



# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Speaker: Chris Royalty // Sunday: October 23, 2022

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) Read Ruth 2:14-23 together.
- 3) What stuck out to you as you read? Is there anything you don't understand? Is there anything you'd like to discuss?
- 4) How is Boaz's kindness to Ruth a picture of God's kindness to us?
- 5) For background on the idea of a "redeemer" read Leviticus 25:25-55. This practice seems odd to us today. How is God being gracious by giving Israel this practice?
- 6) In verse 20, Naomi informs Ruth that Boaz is one of her family's "redeemers," sometimes called "kinsman-redeemers." Jewish law made provision for a near kinsman to redeem (buy back) land sold by a poverty-stricken relative, and even to redeem the relatives themselves who were sometimes sold into slavery if they had no way to pay their debts. The purpose was to keep the family and the God-given inheritance together. At this point in the narrative, the fact that Boaz is a potential redeemer leads to no immediate conclusions. We know nothing so far of Elimelech's land and what has happened to it. And yet, these women have found Boaz, who has shown kindness. Why does the narrator probably hope we'll think back to the wording of Ruth 2:3?
- 7) In the New Testament, the Bible specifically points out both the responsibility of believers and the responsibility of the church to take care of widows and orphans. (James 1:27; 1 Timothy 5:1-8). How might God be calling you/us to take care of widows and orphans?
- 8) The Lord's kindness never fails. Naomi thought it had, but in verse 20 her mood seems to change. What various factors contributed to her opening her eyes? What can we learn from this, both as we need to see clearly and as we help others see clearly the kind providence of God always at work?

- 9) How has God softened your heart when it has grown bitter and cold?
- 10) Is there anyone you need to pray for who is struggling to see God's goodness in the midst of hardship?
- 11) End your time in prayer. Ask God to help you apply the things you've discussed and learned during this time of study.

*\* Some of these questions taken and adapted from: Jonathan Prime, Opening up Ruth, Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2007).*

*\* Some of these questions taken from and adapted from: Kathleen Nielson, Ruth and Esther (Knowing the Bible) . Crossway. Kindle Edition.*