Opening

Gathering: When has someone personally shown God's love to you and how did it feel?

Today’s Focus: God has called us to love and care for one another as He has first loved us.

Key Verses: *Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.* Ruth 1:16

*Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer.* Ruth 4:14

Opening Prayer

Lesson

The Time of the Judges *(Judges 2:10-23)*

- What command did Moses give to the Israelites about the people who lived in the Promised Land? Deuteronomy 7:2-4
- How well did the Israelites remember and follow this command? Judges 3:5-6
- How did God handle this? Judges 2:14
- How did God respond to Israel's cries? Judges 2:16
- Did the judges have a lasting effect on Israel's faithfulness? Judges 2:19
- Other than following other gods, did the people of Israel at least live good and moral lives? Judges 21:25

Elimelech’s Family From Bethlehem *(Ruth 1:1-5)*

- What do we learn about a family during the time of the judges? Ruth 1:1-2
- What happened to this family in Moab? Ruth 1:3-5
- Besides the command not to intermarry, what other problem did Moabites in the family present? Deuteronomy 23:3

Going Home *(Ruth 1:5-13)*

- Did Naomi stay in Moab the rest of her life? Ruth 1:6-7
- What did Naomi remember along the road? Ruth 1:8-9
- How did Naomi use logic to send these daughters-in-law of ten years back home? Ruth 1:10-13
- What was this *levirate marriage* that Naomi was referring to? Deuteronomy 25:5-6 (5-10)
Where You Go I Will Go  \textit{(Ruth 1:14-22)}

- How well did this sensible logic work in getting these women to go back home?  
  Ruth 1:14-15
- How did Ruth respond to Naomi's urging that has become a famous phrase of devotion?  
  Ruth 1:16-17
- How did Naomi respond to Ruth's stubbornness?  
  Ruth 1:18-19
- How happy was Naomi to see her friends after so many years?  
  Ruth 1:20-21

What About Food?  \textit{(Ruth 2:1-3)}

- How would two poor widows find food in Bethlehem?  
  Ruth 1:22, 2:2
- How would she be able to find a field where the owner would let her glean?  
  Leviticus 23:22

Old Testament Harvesting

- Harvesting grain in ancient Canaan took place in April and May (barley first, wheat a few weeks later)
- 1. Men cut ripened standing grain with hand sickles or pulled out of ground
- 2. Women bound the grain into sheaves
- 3. Gleaning - Stalks left behind were gathered
- 4. Sheaves were transported to the threshing floor - usually by donkey, sometimes by cart
- 5. Threshing - The grain was loosened from the straw by treading of cattle, by toothed threshing sledges or by the wheels of carts
- 6. Winnowing - Grain tossed in air so afternoon wind would blow away straw and chaff
- 7. Sifting - Grain was sifted to remove any leftover chaff, dirt, etc.
- 8. Grain was bagged for transportation and storage

Aren't You Lucky?  \textit{(Ruth 2:3)}

- Whose field did Ruth happen to glean in?  
  Ruth 2:3, 1
- Was it entirely by chance that Ruth happened upon Boaz's field?  
  Proverbs 20:24

A Friendly Relative  \textit{(Ruth 2:4-16)}

- What did Boaz do when he learned that Ruth was gleaning in his field?  
  Ruth 2:4-9
- Did Boaz normally do this for strangers coming into his fields?  
  Ruth 2:10-13
- How else did Boaz go out of his way to help this poor Ruth?  
  Ruth 2:14-16
Bible Stories for Adults
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A Fruitful First Day  (Ruth 2:17-23)

What did Naomi think of what Ruth was able to bring home that first evening?
Ruth 2:17-19a
Did Naomi know who Boaz was?
Ruth 2:19b-20
Did Boaz's kindness to Ruth go beyond the first day?
Ruth 2:21-23

Naomi's Concern  (Ruth 3:1-6)

What was Naomi's concern as harvest and their source of food were ending?
Ruth 3:1
What idea did Naomi come up with to solve this problem?
Ruth 3:2-4
What did Ruth think about such a strange suggestion?
Ruth 3:5-6

Boaz's Surprise  (Ruth 3:7-18)

How did Ruth explain her actions when Boaz woke up and found her there?
Ruth 3:7-9
Corner of garment
How did Boaz respond to this request by the young Ruth?
Ruth 3:10-13
How else did Boaz show concern for Ruth that night?
Ruth 3:14-15
What did Naomi think of what Boaz had done and promised?
Ruth 3:16-18

The Kinsman-Redeemer  (Ruth 4:1-4)

What was the first thing Boaz did that morning?
Ruth 4:1
Why else was it important for Boaz to be at the town gate?
Deuteronomy 25:7-10

What did Boaz present to the kinsman-redeemer and how did he reply?
Ruth 4:2-4
What Jewish law was Boaz referring to?
Leviticus 25:25

Hidden Treasure  (Ruth 4:5)

What treasure came with the land that Boaz tried to present as a liability?
Ruth 4:5
What parable of Jesus might Boaz's action remind you of?
Matthew 13:44

You can find Bible Stories for Adults on the web at www.biblestoriesforadults.com
Always a Catch (Ruth 4:6-12)

How did the kinsman-redeemer respond to this catch? 
Ruth 4:6-8
How long did Boaz wait before laying claim to this land and Ruth? 
Ruth 4:9-10
How did the elders and witnesses accept Boaz's claim? 
Ruth 4:11-12

Naomi and the World are Blessed (Ruth 4:13-22)

Besides being paid for the land, how else was Naomi blessed through Ruth's marriage to Boaz? 
Ruth 4:13-16
Though interesting, what made Ruth's story important enough to become part of the Scripture? 
Ruth 4:17
What other important Bible character descended from Ruth? 
Matthew 1:1

Jesus' Ancestry (Matthew 1:11-17)

How could God allow a non-Jew to taint Jesus' ancestry? Were there any others? 
Matthew 1:5 (Joshua 6)
Were there any other scandalous women in Jesus' ancestry? 
Matthew 1:3 (Genesis 38)
Are any other women mentioned in Jesus' family tree? 
Matthew 1:6 (2 Samuel 11)

What does this tainted ancestry remind us? 
Galatians 3:26-29
Who is our kinsman-redeemer? 
Galatians 4:4-7

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How do I act when I am all-alone and no one is watching? 
   (Judges 17:6; Ruth 2:11-12; 2 Samuel 12:12; Psalm 44:21; 90:8; Matthew 6:1-18; Eph 5:1-21)
2. For whom would I forsake everything to go where they go? 
   (Ruth 1:16-17; Deut 31:6-8, 16-18; Proverbs 4:1-6; 27:10; Mark 10:28; Luke 5:11, 28)
3. Who do I try to please or impress where I would make their god my god? 
   (Ruth 1:16-17; 1 Kings 11:1-13; 2 Kings 17:7-20; Matthew 6:33; Mark 10:29-30)
4. When have I gone out of my way to care for those in need? 
5. Do I see my part in God's overall plan? 
   (Ruth 4:17-22; Matthew 1:1, 5-6; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Ephesians 3:1-14)