

# Sermon Guide

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## sermon discussion questions

### "The God of Redemption"

- ▶ In movies or books, do you prefer an ending that brings the story to completion or are you ok when it leaves you hanging? Do you like everything to work out in the end, or do you like to be surprised?
- ▶ What story is playing out in your life right now that you're not sure how it will end? What story is playing out in your life right now that you know for sure how it will end?
- ▶ Does it seem like Boaz was making decisions on the fly or does it seem like he had developed a plan?
- ▶ If we do not take initiative or make plans to play an active role in God's story, is it likely that we will? Explain.
- ▶ What prayer did the people pray over Ruth in verses 11-12?
- ▶ How did Ruth's life change forever in these verses? How does this relate to what happens when a person comes into relationship with Jesus Christ?
- ▶ What hardships had Ruth and Naomi faced? How did they respond to those hardships?
- ▶ 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).
- ▶ What is different about Naomi in chapter 4 from chapter 1?
- ▶ Read Matthew 1:5. What do Ruth's story and this genealogy reveal to you about God's plan for lost humanity?
- ▶ How does this powerful story of Ruth's redemption by Boaz point to our redemption by Jesus? In what ways is Jesus a true and better Boaz?

## dig deeper:

"All our difficulties are only platforms for the manifestations of His grace, power, and love."

~Hudson Taylor

Read: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Peter indicates in verse 7 that God has a plan for the trials He lets believers face. What is that plan? What is God doing in believers as He lets them face trials? How might trusting Christ in the midst of trials result in "inexpressible and glorious joy" (v.8)? How is your story like Naomi's and Ruth's stories of God's grace?

The Book of Ruth is a wonderful story of God's faithfulness. Where have you seen God faithfully at work in your life in the past? Where do you need to trust His faithfulness now? How might God be using that situation to strengthen your faith and deepen your relationship with Him?

Faithfulness might not come with ease, but it does come with promises. What are some practical ways to remember God's promises when persevering in faith is difficult?

*preschool*

## *questions*

- Who is in charge in your house?
- Does that person care about you?
- Do you have to trust the person in charge even when it doesn't make sense?
- Has that person ever let you down?
- Has that person ever done something cool when you didn't think they could?
- If God is good and completely in charge, do you think you can trust Him to be in charge of your life?

*elementary*

## *questions*

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- If God is good and completely in charge, do you think you can trust Him to be in charge of your life?
- Where are some places in your life that you need to trust God to be in charge?

*student*

## *questions*

- Are there places in your life that you need to trust God even when you don't understand what He's doing?
- Do you believe God cares for you, or do you have a hard time believing that?
- Does Christ "bearing the cost" for your redemption help you believe He cares?
- Do you feel like you're one of the people Christ cannot save because you're too far off? How does the story of Ruth and Naomi help you know you're not too far away?



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