
COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

Redeemed: The Most Unlikely of Places

Passage: Ruth 1

The Point: God redeems and works in the most unlikely of places.

Discussion Questions:

- **Intro:**
 - The sermon named places like waiting, grief, confusion, doubt, and bitterness as spaces where God often works. Which of those “places” feels most familiar to you right now, and why?
 - Have you had a season where you wondered, “God, how could you let this happen?” Looking back, can you see any ways God was at work—even if you still don’t have all the answers?
- **Context and Ruth 1**
 - Ruth’s story happens “in the days when the judges ruled”—a time of moral decay and “everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” How does it encourage you that God was still quietly working out His redemption plan in that kind of environment?
 - Naomi loses her home, husband, and both sons. If you put yourself in her shoes, how do you imagine you’d be feeling toward God in that moment?
 - Ruth does the “extraordinary and unexpected” thing and clings to Naomi, saying, “Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.” What stands out to you about Ruth’s faith and loyalty?
- **God’s Goodness & Bitterness**
 - Read Ruth 1:13 “The hand of the Lord has gone out against me.” Where do you see Naomi getting God partly right (His sovereignty) but badly wrong (His goodness)? How are we tempted to judge God’s character based on our immediate circumstances?
 - Naomi changes her name to Mara (“bitter”). What are some subtle ways bitterness can show up in our lives—toward God, circumstances, or people? What tends to feed bitterness in you?
- **Takeaways**
 - “Bad circumstances don’t change the goodness of God.” Is there a specific situation where you need to preach that line to yourself right now? What Scripture, truth, or practice could help you “taste and see that the Lord is good” in that place?
 - How does connecting Ruth’s story to Christmas (Bethlehem, the coming of Jesus) deepen your confidence that God is still at work in hidden, ordinary, or painful places?
 - What was your biggest takeaway from Ruth 1?