

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 4:16-22.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1HuUwE5ibA&list=PLbjnRsewz0Cj0xy87cjcVrYlj9OszGHXc&index=7&t=0s>

- Discuss how God can use what you are going through today to make a difference and leave a legacy for future generations.
- Take a few minutes to share how you are doing in this “new” environment?
What are some unexpected gifts of this time?
What kindness of God are we aware of?
What ways are we seeing His care and protection of us?

Discussion

Life changed for all of us in the past two weeks with closures, social distancing, working from home, etc. In our story of Ruth, everything changes in chapter 4. Boaz marries Ruth and Ruth gives birth to Obed. For Naomi, the emptiness of bereavement has now been replaced by fullness; bitterness by joy (1:21). Because Obed would have been regarded as the grandson of Elimelech and Naomi, her husband's name would not die, and his property would have an heir. Moreover, Naomi would have a protector to look after her in her old age, as well as her loving daughter-in-law, who was *better ... than seven sons*.

The name Obed means “servant of the Lord” or “in service we worship”. Ruth also decided to turn from the worship of false gods to worship and serve Yahweh, the One True God.

Pastor Lee stated that *we worship what we serve, what we value or hold high, we worship*. Drastic times like these often reveal “false gods” in our lives, when those things are taken away. And we must be careful that we don't replace them with new “false gods/idols”.

- Pastor Lee referenced Ephesians 5:15-21 as a “*first principles*” passage. Read the passage below and take some time to discuss each of the verses and how you can apply them to your life in this season of change as you grow in worship and in service of the Lord.

15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

How often do we just skip past the genealogies when they are listed in the Bible? The genealogy in 4:18-22 linked David with the patriarchs through Perez, the son of Judah. Because of the faithfulness of Ruth and the faithfulness of God, the promises of the patriarchs could be realized through David and his greater Son, Jesus Christ: “A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham” (Matthew 1:1). Jesus Christ’s lineage, through Mary, is traced to David. Christ is therefore called “the Son of David” (Matthew 15:22; 20:30–31; 21:9, 15; 22:42). Christ will someday return to earth and will sit on the throne of David as the millennial King (2 Samuel 7:12–16; Revelation 20:4–6).

- God is active in our lives today just as He was in the time of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz. The decisions we make now will impact the future. Discuss what it means to leave a legacy and not just footprints. What are some steps you can begin to take now to leave a legacy of faith for your family?
- Read this summary of the book of Ruth and consider how God may be calling you to live on mission for Him as *the church* in your neighborhood reflecting God’s faithfulness, integrity and self-sacrificing love with others.

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.

Prayer

⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9-11)

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1:15-22)

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:9-14)