Week Five: Discussion Questions

LEGACY OF GODLINESS, EXTRAORDINARY BLESSING RUTH CHAPTER 4



- 1. *What impacted you from last week's message?
- 2. *What does the word redeem mean? How is redemption significant in this part of the story?
- 3. *What do we learn about God's character in this chapter?
- 4. *Take note of verse 10. What was Boaz's purpose in acting as the kinsman-redeemer? What does this reveal about his character?
- 5. *Why do you think this relative was willing to redeem the field yet unwilling to redeem Ruth?
- 6. *Refer to the definitions of worthy and renown. How do these definitions add to your understanding of the blessing given by the witnesses to Boaz?

Worthy: to be strong, able, and efficient

Renown: to be given a name that is remembered, especially through the children

- 7. *What did God do on behalf of Boaz and Ruth in verse 13?
- 8. *Even though many consider the book of Ruth to be a love story, the word "love" is actually only used one time. It's found here in verse 15. Who is love referring to and why is it significant?
- 9. *How do Naomi's neighbors view Ruth the Moabitess as a result of her faithful loyalty to God and Naomi?
- 10. *Take special note of Boaz's mother in Matthew 1:5. Who was she and why would this be significant? See Joshua 6:24-25 for reference.
- 11. *What can you learn about God and the way he works as you look at the genealogies of King David (Ruth 4) and Jesus Christ (Matthew 1)?

Week Five: Listening Guide

LEGACY OF TRUST, EXTRAORDINARY RESTORATION

l	bitterness: Understand that		_can become	•
II. Illustration of	bitterness - A	_ heart		_fruit.

	C 1:		
III	tor bitterness	to the Lord with	 _trust.

Week Five: Homework

LEGACY OF TRUST, EXTRAORDINARY RESTORATION



DAY ONE

PRAY: Ask the Lord to guide your study this week as you learn what it means to turn to Him in the midst of any bitter or difficult circumstance.

MEMORIZE: Write Proverbs 31:30 on the lines below or on a notecard to use for reference and meditation throughout this week.

STUDY: This week we will trace Naomi's journey in the book of Ruth as she is transformed from bitter to blessed. We will learn how God can help each of us move beyond the legacy of loss to extraordinary restoration that is found in Him alone. Please read Ruth 1:1-5

- 1. What are the bitter conditions that Naomi experienced? What responsibility, if any, did she bear for her situation?
- 2. Based upon her words and actions in the remainder of chapter one, did Naomi turn toward God, or away from Him? Why did you draw that conclusion?
- 3. *Read Ephesians 4:29-32
 - a. From these verses, what are some symptoms or fruit of a bitter heart?
 - b. What do you learn from these verses about turning toward the Lord?
- 4. *When or in what situations are you tempted to cultivate bitter fruit in your life rather than turning to the Lord?

5. What specific steps could you take to turn toward the Lord in these times?
Ask God to bring conviction to your heart during times when you are tempted to cultivate bitter fruit, and to strengthen you in your desire to turn to Him in those experiences.
DAY TWO
PRAY: Ask the Lord to show you ways that your words might reveal areas of bitterness in your life.
MEMORIZE: Proverbs 31:30. Unscramble the phrases below to write out the verse. who fears the Lord, charm is deceitful, but a woman, is to be praised, and beauty is vain.
STUDY: When Naomi decided to return to Israel, it might appear that she was turning back to the Lord, but the truth of her heart condition was revealed in the words that she spoke to Ruth & Orpah. Please read Ruth 2:6-15.
1. From these verses, what do Naomi's words indicate regarding her core beliefs about God?
2. *In your conversations with others, what do your words say about what you believe about God?
3. What truths about God and the Lord Jesus can you learn from the following passages? a. Hebrews 4:14-16
b. 1 Peter 5:6-11
c. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

