



UPSTATE GROUP GUIDE

Through the Bible

March 24-30

Ruth 1-4

Things to Know

EggVenture Volunteers Needed

April 5th, 2 - 5 pm - [Click Here to Volunteer!](#)

Gospel Connections and Conversations

[Click Here to report your Gospel Connections & Conversations](#)

Studying God's Word *In Community*

*Reminder: Seek to understand and apply God's word, **not** rehash the sermon.*

Read

Read Ruth 1:1-5 & 4:13-22 and make observations about the text.

- What is God teaching us in the passage?
 - What does this reveal about who God is, what God has done, and how I should respond?
 - Which part of the text was most meaningful to you and why?
 - What do you need help understanding about this passage?
-

Sermon Recap

- The purpose of God is not hindered by a broken world. In fact God uses the brokenness in your life to accomplish his plans.
- Ruth and Naomi didn't allow hardships to keep them from moving forward. Faced with hardships these women moved forward in faith and activity.
- God's plan is to use one person to bring redemption in your life. For Ruth it was Boaz, for you it is Jesus.
- The grace of God was not limited in Ruth and it is not limited in your life.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Boaz's role as a kinsman-redeemer foreshadow Christ's work of redemption?

- 📖 **Ruth 3:9** - *"Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer."*
- 🗨️ **Theological Reflection:** In this verse, Ruth asks Boaz to "spread his wings" over her, which mirrors how Christ covers and redeems sinners. **How does this imagery of protection and redemption connect to Jesus as our ultimate Redeemer (Ephesians 1:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19)?**
- 🗨️ **Practical Application:** What does it mean for us to take refuge under Christ's "wings" in our daily lives? How can we live in the security of His redemption?

2. How do we see God's invisible hand at work in the "coincidences" of Ruth's story?

- 📖 **Ruth 2:3** - *"So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz..."*
- 🗨️ **Theological Reflection:** The phrase "she happened to come" seems casual, yet we know God was directing her steps. How does this illustrate **God's sovereignty over seemingly ordinary decisions**? How does this compare to Romans 8:28?
- 🗨️ **Practical Application:** Can you recall a time in your life when what seemed like a random event was actually God leading you toward something greater? How does understanding God's providence change the way we view unexpected circumstances?

3. What does Ruth's transformation from an outsider to a covenant member teach us about the inclusion of Gentiles in God's redemptive plan?

- 📖 **Ruth 4:13-17** - *"So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife... they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David."*
- 🗨️ **Theological Reflection:** Ruth, a **Moabite**, was brought into the **lineage of King David—and ultimately Jesus (Matthew 1:5)**. How does this foreshadow **Christ's mission to bring salvation to all nations (Galatians 3:28, Ephesians 2:12-13)**?
- 🗨️ **Practical Application:** How can this truth shape the way we view people from different backgrounds, cultures, or those who feel like "outsiders" in the church? How can we extend

the grace of Christ to them?

4. Naomi's suffering led to Ruth's redemption—how does this reflect the greater biblical theme of God using suffering for His redemptive purposes?

- 📖 **Ruth 1:20-21** - *“Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me... The Lord has brought me back empty.”*
- 🙌 **Theological Reflection:** Naomi believed her suffering meant God had abandoned her, yet it was through her pain that Ruth came to faith and the Messiah's lineage was established. How does this reflect the cross—where suffering brought about the world's greatest redemption (Acts 2:23-24)?
- 🙌 **Practical Application:** Have you ever experienced a trial that, in hindsight, you saw God using for a greater purpose? How can we trust God's sovereignty even when we feel “empty”

5. How does Boaz's willingness to redeem Ruth contrast with the law's inability to redeem, and how does this point us to Christ?

