kindness of God through other people as they kept the Law of God?
- We have spent a lot of time focusing in on God's provision to the individual. Discuss how God is using this story for something much larger than Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz.
- Can you think of modern examples when God's working has been on a much larger scale than just the individual?



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



Under the Tapestry

Go & Glean

Week 4

July 28, 2019





Prepare your Heart

Last week we saw the hand of God behind every happenstance, which leads us to a really big question: If God is in charge of all things and gently guiding our paths, if He is sovereign over all, then does that mean that we are called to passivity, that our actions don't really matter?

As the story of Ruth continues we find that sovereignty doesn't cancel out personal responsibility. God was silently guiding Ruth, but Ruth wasn't passive. What we find in Ruth 2 is a person of noble character. Many have made parallels between Ruth and the virtuous woman found in Proverbs 31.

We also find that Boaz was a worthy man. It was through Boaz that the providence of God was bestowed. Ruth teaches us that God prepares the ends as well as the means to those ends.

This section in Ruth helps us to discover what it means to live a life of integrity and initiative rather than duplicity and passivity.



Scripture

As a group, read Ruth 2:1-23 and write out qualities you find in Ruth and Boaz

Faithful

- What are some ways Ruth displays faithfulness to God and Naomi?
- What are some ways Boaz has shown faithfulness to God and Naomi?
- Ruth gave up everything to follow after God. She isn't the only person in the Bible to do this: name others who did the same.
- Give some examples of how people in your life have shown faithfulness to you as they maintained faithfulness to God.
- Is there any relationship in your life that you need to show more faithfulness in?

Hard Working

- Ruth has incredible work ethic. As you read this passage what are some things you notice about her work?
- If God is in control of everything and we believe that He will provide for us then why should we go out and work? (2 Thes. 3:10-12)



Hard Working

- How does God's sovereignty and prayer work together?
- Read 1 Timothy 5:8 and discuss how Ruth and Boaz cared for those under them.
- The call to work goes all the way back to Eden, before the fall. If God could just provide everything for us why does he command us to work?
- What are some areas that you need to be more hardworking in?

Giving

- In what ways does this story show Boaz's generosity?
- In what ways does this story show Ruth's generosity?
- What does the Bible teach us about the result of giving (Matthew 6:21)
- What does the Bible teach us about how to give (2 Cor. 9:7)
- What does the Bible teach us about how much we should give (Mark 12:41-44)
- Have you ever been the recipient of giving? If so, share about that experience.
- What are some ways you can give this week? Be specific.

Humble

- In what ways does this story show Ruth's humility?
- What circumstances could have caused Boaz to be prideful?
- How does one keep humble, like Boaz, in the midst of success?
- The opposite of humility is pride. What are the dangers of pride?
- Do a word search on "humble" or "humility" and discuss what the Bible has to say about this important topic.
- What is one area in your life where you need to become humble?



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



Under the Tapestry

Changed

Week 5

August 4, 2019





Prepare your Heart

In a fallen world there is bound to come pain, with pain comes brokenness. It must be said that brokenness is not something easily cured. But even in brokenness there is hope for those who put their trust in Christ. A broken heart that has been healed is a miracle and mercy from the Lord. The Prophet Jeremiah speaks of a day when the Lord will, “turn mourning into joy and give gladness for sorrow.” The Psalmist declares that, “joy comes with the morning.”

The means by which healing usually happens is through faithful people who silently sit and listen to the one who is sorrowful. This was true of Naomi. As this mourner sat in her dark night of the soul, waiting for the promised joy of the morrow, she did not sit alone. Ruth had clung to her, loved her, and constantly proved a source of strength for Naomi. If you're a careful reading you will have noticed a shift from chapter 2 to 3. Ruth faithfulness proves useful to Naomi and eventually there is a turn in the conversation.

Naomi has been silent (1:18) since her return from Moab, passively sitting by as Ruth took the initiative to take refuge under the wings of the Lord (2:12). But chapter three sees a shift. Naomi's soul has been watered for months and now, just as the Lord had produced a harvest in Bethlehem, a harvest is beginning to grow in Naomi's heart.