4. *How does it change your outlook to speak the truth about God's character?
5. Select one of the above passages that is specifically meaningful to you. How could these truths encourage you during a time of difficult or bitter circumstances?
Praise God today for what you have learned about His character. Commit to speaking words that reflect these truths in your conversations with others.
DAY THREE
PRAY: Begin your study by asking the Lord to help you look to Him for hope in the midst of every situation.
MEMORIZE: Read or say Proverbs 31:30 out loud several times. Fill in the blanks to complete the verse: "
STUDY: When Naomi returned to Bethlehem, she claimed the character of bitterness by calling herself "Mara." Her words revealed an unrealistic view of her past and present situation. She was cultivating bitter fruit with her words and not able to recognize any hope for her future. Please read Ruth 1:19-22
1. Naomi called herself "Mara - bitter" what names could be given to you in the midst of hard times?
2. What lies does Naomi state in these verses?
3. What lies do you tell yourself during times of bitter circumstances?
4. *What signs of hope do you see in verse 22? How can it change your perspective to look for the small hints of hope that the Lord is working around you?

5. When experiencing bitter circumstances, what keeps you from looking for the hope you have in the Lord?
6. *Read Romans 8:31-39. Record the truths from this passage that give you hope in the midst of bitter circumstances.
Close your time in prayer today by affirming the truths you recorded above. Praise the Lord today for the hope He provides in the midst of every circumstance you experience.
DAY FOUR
PRAY: Open your study by asking the Lord to help you learn from the example of Christ's suffering.
MEMORIZE: Review Proverbs 31:26 then write it out on the lines below.
STUDY: Ruth and Naomi had experienced similar bitter circumstances, but Ruth responded by turning toward the Lord in faith. She trusted that He would be faithful to sustain and provide in the midst of hardship
1. Think about what you have learned throughout this study as you answer the following:
a. How would you describe Ruth's response to the bitter circumstances she faced?
b. What impact does faithful obedience have in the midst of bitter circumstances?
c. *How do you see Naomi's outlook changing in chapters two and three? What do you think caused this?
d. *How do you usually respond to "Naomis" in your life? What could you do to be used of God to softer the hard or bitter heart of that person?

e. What evidence do you see of God's restoring power in the lives of Ruth and Naomi?
2. Read 1 Peter 2:21-25
a. What do these verses tell us about how Christ responded in the midst of difficult circumstances?
b. Why did Christ suffer on the cross for you?
c. How would your perspective change in the midst of bitter circumstances if you were following texample of Christ?
Thank God today for what you have learned from the examples of Christ & Ruth. Prayerfully commit to setting example for others as you turn to the Lord in the midst of your own difficult situations.
DAY FIVE
PRAY: Ask God to help you learn what it means to trust Him in the midst of your hurt and difficult momen
MEMORIZE: Review Proverbs 31:30. In what ways do you see Ruth and Naomi exemplifying this verse?
STUDY: As we turn toward the Lord in the midst of difficult experiences it's important to remember that G does not expect us to suffer silently. We are blessed to have many prayers and psalms in Scripture that g us language to express our pain and yet continue to trust the character of God. Today we will study Psalm as we learn how prayers of lament can help us move closer to the Lord during times of bitter circumstances. Read Psalm 13
Step One: Cry out to the Lord. Bring your hurts, questions, and fears about your situation to the Lord.
1. In Psalm 13:1-2, what are David's concerns?

2. List any hurts, questions, fears, or other concerns that you would like to bring humbly to the Lord today.
Step Two: Ask God to act.
1. What does David ask the Lord to do in Psalm 13:3-4?
2. What would you like to ask God to do in your situation above?
Step Three: Trust God in the midst of your circumstances.
1. What statements of trust do you see in verses 5-6?
2. How can you actively trust God in the midst of your situation?
For reflection:
1. Why is it important to move through all three parts of lament?
2. What holds you back from coming to the Lord in the midst of your bitter circumstances?
Close in prayer by thanking the Lord for allowing you to honestly express your feelings and bring your requests to Him in any experience. Ask Him to help you turn toward Him and trust Him in the midst of each circumstance you face.
*These steps were taken from Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy by Mark Vroegop