

# *Fields of Grace*

*The Book of Ruth*

## COMMUNITY GROUP SCHEDULE

MONDAY 9/5 – THURSDAY 12/5

**\* LIVING WITH AMBIGUITY**

MONDAY 16/5 – THURSDAY 19/5

**\* BEING LIKE GOD**

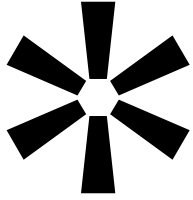
MONDAY 23/5 – THURSDAY 26/5

**\* KINDNESS AND RISK**

MONDAY 30/5 – THURSDAY 2/6

**\* PRESERVING THE NAME**





# *Fields of Grace*

## *The Book of Ruth*

### **WEEK 1**

### **LIVING WITH**

### **AMBIGUITY**

### **RUTH 1:1-22**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Chapter 1 sets the context for the book of Ruth. The book highlights how God's people experience his sovereignty, wisdom, and covenant kindness... though these often come disguised in hard circumstances.

Background:

HESED: God's overwhelming, surprising, spontaneous grace in action.

MOABITES: The product of incest between Lot and his firstborn daughter.

They are the avowed enemies of God's people. (See Gen 19:36-37; Num 31:16; 1 Kings 11:7 and 2 Kings 3:26-27)

#### **DISCUSSION**

Is it ever okay to be angry at God?

#### **EXPLANATION**

Read Ruth 1

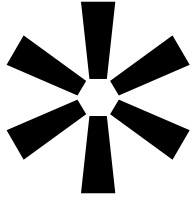
- Summarize the problems that
  - Naomi is facing in chapter 1.
  - Ruth & Orpah are facing in chapter 1.
- How does each woman respond to these problems?
  - Orpah
  - Ruth
  - Naomi
- What does this chapter teach about God's attitude to foreigners in the OT?
- The chapter finishes with Naomi feeling bitter towards God. Is she justified in feeling the way she does?

#### **APPLICATION**

Living with ambiguity: The examples of Naomi & Ruth

- Naomi's example teaches us to express our grief to God and to God's people.  
How can we do this better at HTD / in our Community Group?
- Ruth's example teaches us to trust in God in the midst of suffering.  
Can you share an example of when you have had to do this in your own life?  
How does the death of Jesus encourage us to follow Ruth's example?





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## **WEEK 2**

### **BEING LIKE GOD**

## **RUTH 2:1-23**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The encounter between Ruth and Boaz in the harvest field is the first of two crucial meetings in the book of Ruth.

### **DISCUSSION**

What does it mean to be 'godly'?

### **EXPLANATION**

Read Ruth 2

- Boaz is introduced in this chapter:  
What kind of man is he?  
Contextualize him for our day and age.
- Ruth finds herself gleaning in Boaz's field:  
Why was this potentially dangerous for her?  
List the ways that Boaz provides for Ruth.
- What is Naomi's response to Boaz's kindness?  
What does this tell us about Naomi and her relationship with God?

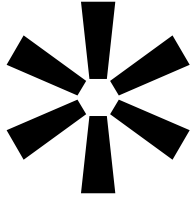
### **APPLICATION**

- In this chapter Boaz is acting like God. God doesn't just act rightly or legally. God acts in overwhelming kindness, in extravagant love.

As Christians, we know even more about God's character than Boaz – and he calls us to reflect that character in the way we treat others. Use the rest of your time to discuss how we can do this

- In our family life.
- In our congregational life.
- In our social life.
- In our evangelistic life.





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## **WEEK 3**

### **KINDNESS AND RISK**

## **RUTH 3:1-18**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This scene depicts the second crucial (and risky) encounter between Ruth and Boaz.

### **DISCUSSION**

Is our generation less willing to take risks than those that have gone before us?

### **EXPLANATION**

Read Ruth 3

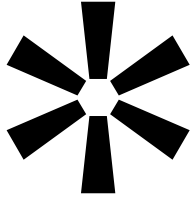
- This text is littered with ambiguities and double entendres – particularly with reference to Ruth meeting Boaz on the threshing floor late at night. What is the writer’s purpose in telling the story this way?
- What is Naomi’s purpose in telling Ruth to meet with Boaz in this way?
- What kind of risks was Ruth taking in meeting Boaz? Did they pay off?

### **APPLICATION**

Naomi and Ruth’s bold riskiness resulted in a marriage, that resulted in the birth of Obed, that resulted in the birth of Jesse, that resulted in the birth of David, and that finally resulted in the birth of Jesus the Messiah.

- To what degree do you think the following actions involve risk:
  - Sharing Jesus with your friends at uni/work.
  - Becoming an overseas missionary.
  - Sharing your testimony at church.
  - Befriending an unpopular person.
  - Deciding not to date non-Christians.
  - Serving with Impact at The Anchorage.
  - Giving financially to the church and charities.





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## **WEEK 4**

### **PRESERVING THE NAME**

## **RUTH 4:1-22**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This part of the story focuses on Boaz's role as kinsman redeemer. The "redeemer nearer" (3:12) is given the opportunity to redeem the field from Naomi. However, when he learns that Ruth will become his wife as part of the transaction, he changes his mind. This decision opens the door for Boaz.

### **DISCUSSION**

Define the word 'legacy'. How important is the concept of legacy today?

### **EXPLANATION**

Read Ruth 4

Boaz:

- Why did Boaz go to the trouble of informing the closer kinsman of his obligation?
- Why is it important that Boaz did this by the book?
- Do think Boaz knew that the kinsman would pass on his obligation?

Naomi:

- Contrast Naomi in chapter 1 with the picture we see here in chapter 4.
- Why do you think the book ends with an emphases on Naomi's blessing?

Ruth:

- Ruth is an unlikely candidate for God's favour and blessing. Think of some other biblical examples like Ruth.

What does this tell us about the nature of the God we worship?

### **APPLICATION**

Boaz and Ruth's offspring would continue the line of ancestry that would eventually include the Lord Jesus.

- Is it encouraging to you that God uses unlikely people to achieve his plans?
- Share the ways you've been challenged in our journey through Ruth.

## **NEXT 6PM SERIES**

***"Changed by Jesus"***  
***[4 Stories From the Book of John]***

