

The Gospel According to Ruth (2 of 4) Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, January 22nd 2023



Sermon Series: The Gospel According to Ruth

Sermon Title: God Provides and Protects His People

Scripture Reading: Ruth 2:1-23; Psalm 36:7; Matthew 6:25-34

Sermon Focus: You have probably heard the ancient proverb: “God helps those who help themselves.” But that’s not a biblical truth. Rather, the book of Ruth tells us that God blesses those *who bless others*. In Ruth chapter 2, we see how God honors and exalts those who embody his loving kindness. In this second message of our 4-part series, Pastor David invites us to trust in God’s ability to provide and protect his children, especially the humble, the needy, and the vulnerable.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read Ruth chapter 2 together as a group. You may want to go back and read chapter 1 first. What details do you find interesting about the story so far? What jumps out at you, speaks to you, or challenges you in the story?
2. In his message, Pastor David shared some background and context to the book of Ruth. For example, this happened during the time of the Judges. Consider the contrast between the darkness of Judges and the story of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz. It is a reminder that if we look closely enough, we will always find those who carry the light and are faithful to God. How does this challenge us in modern times? What/who are some examples of faithfulness today?
3. Pastor David said that it would be appropriate to see Naomi as a female Job. She had lost so much, yet she kept moving forward and eventually was filled with joy and hope once again. In time, she experienced the loving kindness of God. Can you relate to Naomi's experience in your own life?
4. Did you notice how God is behind the scenes orchestrating events in the book of Ruth? These are no coincidences (e.g., returning when the famine was over, deciding to pick grain, picking grain in Boaz's field, etc.). Why do you think it is so important that the people of God be attentive to seeing him at work like this in our everyday lives? How has God directed events in your own life?
5. The book of Ruth shows us that God blesses those who seek to be a blessing to others. Pastor David shared how One80 Ministries is an example of how God pours out his favor on those who choose to humble themselves and use their influence to bless the needy, the broken, and the vulnerable. Can you think of other examples of where you've seen God bless those who seek to bless others?
6. Read Matthew 6:25-34 together. The God revealed in Jesus cares about the details of our lives, especially meeting our most basic needs. He doesn't want us to worry, fret, and fear. Rather, he wants us to trust him like a loving parent who takes care of all our needs. How do you see this play out in the book of Ruth? And how do you see God's faithfulness to provide and protect in your own life? Also, be honest, what might you need to trust him with now?