

THE PLAN

13. The Widow (Ruth) December 5, 2021

The Context (Ruth 1:1-13)

- Naomi lost her home, her family, and her _____.
(Ruth 1:1-5, 12-13)
- She was a victim of Israel's _____ against God.
(Deuteronomy 28:15-18)
- How can Naomi be _____ when she is completely _____?
(Ruth 1:20-21)

Story Coordinates

People (Who is the story about?)

Place (Where is their home?)

Presence (How can they meet with God?)

Purpose (What did God tell them to do?)

What did they do?

- Ruth _____ herself to Naomi instead of returning home. (1:16-17)
- Ruth's _____ to Naomi inspired Boaz to be _____ to her. (2:5-12)

- Boaz's _____ inspired Naomi to help find Ruth a _____ of her own. (2:19-3:4)
- Ruth's Godly _____ inspired Boaz to _____ himself to Ruth and _____. (3:8-11)

What did God do?

- God gave Ruth a _____—to restore Naomi's _____.
(4:13-17)

The Moral of the Story

- God's preferred way of working in the world is through the small acts of _____ by his people.
- God looks for people with Godly _____, not _____ qualifications.
- Even God's _____ projects are built on small acts of _____. (4:17)

Spoiler Alert

- God has given us a _____ who can restore our _____, too (Isaiah 9:6-7)

Small Group Questions

1. Getting Started:

- What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
- Have you ever felt like you were in a dead end, the way Naomi was? What happened?

2. Into the Bible (Matthew 5:1-12)

- In this passage, Jesus declares the kinds of people who are blessed in the Kingdom of God. What are the common themes in all these traits?
- How do you see these traits appear in the story of Ruth? Do Naomi, Ruth and Boaz show any of these traits?
- How is this list different from the traits we normally value and respect in people?

- Which of these traits do you consider the hardest to practice?

3. Going Deeper

- Have you ever seen a life be changed by a small act of devotion? What happened?
- Where do you have opportunities to show devotion to another person? (Especially where you're not expected to)
- How would the world be different if Christians all committed to loving others the way Ruth did?

4. Prayer

- Pray for each other and your opportunities to love others.