**Theme:** Faith in God means acting [strategically] to pursue God’s plan.

**Aim then:** The faithful Hebrew acts on God’s law, in appropriate ways.

**Calling now:** To faithfully live out God’s call on our lives, considering what that looks like each day.

* So far in Ruth:
  + “Days when the judges ruled” – time characterised by people turning away from God
  + Naomi left her land, lost husband and sons, and returns with Ruth
  + I believe she shows massive faith, so that even after losing everything and being in a foreign land with no other Hebrews, she is faithful.
    - (where Job unfaithfully questions God, she accepts his providence)
  + In chapter 2 we are introduced to Boaz, and enter Autumn in the story
    - Naomi identifies him as a guardian redeemer of the family (does everyone understand what the GR’s role was?) and praises God for him
* Ruth 3: a couple of weeks seem to have passed, and Naomi realises that the harvest is over, they’re on to the next stage of the process, and there’s likely to be a long winter ahead
  + Naomi is faithful to God, and knows that his revealed word, the law, is right; and so she sends Ruth to act on it.
  + Ruth does as she is told and lies at Boaz feet, he wakes and is overjoyed to see her, committing to redeeming her
  + But he is also convicted of the need to do things rightly according to God’s word, and the need to find the first redeemer before he does it himself
  + Naomi is left satisfied that her faith has been well placed – they will be redeemed
* By acting out of faith, Naomi and Ruth are redeemed
* Primary message, confident in it. That the faithful Hebrew acts on God’s revealed will, in his law, for the good of the society.
* ***[summary 1]***
* But that misses a lot of the detail in the passage
  + v3. Wash, perfume, best clothes; wait until he has finished
  + v4. Go and lie at his feet
  + v5-8. Ruth does all this
  + v9-13. Climax of the story of Ruth
    - Boaz wakes, is overjoyed to see her
  + v14-15. She leaves before anyone can see, he gives her a gift
* What’s the point of all this, surely Naomi could have just marched up to Boaz (or in fact the redeemer who is even closer than Boaz) and said “God has said thou shalt redeem you relatives”…but that clearly would not have worked
* Naomi, Ruth and Boaz were limited by their society, by their humanity – it would never have worked
* But by appropriately preparing for it God’s law was maintained
  + Yes, it was ultimately God who orchestrated this situation, but Naomi carefully considered the best way to obey God’s word, and effectively put that into practice.
* ***[summary 2]*** That is why I included the word strategic in theme
  + 1. Faith means **acting** on God’s word
  + 2. Faith means acting on God’s word **appropriately** to the situation
  + For Naomi that means preparing Ruth to go and see Boaz, waiting for the appropriate time to engage boaz, and behaving in accordance to their society
* For us,