What we see in Chapter three is the outcome of a long obedience in the same direction. As God has poured into Ruth, Ruth has poured into Naomi and now it is time to reap a harvest...joy is dawning. The story of Ruth can be our story, when we live faithful lives we can be instruments of change in the lives of those around us.



Scripture

As a group, read Ruth 1:15-3:1 noting Naomi's behavior. Below, write some common causes and symptoms of depression and discuss any commonalities between them and Naomi.

Long-suffering

- What are some ways Ruth displayed a patient attitude with Naomi?
- Read Ephesians 4:1-3 and discuss what it means to "bear with one another."
- What are other examples in the Bible when extreme patience was practiced and how can these examples motivate us?
- Can you give any examples of when you had to practice long-suffering toward another?
- What are some practical ways you can show patience to those in your life this week?
- The turn for Naomi doesn't happen immediately, how long was it between the beginning of the Barley harvest until the end of the wheat harvest? How long are you willing to wait?

Instilling Hope

- Having read through the first three chapters, what are some ways Ruth brought hope to Naomi?



Instilling Hope

- Think about Ruth's life, she has suffered as well, but somehow found it within her to be a source of hope. How can we be people of hope even in our own dark times?
- Hope must be balanced with what we do and what we say. Sometimes what we say can be less than helpful, even when trying to be encouraging. Discuss that balance and what role God's word plays in bring hope.
- Ruth 2:23 informs us that Ruth lived with Naomi. Many times it's the constant continual presence of another that can help us most. What are some ways we can "live" with people in our lives that need hope?
- Read Romans 15:13, 1 Timothy 1:1, & 1 Peter 1:3 and discuss how the Holy Spirit, Jesus, and the resurrection are instrumental in true hope and how we practically use this knowledge.
- Sometimes Christ brings us hope through circumstances in our lives, similar to Ruth finding herself in Boaz's field. Ruth realizes this and encourages Naomi with good news in 2:21. Share with the group, by way of infusing hope, something that God has been doing in your life recently.

Hope Received

- When Naomi's darkness finally disappears how does her attitude change from being internal to external (see 3:1)?
- What are some proper responses when we are lifted out of depression?
- Have you ever experienced a dark night of the soul? Are there people who helped you whom you need to thank, repent, encourage, etc?
- At Naomi's darkest she changes her name to Mara. Read Exodus 15:22-25 and discuss why even this name change has a glimmer of hope.
- The word, "log" can be translated tree. What tree can be thrown into our bitterness and always promises to bring hope?



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God, the sorrows of this world, the brokenness we all experience, and the hope we have in Christ. Pray for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



Under the Tapestry

Counsel

Week 6

August 11, 2019





Prepare your Heart

One of the things I love about living in China is the honor culture. It brings a smile to my face every time I see someone give up a seat for their elder or humbly listen to an elder's rebuke. It's a dying art really...you see it happening less and less, which is unfortunate. The Bible tells us that gray hair is a crown of glory (Prov. 16:31), that elders should be considered worthy of double honor (1 Tim. 5:17), that the younger should be subject to elders, that children should honor their mother and father.

In the book of Ruth we see this modeled as Ruth patiently listens and submits to the instructions of Naomi, as strange and uncomfortable as those instructions were. We too are called to heed instruction and submit to those whom God has placed in our lives to, be it parent, pastor, mentor.

Ruth is a model of Prov. 9:9, "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning." May we be a people who value honor and seek after godly counsel.



Scripture

As a group, read Ruth 3:1-6. What advice does Naomi give and why do you suppose Ruth was willing to listen to it?

Honorable

- What are some qualities that Naomi displayed that qualifies her as a worthy mentor?
- What advantages of understanding the culture does Naomi have over Ruth?
- Discuss the role of elders in our lives and the Biblical mandate for seeking counsel from elders.
- Read 1 Kings 12 and discuss the danger of choosing the wrong counselors.
- Who speaks into your life and in what ways do you maintain that relationship?
- There are many modern words we use to describe Naomi's action: coach, mentor, counselor. The Bible most often uses the word, "disciple." If you do not have someone in your life discipling you how can you go about starting that relationship? Give practical steps.
- What discipleship relationships do you see throughout the Bible? How do these relationships help us as we seek discipleship?



