

LIFEGROUP NOTES: RUTH 4:1-22

As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.

Introduction:

1. Recap the story so far: summarize Ruth chs.1-3 in your own words.

2. Then read Ruth 4:1-22.

For Discussion:

3. See vv.1-10: How does this story bring out the costly nature of redemption? Compare 1Peter 1:18-19 – how marvellous to have a Redeemer who does that for us! What opportunities do you have to show similar costly love to others? Where does the costly commitment in personal relationships that we see in the book of Ruth challenge your own relationships?
4. See vv.11-13. It is interesting to note that earlier in the book there was a prayer for Ruth to experience God's kindness (1:8) and for Boaz to know God's blessing (2:4). Sum up how these prayers have been wonderfully answered. Reflect on how their experience illustrates what the old hymn says: *"They who trust Him wholly, find Him wholly true."* Compare Proverbs 3:5-6.
5. See vv.14-17. At the beginning of the book, Naomi described herself as "empty" (1:21). As you reflect on the story, how has God been filling her life again? What has Naomi learned of the faithfulness of God? In what ways are you learning to trust His faithfulness?
6. See vv.18-22. God's work at that time resulted in blessing not only for this particular family, but also for the nation of Israel (through the birth of King David, 4:17,22) and ultimately for the world (through the birth of David's descendant, our Lord Jesus Christ, Mt 1:1-18). But of course, Boaz, Ruth and Naomi could never have guessed all that God was doing! How does this encourage you as you ponder God's work in your own life?

Responding in Prayer

- Reflect on how God's redeeming love operates even through the dark days of the period of the Judges, and let it be an inspiration for faith and worship.

Eddie Larkman, December 2017