

THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE



A Romance of Grace

Ice Breaker: Imagine that you could teleport; where would you go right now?

Read Together: Judges 21:25 (ESV), Ruth 1:1-5 (NIV), Ruth 1:16-18 (NIV)

Discuss:

- The book of Judges and the book of Ruth were originally one book. The English bible separated them, but they happened in the same time period. Everyone did what was right in their own eyes.
- Naomi encouraged her Daughter in laws to return to their own people and their demonic god(s). She was using human wisdom to advise them. Her encouragement “just made sense”. What things may you promote because they make logical sense where God may have a different opinion?
- Ruth refused to go back and insisted that she would follow the one true God. Take some time to discuss what the results of that choice could have led toward.

Read Together: Ruth 2:3 (ESV), Ruth 3:3 (NIV), Ruth 3:4 (NIV)

Discuss:

- Ruth “just so happened” to end up in the field of a relative who was eligible to be a kinsman-redeemer. Who do you think arranged that coincidence?
- Boaz was impressed with the character he saw in Ruth. Why might seeing the character in Ruth have been a surprise to Boaz?
- Naomi gave Ruth advice on how to proceed with Boaz. The trauma Naomi had experienced in losing a Husband and 2 sons could have played a role in her advise to Ruth. What other influences may have led Naomi to give the instructions she gave?
- Were Naomi’s instructions godly?
- What behavior was the threshing floor known for?
- God redeemed even the bad advice of a Mother in law looking for security for her family. How has God redeemed things in your life that probably should have ended badly?

Read Together: Matthew 1:1 (NIV), Matthew 1:5-6 (NIV), Matthew 1:16 (NIV),

Discuss:

- Remind yourself of the pedigree of Ruth and Boaz. Do you remember what part Israelite they were?
- Why did Matthew include Ruth in the Genealogy of Jesus?
- What does her presence in the Genealogy tell us about God?
- Why would God allow “impure” people to be in the genealogy of His son?

Read Together: John 1:17 (ESV)

Discuss:

- The law of Moses forbid the Israelites from intermarrying with any other people group. The Religious people of the day would have rejected Jesus’ Genealogy! How do you react to that?
- When someone turns their heart toward God, what matters?
- The new covenant gave access to all people. Lineage, race, and traditions do not matter. Salvation is by grace alone through Jesus.

Prayer:

Take some time to thank God for giving you access to Him through Jesus.