Humility

- Discuss why Ruth's willingness to listen to Naomi was an act of humility.
- What role does humility play in our ability to receive counsel?
- Humility is the acknowledgement we don't know everything. What are some areas in your life where you need godly counsel?
- Read Exodus 18:24 and compare it with Ruth 3:5. Can you think of others who humbly received the advice of others?
- How do we battle against pride that keeps us from accepting godly counsel? Think Biblically! See Philippians 2
- Read 1 Peter 5:5. Discuss the temptation to despise elders and the wisdom of humbly submitting to them.

Action

- Often times we nod our heads or pay lipservice to advice given us, but following through with that advice is much harder. Why is that?
- How do we sort through advice given us to know what we should and shouldn't implement?
- Share a time when heeding another person's advice made a difference in your life.
- This is a really bizarre story. It seems Naomi's advice had the potential for great danger. What do you think is going on here? Was it all good advice? Did Ruth heed all of it exactly as Naomi dispensed it?
- Is there any advice (from a friend, small group member, pastor, etc) that you need to implement in your life today? How can your small group help you follow through?
- Read Psalm 119:24. How can we use scripture as our ultimate counselor and guide for action?



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by praying for one another

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



Under the Tapestry

Purity

Week 7

August 18, 2019





Prepare your Heart

Many people have tried to turn the book of Ruth in to a Romance novel, as if it were some ancient Disney story. This is unfortunate because that is NOT what the book is about. Ruth is a book about how God cares for His people through His hidden hand.

That being said, there is much we can learn about male and female relationship through the interactions of Ruth and Boaz. Ruth was a virtuous woman and Boaz a worthy man (2:1). Remember that Ruth is often compared to the Virtuous Woman in Proverbs 31. In fact, the Hebrew Bible places Ruth after Proverbs.

Ruth and Boaz model for us something that is lacking from much of society today: how godly men and women should interact with each other...and not just romantically, but in ways appropriate to their differing relationships. Whether you're married or single, the lessons learned from Ruth and Boaz's relationship will prove useful in all of your differing relationship.

In a time when purity is undervalued, Ruth screams to us a much needed message.



Scripture

As a group, read Ruth 3:1-18. Ruth is a book that is overwhelmingly pro woman. List all the ways in which godly women are celebrated through this book.

Godly Women

1 Thess. 4:3-5, Matthew 5:27-30, Proverbs 4:23-27, 1 Timothy 5:1-2, Colossians 3:1-4, Job 31:1, Eph. 5:1-5, 1 Peter 3:3-4

- The Bible has much to say about strong, godly women. In what ways do we see Ruth's strength?
- Who are other women in the Bible can we learn about mature femininity?
- How does Ruth show respect to Boaz but at the same time reveal that womanhood is much more than marriage or children? Discuss the danger of equating womanhood with either of these things.
- List different women God has placed in your life.
- What are appropriate ways you can honor these women with your words and action?
- In what ways does Ruth model purity to us?
- What are the challenges women face in regards to purity today?



Godly Men

1 Thess. 4:3-5, Matthew 5:27-30, Proverbs 4:23-27, 1 Timothy 5:1-2, Colossians 3:1-4, Job 31:1, Eph. 5:1-5

- The Bible has much to say about strong, godly men. In what ways do we see Boaz's strength?
- Who are other men in the Bible can we learn about mature masculinity?
- In what ways does Boaz provide and protect Ruth and Naomi?
- List different men God has placed in your life.
- What are appropriate ways you can honor these men with your words and action?
- In what ways does Boaz model purity to us?
- What are the challenges men face in regards to purity today?

Gender

- Society has really attacked gender in recent years. How does the Bible display the similarities and differences between men and women?
- Cultural definitions of gender almost always fall short (stereotypes). Using the Bible, how would you define manhood and womanhood?
- How does the church speak in both grace and truth on this important topic?
- How do parents help their children navigate through the murky waters of gender and sexuality?



