

Kindness in our everyday lives

Week 4: Kindness Personified

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing and sharing together.

Over the last few weeks, we've seen Ruth experience uncertainty as she moved to a distant land and also hardship as she was forced to glean the remnants of the harvest. Her life was difficult, yet we can also imagine how she would have experienced and known God's:

- Love: through acts of kindness;
- Encouragement: through conversations;
- Strength: through the care she experienced when she felt weak and vulnerable.

Encourage people to share recent moments when they have experienced God through their contact with others.

WORSHIP

Take time to praise and thank God for the moments just shared, and for the way that He guides and cares for each of us.

WORD

Boaz redeems Ruth

Read Ruth 4:1-12

1. In these verses we read that Boaz went to the town gate and gathered ten elders together as he spoke to the other kinsman-redeemer. Why do you think Boaz did this, what might it say about his character, and how might it inform how we are to live?



You may find it helpful to look at Deuteronomy 25:5-10.

2. In verses 4-6 Boaz's relative was willing to redeem the field but not Ruth. Why do you think this was the case and what might it say about his priorities?
3. Contrast the character qualities that you see in Boaz's relative and Boaz. As you compare these to your own values and behaviours, are there any that you now find God challenging you on?
4. Why do you think we are not told the name of Boaz's relative?
You may find it helpful to contrast the way that the relative is described to what is said in verses 9 to 12.

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Boaz marries Ruth and they have a son

Read Ruth 4:13-22

5. How does Naomi's situation change between the beginning of chapter 1 and these verses? How might the changes she experienced inform our walk with the Lord?

You may find it helpful to look at Matthew 6:33-34 and Psalm 16:11.

6. What can we learn from the women's response in verse 14?

7. Ruth was a Moabite, a foreigner, yet in this chapter we see her being redeemed by Boaz and becoming part of Jesus' family. In what way is Ruth's experience similar to our relationship with Christ?

You may find it helpful to look at Ephesians 1:7 and 2:11-22.

WHAT NEXT?

Boaz was undoubtedly a Godly person. Whether through what he does, how he speaks, how he acts, how he cares, or how he talks about God, his whole being reflects Christ. He is what is sometimes termed a 'type' of Christ, someone who behaves like Jesus, helping us to see Christ through how he lives.

As Christians, we are each called to show Christ to others, but do we do it as well as we could? Do we naturally display aspects of Christ the way that Boaz did? As you think about this, discuss and share ideas about how we might do this better, either individually or as a church.

Personal reflection

Is there someone in particular whom God wants you to show Christ to? What steps might God be asking you to take to do it?