



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of February 5, 2017

WEPC small groups meet in homes across Richmond every week to participate in Jesus Christ's mission to Richmond, enjoy fellowship, study God's Word, pray together, and explore the fruit of the Gospel on our lives. Simply put, these groups are small enough to be the church to one another, and they serve as bridges between WEPC and the community where God has planted us. It is a place where the church can go deeper in the worship of God and further in Christ's mission.

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a "worship discussion" guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Ruth 4:18-22, "Generations"

¹⁸Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron,¹⁹Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab,²⁰Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon,²¹Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed,²²Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

1. Recording genealogies is common in Scripture (i.e. [1 Chronicles 2:5-15](#)). Even the birth of Jesus is located in the Biblical record of generations ([Matthew 1:3-6](#); [Luke 3:31-33](#)). What does this emphasis on genealogy tell us about God and His purposes?
2. Jesus' genealogy includes three non-Jewish, foreign women: Tamar, Rahab and Ruth ([Matthew 1:3-6](#)). What does this say about God and His purposes? How have you been blessed by a God who undertakes this kind of mission? Read [Romans 11:17-18](#) for more insight.
3. As a part of worship [we sing songs and hymns](#) that further amplify each Sunday's message. This week, we began participation in the Lord's Supper by singing of Sandra McCracken's "[All Ye Refugees](#)". God alone is our Refuge, our true Home. Read [Ruth 2:12](#) which is echoed in the song. [Read, listen to](#) or [sing](#) the *All Ye Refugees* together.
4. This past Sunday we participated in the sacrament of Lord's Supper. As you reflect on this element of the worship service: did the Holy Spirit convict, change, or encourage you in any way you wish to share with the group?
5. Just as the Lord brought Naomi from emptiness to fullness, so the Lord brought Israel from the unrest of the time of the Judges to a time of flourishing under King David's reign. And even more, the Lord will bring His people through the Son of David, Jesus Christ ([Matthew 1:1](#)). Thank God together for the ways He has brought you from emptiness to fullness. Ask Him for the ways in which you need to be brought from emptiness to fullness.

Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org
To hear sermons and access past study guides visit www.wepc.org/archivedsermons

Sermon Notes

This week, Steve Shelby preached on Ruth 4:18-22

Why does this story end this way?

As we said last week this is a love story, a love story between Naomi and God. This genealogy tells us that this is a love story between God and His people.

Judges, the last book before Ruth tells us, "In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes" ([Judges 21:25](#)).

Ruth begins with "In the days of the Judges" ([Ruth 1:1](#)), when there was no king in Israel, to the final phrase "and Jesse fathered David" ([Ruth 4:22](#))

The people needed a king and God would provide that.

But the story does not end there. We see this genealogy carried on in [Matthew 1](#), all the way to Jesus. The people needed a king, yes, but they needed a king who could do more than rule, they needed a Redeemer.

David failed and all of his descendants failed until Jesus came. He did not fail. "You will call his name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins" ([Matthew 1:21](#)).

Because of the redeeming work of Jesus there are no "small" or insignificant people. A Moabite widow who commits her life and destiny to her bitter mother-in-law becomes a central part of the work of God.

Don't seek "significance". Simply seek what God has placed in front of you.

The Lord will not stop in His determination to deliver.

Take the long view. God does.