

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 18, 2009

Passage: Ruth 3

Memory Passage: Philippians 2:12-13

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ruth 3:1-5.** What is the goal of Naomi's plan for Ruth? What is here reasoning for choosing Boaz?
- (b) List the instructions that Naomi gives to Ruth. Out beside that list right the reason that you think each one is important.
- (c) Is Naomi's plan risky? Why or why not? Why might secrecy be important? What is at stake with this plan? What might happen if Ruth is caught or if Ruth is rejected by Boaz? How does Ruth respond to Naomi? What does this say about Ruth's continued character?
- (d) *Think about it:* Do you think that Naomi is showing faith in God by her actions? Why or why not? Is her plan selfish or selfless? Do you think that Naomi was trying to control the circumstances or give opportunity for God to show his mercy? What is the role between our action and God's providence? Read Philippians 2:12-13.
- (e) *Family:* Read Ruth 3:1-5. Discuss Naomi's plan and talk about her motivation. Is Naomi acting here out of faithlessness or faithfulness to God? Talk about how God desires for us to take action in our faith. Read Philippians 2:12-13. Does God want us to be idle in our walk with Him? Can we do anything apart from His hand? Pray that God would give you opportunities to act in faith this week.

DAY 2 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ruth 3:6-8.** Does Ruth do all that Naomi instructs her?
- (b) What is strategic about approaching Boaz after he has finished celebrating? What will happen as a result of Ruth exposing Boaz's legs?
- (c) *Think about it:* So far everything is going according to plan. Who has been in control of that, Ruth or God? Does God use human ingenuity to accomplish His plans? Do you ever have the tendency to be passive or lazy because you think "God will work things out"? What is this passage teaching you about the active role that we play in God's plans and design? Is there an opportunity that God has placed before you that you haven't placed faith in Him and pursued?
- (d) *Family:* Read Ruth 3:6-8. Talk about Ruth's faithfulness to Naomi. Was Ruth taking a personal risk in following Naomi's advice? What does this say about Ruth's affection and trust in Naomi? Ruth models the way we should act toward God. Do you trust God? Do you follow out His plans to the best of your abilities? Why or why not? Pray that the Lord would give you a heart like Ruth to trust in God's word.

DAY 3 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ruth 3:9-13.** What is different in the way Ruth talks about herself in this passage than previous ones? What does this say about her own worthiness of being married to Boaz?
- (b) Does Ruth do exactly what Naomi tells her to? Did Naomi say anything about mentioning the fact that he is a redeemer? What does this say about Ruth's intentions for Naomi? How is this affirmed by Boaz's reaction?
- (c) *Think about it:* Here we have a picture of a godly man and woman. What characteristics has Ruth shown and Boaz shown that make them godly examples? What actions have they done that surprise you as being godly? Are you like Ruth who continually seeks to sacrifice her own desires for her mother-in-law's?
- (d) *Family:* Read Ruth 3:9-13. Talk about Ruth's request and how it was different than Naomi's intention. What is she doing by asking for redemption instead of just marriage? Are you willing to sacrifice your own happiness for other's happiness? How is this like what Christ did for us? What did He sacrifice on behalf of us? Pray that Christ's and Ruth's example of love and sacrifice would be a character of your life.

DAY 4 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ruth 3:9-13.** What is it that makes Ruth worthy of marriage and of Boaz's affections? What problem arises in the story? Is Boaz willing to confront the problem he is faced with?
- (b) How does Boaz come to identify a godly man?
- (c) *Think about it:* Do you like Boaz confront problems when you are faced with them or are you passive? For men, it is easy sometimes to be passive in situations and not take responsibility and leadership. Are you like Boaz who takes responsibility with an eager heart or do you run from it?

(d) *Family*: Read Ruth 3:9-13. Talk about Boaz. Does Boaz shy away from responsibility and action? Is it easy to take responsibility and not be passive? How is Boaz a picture of a godly man? Pray for the men in the family that they would be like Boaz who was eager to do what was right and take responsible for it.

DAY 5 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Ruth 3:14-18.** What is Boaz concerned about in this passage? What does Boaz give her? What does this say about his character

(b) Why does Boaz give all of this to Ruth? What might this symbolize to Naomi? Compare 3:17 with 1:22. What allusion is made here? What are some of the ways Naomi was empty in 1:22? What are some of the ways she is full in 3:17? What hasn't been provided yet?

(c) What do you think Ruth was feeling when she arrived home with Naomi? What does Naomi tell her she must do? Is it hard to wait during such times? Do you find it hard sometimes to release control of a situation and not try to control it?

(d) *Family*: Read Ruth 3:14-18. Talk about how Ruth must have felt when she arrived home. What would you want to do in this situation? Would it be hard to wait? Is it sometimes hard to wait on God's answer? Pray that God would give you patience to wait on His timing and plan.

DAY 6 – PRAY FOR INSIGHT

READ THE WHOLE PASSAGE

(e) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Are you passively walking through your Christian life? Do you make excuses for why you don't get involved at church or in a small group or read your Bible? What is God calling you to change in your life? How have you been passive and active in pursuing God?

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Righteous Action

“Ruth did all she was commanded”