- 📖 **Ruth 4:6** - *“Then the redeemer said, ‘I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I impair my own inheritance. Take my right of redemption yourself, for I cannot redeem it.’”*
 - 🙌 **Theological Reflection:** The closer kinsman refused to redeem Ruth, much like the **law** cannot save us. Boaz, who willingly redeemed her, foreshadows **Christ fulfilling the law and purchasing us with His blood (Romans 8:3-4, Galatians 4:4-5)**. How does this contrast help us understand the gospel?
 - 🙌 **Practical Application:** Are there areas in your life where you are still relying on your own “law-keeping” rather than trusting in Christ's redemption? How can we live daily in the freedom of being fully redeemed by Jesus?
-

Scripture

**RUTH 1:1-5 and
4:13-22**

Naomi Widowed

1 In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. 2 The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. 3 But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. 4 These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, 5 and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Ruth and Boaz Marry

13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. 14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! 15 He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him." 16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. 17 And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

The Genealogy of David

18 Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, 19 Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, 20 Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, 21 Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, 22 Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David

[*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ruth 1:1-5, Ruth 4:13-22

Living on Mission In Community

Before you close the group, answer this question:

The book of **Ruth** teaches us that **God is always at work**, even in the most difficult and uncertain circumstances. Just as Ruth trusted God's plan, even when it required great sacrifice, we too must learn to **walk by faith** rather than by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). Ruth's story reminds us that no one is beyond God's redeeming love—He welcomes the outsider, restores the broken, and uses ordinary people for extraordinary purposes. Like Boaz, who extended grace and provision to Ruth, we are called to be **instruments of redemption** in the lives of others, showing kindness, generosity, and pointing people to Christ. Most importantly, Ruth's transformation from a **destitute foreigner** to a **redeemed bride** foreshadows our own salvation through Jesus, our Kinsman-Redeemer. This truth should give us confidence to rest in God's providence, live with bold faith, and extend His love to those around us.

In what areas of your life is God calling you to trust Him more deeply? How can you step out in faith, like Ruth, and allow Him to guide your path?

Optional Breakout Questions

Consider making time at the end of the group to break out into groups of 2-4 (keep them gender specific). Have them answer these three questions about their weeks:

1. How did you feed yourself?
 - *(What have you been doing to feed your spiritual life, and how is it going?)*
 2. How did you feed others?
 - *(How did you share the gospel or gospel truth with someone this week?)*
 3. How did you feed your flesh?
 - *(What sins did you struggle with this week? How can your friends hold you accountable?)*
-

Leader Resources

Small Group Curriculum: The Redemption of Ruth

A Journey from Brokenness to Blessing

Session Overview

The book of Ruth is more than a love story—it is a story of redemption, providence, and faithfulness that foreshadows the gospel of Jesus Christ. Ruth, a Moabite widow, finds herself in a desperate situation, yet through her faith, steadfastness, and divine guidance, she becomes part of God’s redemptive plan. This study will explore the major themes of Ruth, including God’s sovereignty, Ruth’s faith, and Boaz’s role as a kinsman-redeemer, pointing ultimately to Christ, our true Redeemer.

1. Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Prayer: Begin by asking God to open hearts to see His providence and redemptive work in their own lives, just as He worked in the life of Ruth.

Icebreaker Question:

“Have you ever faced a situation that seemed hopeless, but later you saw how God was working behind the scenes?”

Encourage the group to share personal stories of unexpected blessings and divine guidance.

2. Scripture Reading

Assign different group members to read selected passages aloud:

- **Ruth 1:1-5 (The tragedy in Moab)**
 - **Ruth 1:16-18 (Ruth’s declaration of faith)**
 - **Ruth 2:1-12 (Ruth meets Boaz)**
 - **Ruth 3:7-13 (Boaz’s willingness to redeem Ruth)**
 - **Ruth 4:13-17 (Redemption leads to restoration)**
-

3. Teaching Points & Commentary

I. Ruth’s Desperate Condition: The Need for Redemption

- **A Cursed Life – Ruth was a Moabite, a nation under divine judgment (Deut. 23:3).**
- **A Crushed Life – She had lost her husband, leaving her in poverty and grief (Ruth 1:5).**
- **A Condemned Life – She was an outsider, with no inheritance or hope in Israel.**

◆ C.H. Spurgeon: “Spiritually, we were all born on the wrong side of the tracks.”

◆ Adrian Rogers: “Ruth is a picture of you, and Boaz is a picture of Jesus Christ, our Kinsman-Redeemer.”

