

If you have limited time to prepare, this 3-step outline is a helpful tool for leading a small group discussion:

1. Read the text from Sunday’s message.
2. What did you find most helpful/confusing/new/ that you did not understand from the message?
3. What were your big takeaways? How will you put these into practice in your life?

Getting Started

Each week we will include a short video related to the Broken Dreams message that your group can watch together to initiate the group discussion. Here’s the video link for this week’s message on Ruth 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syhBKuCA5Tc&feature=youtu.be>

- Share an “as it turns out” story from your life where you realized that God was working out the details to bless you and provide for you, even when you had no idea of how or what He was doing in the moment.

Discussion

At this point the narrator introduces the fact that a relative of Elimelech was still living in Bethlehem. Naomi knew of him but determined not to ask him for support, though he was a *man of standing* who could have helped her. The immediate need was food. It was humiliating to be reduced to such poverty, but because it was harvest time there was a means of self-help. God’s law stipulated that farmers were not to harvest the corners of their fields, but leave grain for the poor to collect (Lev 19:9-10; 23:22). Special blessing would follow from this generous action (Dt. 24:19). Ruth decided to take advantage of this provision, but guessed that not all farmers would welcome people foraging on their land, especially a foreigner. She wanted to go where she would *find favor*. Though she knew nothing about any near relatives of her father-in-law, she ‘happened’ to choose to glean in a field belonging to Boaz, who was *from the clan of Elimelech*. The repetition of these words which occur in v 1 underlines their importance. Her choice of field was no accident; God had been her unseen guide as subsequent events were to prove. (New Bible Commentary, D.A. Carson)

- As you read Ruth 2, make a list of all the events that occurred that would have helped to produce a growing sense of hope for both Naomi and Ruth.
 - As you may be facing a challenging situation in your life, how have you seen God working in big and small ways to provide hope and encouragement to keep going?
- Boaz extends his blessing and kindness to both Ruth and Naomi. What word/phrase do you think Naomi may have used to describe her condition as chapter 2 concludes? Full? Empty? Bitter? or _____?
 - Share a story of someone who recently blessed you in word and deed

- How does the concept of the Boaz as the *kinsman-redeemer* point forward to Jesus as our Redeemer?
 - Consider:
Jesus redeemed those who were slaves to sin (Romans 6:15-18), had lost all earthly possessional privileges in the Fall (Genesis 3:17-19), and had been alienated by sin from God (2 Cor 5:18-21)
Boaz stands in the direct line of Christ (Matthew 1:5; Luke 3:32)

- Share specific examples of what you admire most about Boaz and/or Ruth in this story?
 - Which of these qualities would you like to develop in your life?

- Application: As a church together, we can do more – Let's help people in our community who are in "need of gleaning".
Next Sunday (3/1) bring in Peanut Butter and Diapers for Chester County Food Bank and Chester County Women's Services.

Prayer

- If you connect more with Ruth and Naomi at this time ... pray that God will provide for your needs and keep your eyes open for how He is moving around you.
- Maybe God is leading you to be a Boaz and you are to keep your eyes open for opportunities to bless others with acts of kindness.