

Sermon Discussion Guide - Ruth 4 Redemption & Legacy



Big Idea: God uses ordinary faithfulness to accomplish extraordinary redemption from generation to generation.

Icebreaker

If someone were writing your family story 100 years from now, what is one quality or value you hope would be remembered about you?

1. Faithfulness Values God's Kingdom Above Personal Gain

Read Ruth 4:1–10

When Boaz presents the opportunity to redeem Naomi's land, the closer guardian-redeemer eagerly agrees. But when he learns redemption also includes marrying Ruth and preserving Mahlon's family line, he backs away because of the personal cost. Boaz, however, willingly embraces the sacrifice because covenant faithfulness matters more to him than financial gain. Boaz reminds us that obedience often costs something—but what we sacrifice for God's Kingdom is never wasted.

Discussion Questions

1. What stands out to you about the contrast between Boaz and the unnamed guardian-redeemer?
2. Why do you think it's so easy to calculate the cost of obedience before saying "yes" to God?
3. In what areas of life are you tempted to say, "I'll obey... if it doesn't cost too much"?

2. God Redeems Our Identity

Read Ruth 4:13–17

One of the greatest transformations in Ruth isn't simply Ruth becoming Boaz's wife—it's Naomi becoming Naomi again. Earlier she declared: "Call me Mara (Bitter)..." Now the women celebrate God's redemption in her life as she holds Obed in her arms. Naomi had defined herself by her pain, but God refused to let bitterness become the final chapter of her story. The same is true for us. We often give ourselves names that God never intended us to carry.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do we tend to let painful experiences define our identity?

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2. Which statement impacted you most: **"Don't let your current chapter become your permanent identity."**
3. How does knowing that God is still writing your story bring hope?

3. Our Story Is Part of God's Bigger Story

Read Ruth 4:18–22

The book ends with what many people skip—a genealogy. But these names remind us that God works across generations. Ruth and Boaz likely had no idea their faithfulness would lead to King David and, generations later, to Jesus Christ. Our obedience today may influence people we'll never meet. God is writing a much bigger story than the one we can currently see.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think God chose to end Ruth with a genealogy instead of simply ending with the wedding?
2. How does it change your perspective to know your faithfulness today may bless future generations?
3. What kind of spiritual legacy do you hope to leave behind?

Series Reflection Questions

As you conclude the Ruth series, prayerfully reflect on these questions:

1. **Where am I tempted to write the end of my story before God has finished writing it?**
2. **Is there an area where bitterness has blinded me to God's blessings, like Naomi?**
3. **Am I living more like Ruth—with courageous faith—or more like the unnamed redeemer, calculating the cost before obeying?**
4. **Am I waiting on God, or am I trying to get ahead of His timing?**
5. **Who is God calling me to redeem, encourage, disciple, or walk alongside this week?**
6. **What if God is doing more than I can see?**
7. **What if this chapter isn't the end of my story?**
8. **Will I trust my Redeemer with the next page?**

If you see this... text Pastor Marc the following phrase for a fun surprise. “RUTH pays off!”