

# Sermon Guide

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## sermon discussion questions

### "Hope in Surprising Places"

- What are some of the ways you know God cares for you?
- Why do people sometimes doubt God cares for them?
- Looking back over your life, in what ways would you say that God has guided you in His sovereignty and protected you in His lovingkindness?
- Of the two demonstrations of God's love here—to Naomi through Ruth's radical devotion and to Ruth through Boaz's concern—which do you relate to the most? How has God shown you His love through a person's activity on your behalf or a person's genuine concern for your welfare?
- Identify every instance of God's sovereignty you find in these verses that could have been mistaken as "coincidence". Which stands out to you the most? Why?
- Why might Naomi's situation be even more difficult than a similar situation would be for a woman today?
- Why is it important for God's people to grasp this truth?
- It's as if Boaz was presenting an argument to Ruth as to why she should stay and glean in his field rather than going somewhere else. Why might Ruth have been tempted to leave such a safe place that provided her needs (see v. 10)?
- What other "fields" are Christians today tempted to explore? Why do we do that? What is God saying to us here?  
What must Boaz's relationship with God have been like for him to treat Ruth so kindly?
- If God is revealing His character and gospel story through Boaz here, what picture does verse 14 paint?
- What does verse 23 say to you about human timing and God's sovereignty? When has God provided what you need for a time before he showed you a greater blessing? What are some things He longs to teach us in the waiting?

## dig deeper:

"Without Christ there is no hope."  
~Charles Spurgeon~

### Ephesians 5:22-33

What does this passage teach us of marriage's symbolism? In what ways? What does true submission look like? What does it not look like? How is Jesus' work on the cross an example of submission for us?

What does the love husbands are called to model look like (vv. 25-30)? How might a wife respond to a husband who loves her like Jesus? How does this type of love benefit her spiritually? How does a relationship centered on sacrificial love and submission reflect the gospel? How can you and your spouse keep these ideas as a common part of your marriage?

In your own words, how would you explain the main goal of a Christian marriage? How does a proper view of marriage affect our relationship with God? How does it affect the lives of those of us who are single?

What could we as a group do to encourage mutual love and respect in our individual marriages? In our relationships with others?

## ***preschool*** ***questions***

- Have you ever been surprised with how a movie ended?
- Have you ever felt sad or alone and God gave you a friend?
- Have you ever had a hard time believing things could work out well for you?
- Do you think even though Naomi's life was hard, that God was working things behind the scenes for her good?
- Read: Romans 8:28—Do you think God can work things behind the scenes for your good?

## ***elementary*** ***questions***

- Have you ever been surprised with how a movie ended?
- Have you ever felt sad or alone and God gave you hope in that situation?
- Have you ever had a hard time believing things could work out well for you, just like Naomi had a hard time?
- Do you think even though Naomi's life was hard, that God was working things behind the scenes for her good?
- Read: Romans 8:28—Do you think God can work things behind the scenes for your good?
- What are ways God has been faithful to you even when things were hard?

## ***student*** ***questions***

- Have you ever been in a difficult situation and God gave you hope? What was the situation, and how did he give you hope?
- Have you ever had a hard time believing things could work out well for you, just like Naomi had a hard time?
- Do you think even though Naomi's life was hard, that God was working things behind the scenes for her good?
- Read: Romans 8:28—Do you think God can work things behind the scenes for your good?
- What are ways you struggle to believe God?
- Andrew said, "God supplies hope by not abandoning us, even when we struggle to believe." What are things you struggle with that you should pray about so God can help you believe?

