



BAEWATCH

GRACE TO SAVE US FROM A HOOK UP CULTURE

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT STEPS:

- Baby Dedication, March 11, 10:30PM Vi Juba Theatre
- Leaders Lab, March 15, 6:30 Knox Church
- Easter Celebration, April 1, 10:30PM & 6:30PM

PRAY TOGETHER FOR

- The people you will bring to Jesus.
- Growth in our walk with God and our church.
- A biblical perspective in relationships.

GOAL FOR THIS STUDY:

To understand that the road to your destiny as followers of Jesus, is not a straight line. There will be turns and set-backs; speed bumps and hurdles, but keep going, embrace the process—because the best is yet to come.

Romans 5:2 NLT, *Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory.*

ICE BREAKER: If you were an ice cream flavor, which one would you be and why?

BETTER THINGS (Backsliding): Most of us seek better things; greener pastures. Therefore, for most of us, our first reaction to a financial or economic setback is to pack up and leave. When famine hit the land of Judah, Elimelech took his entire family to Moab. In a time of famine, Elimelech, whose name means, “My God is King,” took what he determined was a wise move; but he did not realize that moving his family was a form of disobedience. As Israelites, they are supposed to live in the Promised Land. It was God’s blessing to them as a nation. Pastor Jon taught us that, we can’t just leave God’s community just because things have become more difficult to face. In taking them out, Elimelech broke his family’s spiritual connections, their community. His move was a very costly one and was a selfish act of unbelief. because not long after he moved his family, Elimelech. Ten years later, his sons died, penniless. and Naomi was left with her two sons. All disobedience is clearly unbelief and obedience is always less costly. Discomfort is not an excuse for disobedience.

GOING HOME (Revival). Naomi heard that the Lord had blessed his people in Judah by giving them good crops again, so she and her daughters-in-law decided to return to home. Pastor shared with us that, “Your spiritual home is the place which God has ordained and anointed to bless you.” Pastor also taught us that the God’s house (the church) is always open to all who wants to come home. Naomi, Ruth and Orpah set out for Judah, but after a short while on the road, Naomi felt guilty bringing the two with her. She felt like she was robbing them of their future. Naomi told her two daughters-in-law to go back to Moab. Both Orpah and Ruth initially did not want to leave Naomi, but Orpah was convinced that staying in Moab was better for her. Ruth, on the other hand declared the most beautiful promise a person could ever make to another human being (1:16-17), “*Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. 17 Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!*” In saying those words, Ruth made a declaration of faith in the God of Israel and that she will never return to her pagan roots. Pastor shared that the Bible always puts emphasis on faith declarations because they are powerful! He encouraged us to, “make positive faith declarations.” Upon their return home, Ruth worked hard as a gleaner.

TWIST OF FATE (Redirection). While working, a man named Boaz discovered her. Ruth had no idea that one of the richest men in Bethlehem was a relative of her dead husband, who is their kinsman redeemer. A kinsman redeemer is a male relative who, according to the Law of Moses, had the privilege or responsibility to act on behalf of a relative to save them from trouble, danger, or need. Naomi made a plan that could save both Ruth and her from permanent poverty and saw it God’s path to a change in their destiny. Read Ruth 3:3-6.

SOVEREIGN PLAN (Redemption). Just when Naomi thought her life was over, a dedicated foreign daughter-in-law would be the key to her change of destiny. Even though Elimelech made a mistake which affected his whole family, God still worked things out for the good so His plans can be accomplished. Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David, and the ancestor of Joseph and Mary, who became the parents of Jesus the Messiah.

Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

Name the circumstance that terrified Elimelech.

Name all the circumstances that could have terrified Naomi.

Name all the circumstances that could have terrified Ruth.

Name all the circumstances that could have terrified Boaz from pursuing Ruth.

Name circumstances in your life that terrifies you.

Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical point of view.

How did Naomi's family tragedy affect her? Read Ruth 1:20-21.

Despite the death of her baes, how is God showing kindness and love to Naomi through Ruth in verses 15 to 18, even when Naomi thinks the God had abandoned her?

In the midst of terrible circumstances, it is easy to lose perspective and stop trusting God. Have you ever been in a situation when God felt distant?

Ruth made a strong declaration of faith in God and loyalty to her new family. Pastor Jon said this was the true beginning of her relationship with the God of Israel. Why does the Bible put much emphasis on declaration? Read Proverbs 18:21.

Be honest. Are you a positive person or negative person? What kind of declarations do you make over your life?

What are some ways in which Boaz goes beyond the minimum requirement of the law and seeks to honor God in his actions? Describe Boaz's treatment of Ruth. Why did he act so favorably toward her?

In verse 2:20, Naomi identifies Boaz as "a close relative ... one of our redeemers." Why is this important to Naomi?

How has God used others to provide for your needs? How has he used you to provide for someone else's needs?

Where do you struggle to trust God with your needs? This could be physical, spiritual, or emotional.

Growing in Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders.

4Naomi instructs Ruth to "anoint herself," presumably with fine oils to be more presentable and attractive. Do you think this was necessary? Why or why not?

How does Boaz demonstrate ultimate trust in God by consulting the closer kinsman-redeemer before moving forward in relationship with Ruth?

People often wonder how much they should do to make something happen and how much they should let God do. How does Ruth 3 give us insight into answering this question?

How do Boaz's actions model faith and trust in God?

We are all called to obey and trust God. What areas of your life, this week specifically, do you need to act in obedience or wait in trust to God?

What can we learn from the entire story of Ruth in the area of finding a "bae" God's way?

Lessons to take with me.

- God loves me.
- God knows what is going on in my life.
- God can do something about it.
- I can trust His goodness in whatever He chooses to do!
- I will not leave my God, my church family and my faith.