Just as Ruth needed redemption from her helpless state, every person is born in spiritual poverty and alienation from God due to sin (Eph. 2:12-13).

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Ruth’s situation reflect the spiritual condition of humanity without Christ?

2. In what ways do people today experience feelings of being an “outsider” to God’s promises?

II. Ruth’s Faith: A Bold Decision for God

- Faith in the Midst of Loss – Despite Naomi’s bitterness, Ruth clung to her and declared:

“Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God” (Ruth 1:16).

- Counting the Cost – Ruth left behind her homeland, culture, and security to follow Naomi’s God.

- A Test of Loyalty – Unlike Orpah, who returned to Moab, Ruth remained steadfast.

◆ Spurgeon: “Affection for the godly should influence us to godliness.”

◆ John Piper: “Ruth is not merely choosing Naomi, she is choosing God.”

Ruth’s faith was not merely sentimental—it was a total surrender to God’s sovereignty. This foreshadows how true disciples of Christ must be willing to forsake everything for Him (Luke 9:23).

Discussion Questions:

1. What sacrifices might be required when we choose to follow Christ wholeheartedly?
2. How can Ruth’s faith encourage us in times of uncertainty and change?

III. Boaz as a Kinsman-Redeemer: A Picture of Christ

- A Willing Redeemer – Boaz had the right, the resources, and the desire to redeem Ruth (Ruth 4:1-6).
- A Lawful Transaction – Redemption required a legal process; Boaz publicly claimed Ruth (Ruth 4:9-10).
- A Picture of Grace – Boaz did not just provide for Ruth; he loved and honored her, foreshadowing Christ’s love for the church (Eph. 5:25-27).

◆ **Adrian Rogers: “Boaz stood in the shoes of the law to redeem Ruth; Jesus stands in our shoes to redeem us.”**

◆ **Charles Spurgeon: “Boaz is a picture of Jesus Christ, our glorious Kinsman-Redeemer, who redeems us, not with corruptible things, but with His own precious blood.”**

Boaz’s redemption of Ruth is a powerful foreshadowing of how Christ redeems sinners. Jesus became our Kinsman through the incarnation, had the wealth of righteousness, and willingly paid the price of redemption with His own life (1 Peter 1:18-19).

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What are the parallels between Boaz’s redemption of Ruth and Christ’s redemption of believers?**
- 2. How does understanding Christ as our Kinsman-Redeemer deepen our gratitude for salvation?**

IV. Restoration & Blessing: From Barrenness to Fruitfulness

- A New Inheritance – Ruth, once an outsider, became the great-grandmother of King David and part of the lineage of Christ (Ruth 4:13-17, Matthew 1:5).**
- Naomi’s Transformation – She who was bitter became blessed and full (Ruth 4:14).**
- The Inclusion of the Gentiles – Ruth’s story foreshadows the gospel’s expansion to all nations.**

◆ J.I. Packer: “The redemption in Ruth is a faint shadow of the redemption in Christ, the true and better Boaz.”

◆ Tim Keller: “The structure of Ruth is a miniature picture of redemptive history: exile, divine provision, redemption, and restoration—pointing to Jesus.”

God’s grace extended to Ruth reminds us that no one is beyond God’s redeeming love. The gospel is for all, regardless of background, past failures, or nationality (Gal. 3:28).

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Ruth’s inclusion in the lineage of Christ teach us about God’s heart for outsiders?
2. How can we extend God’s grace to people who feel unworthy or distant from Him?

4. Application & Reflection

Memory Verse:

“The Lord repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!” (Ruth 2:12)

Application Points:

- **Trust in God's Providence – Like Ruth, believe that God is working behind the scenes for your redemption.**
- **Make a Bold Decision for Christ – Follow Ruth's example of total surrender to God's will.**
- **Embrace Your Identity in Christ – Like Ruth, we were once outsiders, but through Christ, we are grafted into God's family.**
- **Live as an Instrument of Redemption – Be a Boaz to others, extending kindness, generosity, and the love of Christ.**

Closing Prayer:

