

RUTH

a love that redeems

discussion guide



OVERVIEW FOR RUTH: A LOVE THAT REDEEMS

The story of Ruth is one of rebellion, repentance, refuge, redemption and restoration. It lays out for us a love story that mirrors the ultimate love story of God and his redemption of us. This isn't just Ruth's story. This is our story as well. All of us have rebelled and run away from God. We all have the opportunity to repent and return to God. As we return, we will find that God provides a refuge and pays the ultimate cost for our redemption, restoring us to a right relationship with him and others.

PART 6: Restoration to Fullness

Read the text: Ruth 4:13-22

The story of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz ends with an amazing picture of God's redemption. After returning to Bethlehem bitter and empty, Naomi and Ruth have their stories redeemed and are filled up and blessed by God with a beautiful son, Obed. We also see God take the broken stories of Boaz's family history and begin to rewrite his legacy...a legacy that would one day lead to King David and ultimately to Jesus Christ. In the final chapter of Ruth, we see God restoring our broken stories in community so we can tell his story!

Discuss Together

1. “Hesed” love, central to the story of Ruth as God’s covenant love, always creates community. With this kind of love, we don’t approach relationships focused on ourselves and what someone can do for us. Instead, our desire is to give ourselves

to serve and bless those around us. When you gather with your missional community, with the church on Sunday, or with your friends and family, who are you focused on? Do you come wanting to get something for yourself from those relationships or do you come to give? How might understanding the “hesed” love God has shown you change how you approach those relationships?

2. What’s your story? How has God been faithful to you and restored you to fullness? How has God re-written your story and made it beautiful? Take some time to share part of your story with each other and talk specifically about an area of brokenness that God has redeemed. Praise God together for his redeeming work. This week, think about one person with whom God might call you to share your story of redemption. Share that person’s name with each other and pray for the opportunity.
3. How do you currently need God to redeem your story? What part of your story do you need God to re-write for you? Take some time to think about parts of your story, maybe parts you don’t like to think about, and ask God how he might redeem them. If you’re willing, share that with each other and pray together for God’s redeeming work in each of your stories.