

Sermon Growth Guide

September 3, 2023

Unbound - Displaced

Ruth 1:8-18

Key Verse: Ruth 1:16b-1:17a

“Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried.”

Big Idea: Jesus as the ultimate redeemer who offers true belonging and fulfillment.



Foundations

We know that we were created for something different, that we fell into sin, that we pulled away from God and pursued our own desires which leaves us in a state of being “un-homed.” We have become wanderers in a foreign land who long for our true home!

That’s Ruth’s story as well. We know from the Scriptures that Ruth became a stranger in a foreign land as she commits herself to Naomi. Together these two women navigate a painful and challenging season of life. Unable to save themselves, they are reliant on a Kinsman Redeemer to save them. Eventually, Ruth is welcomed into the family she was always supposed to join, the land where she was always supposed to dwell. Boaz is the Kinsman Redeemer for Ruth and Naomi, but the true Redeemer of the displaced is Jesus. We find our true home in the Lord.

Some of us will relate with Ruth this week, finding ourselves in a season of searching for home, for something deeper. Many of us already know the Lord. We’ve already placed our hope in the ultimate Redeemer. The question, then, for us is to consider, “Who am I bringing along with me?” Just as Naomi brought Ruth back to her homeland and encouraged her pursuit of Boaz, we are called to help others meet the true Redeemer. Who has the Lord placed in your path?

Understanding God’s Word

Together, read Ruth 1:8-18.

What do you think is going on here? What inspires Ruth to remain with Naomi?

Have you encountered situations where people seemed drawn to a community of faith even before fully embracing its beliefs? How was that similar or different to your own experience of coming to faith in Christ? Did you start with believing? Behaving? Belonging?

Applying God’s Word

Ruth eventually encounters Boaz and is reliant on his role as the “kinsman redeemer” for survival. What parallels exist between Ruth/Boaz’s situation and our own situation with Jesus?

Ruth sees something in Naomi that she couldn’t bear to lose. Even on Naomi’s worst day, she is still representing the Lord to Ruth. What steps do you take to ensure your life is consistently reflecting the love of Jesus to those around you?

Witnessing God’s Word

The Good News Initiative question for the week is: “Have you ever wondered if there’s more to life than this?” How are you doing with these questions/statements? Have you been able to initiate good discussions with others in your life?

How are you serving as a “Naomi” for someone else? Who are you bringing along with you in your pursuit of the Lord?