



Family Circus

How Family?

Checking In:

- Finish this sentence: This week I felt most blessed by...
- What aspect of God's character has He recently revealed to you? What are you learning is true of Him and a relationship *with* Him?

Sermon Discussion:

- What is it about humanity that compels us to reduce everyone to a rival? Why are we so competitive? Where do you see this play out in your own life?
- What helped (or helps) hold your family together? Or what might have been (or is) lacking that led to things falling apart and becoming strained? What needs to change?
- Read **Ruth 1:14-18**. As Ruth emphasizes Naomi's people, God and home becoming her own, what is she also letting go of? What is she sacrificing? What do you think drives her to make such a sacrifice?
- Read **Ruth 2:8-11**. Boaz goes to great lengths (and personal sacrifice) to support Ruth. Does this surprise you? Do you know anyone in your life that's showed this level of kindness to someone and treated them as family?
- Read **Ruth 4:9-11**. A family—or kinsman—redeemer was the nearest relative to a widow's dead husband who would usually marry the widow to care for her. This doesn't usually happen in today's society, but do you see the same principle lived out in some other fashion or context? What does this tell you about the role of a *spiritual* family?

Application Questions:

- Psychologists have found that 4 key ingredients are needed to form a sense of family. They are: (1) Membership (2) Influence (3) Integration and fulfillment of needs (4) Shared emotional connection. Where do you have this sense in your own life?
- The bottom line was **FAMILY SERVES, SUPPORTS AND SACRIFICES FOR EACH OTHER**. Who in your family (biological or spiritual) might God be calling you to exhibit this brand of family to this week?
- Ruth would eventually become the great-grandmother of King David and direct ancestor of Jesus. God's strategy for tomorrow was centered in a family. Do you think God can use your family like that? Why or why not?