

RUTH 3:8-13

- › Getting Boaz to act as the family redeemer meant that Ruth had to first approach him. What risks did Ruth take as she followed Naomi's advice?
- › What does Boaz's response to Ruth's request (vv. 10-11) tell us about how he treated Ruth? How do you see God's kindness evidenced here?
- › What can we learn about how God would have us conduct ourselves in relationships with people of the opposite sex from the story of Ruth and Boaz?
- › What about their courtship might be unwise for us to emulate (see 1 Cor. 6:18; 10:13)?

RUTH 4:13-17

- › How did God redeem Ruth's past (v. 13)? What about Ruth makes her a surprising recipient of God's grace?
- › How did God redeem Naomi's pain? Compare Naomi's response to the birth of Obed in verses 14-15 with her response to the death of her husband and sons (Ruth 1:15, 20-21).
- › Read Psalm 127:3-5. Why was the birth of Obed such a precious gift? How did his birth demonstrate God's grace?
- › Why do you think the story of Ruth concludes with a genealogy of David (vv. 17-21)? Ruth is mentioned in Jesus' genealogy (Matt. 1:5). What is significant about this?

CENTRAL TRUTH

God is always at work in our lives. He is writing a better story than we could write for ourselves.

NOW WHAT?

- › Share about a difficulty you've recently faced. How might God be writing a better story for your life even through this difficulty?
- › The Book of Ruth is a wonderful story of God's faithfulness. Where have you seen His faithfulness at work in your life? Where do you need to trust His faithfulness now?
- › How can we encourage one another to trust that God is telling a better story for our lives?
- › How does it encourage you to know that God includes "outsiders" like Ruth in His story of redemption? What does that tell us about our mission?

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Read Luke 14:15-24. The parable of the banquet further illustrates a truth that the Book of Ruth introduces: God has a heart for outsiders and goes out of His way to graciously include them in His plan of redemption. What does this mean for you? Who are the outsiders in your city, community, school, and extracurricular activities? How might you reach out to them with the hope of the gospel this week?
- › **Memorize:** Ruth 2:20
- › **Pray:** Thank God for telling a better story in your life than you could tell for yourself. Spend some time thinking about difficult situations you and your family have faced in the past and how God has used those situations for your spiritual growth and to bring Him glory. Thank Him for always being at work in your life and pray that He would help you to grow to trust Him more and more, specifically understanding that His story is the best design and plan for your life.

KEEP ON DIGGING

- › Read Genesis 50:15-21. Joseph's brothers had plotted his murder only to get cold feet and settle on selling him into slavery instead. They then convinced Jacob, Joseph's father, that he was dead by slaughtering a goat and covering Joseph's cloak with its blood. Though Joseph continued to face tremendous difficulties in prison, God blessed him with the ability to interpret dreams which eventually led him to a prominent position in Egypt as second in command to Pharaoh. Joseph, however, clearly saw God's hand even in his brother's sinful actions. God does not always allow us to see the specific ways He is writing a better story for us, but we, like Joseph, can have faith that God is writing a better story for us than we would write for ourselves.