

SONRISE

SMALLGROUPS

HEROES OF THE FAITH

OCTOBER 6, 2019

RUTH: REDEEMING FAITH (RUTH 1-4)

MAIN POINT

Just as Ruth was redeemed by Boaz, so Jesus redeems all who belong to Him. In response, we are called to show faithfulness to Him and others.

INTRODUCTION

- Faithfulness is “the quality of being true, trustworthy, and reliable in all one’s dealings with others.” Is this a quality our culture values? Think of some recent examples to support your answer.
- Why is faithfulness an important attribute for the Christ-follower to exhibit?

In Christian circles, faithfulness refers to more than just one’s character. It also relates to one’s acceptance of the gospel message and the committal of oneself to Christ as Savior and Lord. Because faithfulness is an aspect of the fruit of the Spirit, we know it doesn’t come naturally, especially not during life’s trying times. True faithfulness, birthed in us by the Holy Spirit, is a perseverance through the seasons of life, no matter what they bring our way. Such is the example Ruth set for us.

DISCUSSION

> Summarize Ruth 1-4. Read Ruth 4:1-12.

- What did Ruth’s commitment to go with Naomi mean to her? What did Ruth give up to go with Naomi to Bethlehem? Has anyone ever given up something significant in order to be committed to you?
- How does Ruth’s statement in 1:16-17 mirror what happens when we receive and begin to follow Christ?
- What did Boaz recognize about Ruth? How did his actions provide for Ruth’s physical needs?
- What did Boaz ask the Lord to do for Ruth? Why is this significant, and what does it teach us about him?
- How did Ruth’s faithfulness to Naomi (2:11-12,23) and Boaz’s faithfulness to Ruth (2:8-9,14-16) reflect God’s faithfulness to His children?
- What risks did Ruth take as she followed Naomi’s advice to approach Boaz (3:5-9)? How has God required risk-taking from you as you have followed Him? How have you seen His love in the risk-taking?
- What does Boaz’s response to Ruth’s request (3:10-11) and his actions in verses 14-16 tell us about how he treated Ruth?
- What initiative did Boaz take in redeeming Ruth (4:1-12)? Why is it important that we make plans and seek an active role in God’s story for our lives?

- 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?

APPLICATION

- Would you say you are more like Naomi in chapter 1 (bitter, empty, and full of despair) or Naomi in chapter 4, (recognizing that God is at work and desires your redemption)? Explain.
- How should recognizing that Jesus is our redeemer change the way we respond to hardship in our lives? How will you respond to your hardship differently this week?

COMMENTARY

Ruth 1–4

The Book of Ruth shows God working behind the scenes in the lives of ordinary people, turning apparent tragedy into joy and peace. The Book of Ruth shows God as concerned not only for the welfare of one family—Naomi and Ruth—but for the welfare of all God’s people who would be blessed by David and by David’s Son, Jesus Christ. The participation of Ruth, the Moabitess, in the fulfillment of God’s promises indicates that God’s salvation is for people of all nationalities.

By their faithfulness, integrity, and love, the characters of the Book of Ruth mirrored the character of God. They serve as reminders that the lives of godly people are a powerful witness to God’s self-sacrificing love.