

Sermon Discussion Guide

Mothers of Jesus: Ruth

Matthew 1:1-6, Ruth 1:1-5, 8-17; 4:13-17

December 7 & 8, 2019

Part 1: Pray

Every time we study God's word, we should ask God to give us the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, teach us and mold us into who he created us to be. Ask God to reveal his truth to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Consider reading the entire book of Ruth. Your group meeting this week is a great time to perhaps read it for the first time.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. Sometimes digging into our family history can return surprising results. Have you had an experience like this? Any bombshell parts of your family history?
2. This sermon series is about the genealogy of Jesus and the important role of women in it. These "mothers of Jesus" had questionable personal lives and experiences. Reflect on what this communicates about the context to which Jesus entered as a savior.

Ruth: The Light Comes Through Selfless Love

1. One of the most significant events in the book of Ruth is the conversion of Ruth herself. Discuss what from the story led to her conversion.

2. If they don't already know, share with the group how you were converted. Was there a moment when you realized 'selfless love' and confessed your desire to belong to God?
3. Ray shared a brief story of a girl who was dropped off at the curb of her home by her supposed friends, drunk for the first time her life. Her Dad gently cared for her as she spent the rest of the night vomiting. How does this story illustrate the selfless love of God and his grace for us?

Ruth: The Light Comes Through Darkness

1. Naomi's life is filled with sadness and desperation. However, God's faithfulness to her and her willingness to follow him deconstructs any pretense of a 'prosperity gospel' in the Bible. Have there been (or is there currently) any times when you felt the bitterness of a failed plan or the pain of missed expectations?
2. Why do we so often have an agenda for God? How does our thinking and approach to our circumstances need to change from feeling this way?
3. Taking the aforementioned examples, was there a moment(s) when you experienced God working in/from the dark moments of your life?

Ruth: The Light Comes Through A Redeemer

1. How does the story of Boaz "buying back" the land of Naomi illustrate the gospel? In what ways, like the story, was Jesus our redeemer?

2. To have Jesus is to have been given the world's greatest inheritance. How does this change the way we see all of life, including our difficult circumstances, our personal identity and our hope in daily life?

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow him?