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by praying for one another

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



Under the Tapestry

Redemption

Week 8

August 25, 2019





Prepare your Heart

The Old Testament is a shadow-land of the Savior. Throughout its pages are the whispers of a warrior King come to free His people. It is the soft echo of a second Adam come to Eden. These shadows and echoes prepare us for Jesus not just with prophecies but with pictures of what He will be like.

Ruth four is one such instance of how God is preparing our hearts for the arrival of our Passover lamb who will risk much to redeem us. This is not just Ruth's story or Naomi's story or Elimelech's story...it is our story.

God, through Jesus Christ, has come to be our kinsman redeemer; stand in awe of our Savior awesome and mighty. Bow before Him and give Him the glory due His name!



Scripture

As a group, read Ruth 3:18-4:10. Write down your personal thoughts.

A Man of Honor

- What are the honorable qualities of Boaz that have been displayed throughout this book? How do these mirror that of Jesus?
- Boaz sitting at the gate is a sign of honor. Where does Jesus now sit and what is it a sign of?
- How does Hebrews 1-3 present Jesus as the one worthy of all honor?
- Take some time to discuss why you believe Jesus is worthy of all glory and honor.

Self-Faithfulness

- Why did Boaz talk with the closest Redeemer instead of just ignoring him?
- In what ways does Jesus fulfill all the requirements for our salvation?
- The Bible is clear about God being faithful to himself (swearing by His name, not lying, fulfilling promises). How does this self-faithfulness give us assurance in our salvation?



Unwanted Foreigner

- What did Ruth have going against her that would keep people from choosing her?
- What do we have going against us?
- Why do you think God loves us? (Deut. 7:6-9)
- Do you find it freeing to be loved by God because of who He is and not because of who you are? Explain
- Give an example when you felt God's love when you didn't deserve it.

Costly Love

- What did Boaz sacrifice for Ruth?
- List some of the sacrifices Jesus has made for you personally.
- Do you think Jesus ever struggled to make these sacrifices? Explain.
- How does the sacrifices of Jesus matter for what we do this coming week?
- A key word in Ruth is "Go'El" which we translate "Redeemer." Search for "redemption," in your Bible app and discuss how Jesus fulfills the role of "Go'El."



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by praying for one another

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



Under the Tapestry

Glory & Good

Week 9

September 1, 2019





Prepare your Heart

Ruth begins with a death and ends with a birth. Ruth begins with barrenness (both field and womb) and ends with a harvest (both field and womb). Ruth begins with despair (the time of the Judges) and ends with hope (and Jesse fathered David).

Ruth begins with the question, "Is God really there and is He really good?" It ends with an answer..."overwhelmingly, yes!" But it is not a straight road to glory. Life takes many twists and turns, yet through it all God is doing something...for Himself and for His people...for His glory and for our good.

In this section of scripture we will see how every turn of the road has been an intentional journey towards God. He is doing something with every moment of our lives, and it overwhelmingly good.



Scripture

As a group, read Ruth 4:11-22. Write down your personal thoughts.

Goodness

- In what ways has God worked out this story for the good of Mahlon?
- In what ways has God worked out this story for the good of Ruth?
- In what ways has God worked out this story for the good of Naomi?
- In what ways has God worked out this story for the good of Boaz?
- In what ways has God worked out your story for good? Share a personal example.
- There is great hope in the people as they pray prophetically (against hope) over Ruth and Boaz in v. 12. In what present circumstances do we have hope against hope?



Glory

- How does God get glory from this story?
- In what ways is God getting glory from your story?
- God is doing more than just something for these individual people, he's preparing the way for Jesus who will free us all from sin. In what ways have you seen God use your story in a much greater way than just your own?
- Read Ruth 4:14. Notice how God's good act to His people result in praise to God. What are some things you can publicly praise God for right now?

Genealogy

- Think about the timing of this story and its importance in redemptive history. What hope does this genealogy bring to the people?
- This genealogy reminds us that history is His story. How have you seen God move in your own personal history?
- Read the genealogy of Matthew 1 and note the various people in Jesus' family tree. What hope does that bring us today about our own lives?



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by praying for one another

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports

