



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of November 27, 2016

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 2:1, "Kinsman"

Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.

- God is providing a Kinsman-Redeemer for Ruth & Naomi in Boaz. What is the role does Boaz serve in the life of Ruth & Naomi?
- Jesus Christ is our true Kinsman-Redeemer. As our Kinsman, how is Jesus like us, related to us? As our Redeemer, what does Jesus do that only God could do?
- What do you need Jesus to redeem in your life?
- **This is the first Sunday of Advent.** Advent is a time that helps us to remember Christ's first coming and reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation. It also teaches us to look eagerly for His second coming when He will return to redeem His creation and exercise His rule with all power and authority. In what ways are you waiting for the Lord in this season of your life?
- Each Sunday in Advent, the congregation joins our voices in a **Declaration of Faith** at the beginning of the worship service. **This week, we read responsively from the [Belgic Confession, Article 18](#).** This statement comes from a summary of Christian belief written in 1561. Read this statement together as a group. What does it say Christians believe about the Incarnation of Jesus Christ?
- Each Sunday in Advent, we read a passage from the Gospel of Luke in anticipation of the coming of Jesus Christ. **This week's Gospel Reading is [Luke 1:46-55](#),** Mary's song as she waited for the Savior, known as the *Magnificat*. As you read this text together, what effect does the sure promise of God made man have on Mary? What effect will His coming have on all people?
- As a part of worship **[we sing songs and hymns](#)** that further amplify each Sunday's message. **This week, we sang Charles Wesley's great Advent hymn, "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"** [Read](#), [listen to](#), or [sing](#) the hymn, and enter into a time of prayer desiring the Lord to come to us, and thanking Jesus as our true Hope, Joy, Rest, Deliverer and King.

Sermon Notes

This week, Steve Shelby preached on Ruth 2:1

Empty

- "I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has afflicted me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?" (v.21). So Ruth and bitter Naomi settle in Bethlehem.
- At the time of the barley harvest
- The scene shifts. Rather than continue with the movement on into Bethlehem there is a digression in the story and the introduction, (literally out of nowhere) of Boaz, a member of the same clan as Elimelech, Naomi's dead husband.

Boaz: A Worthy Man

- A mighty warrior
- A man of substance
- A worthy man
- Similar language is used to describe Ruth in 3:11, "All my fellow townspeople know that you are a worthy woman." Also Proverbs 31:10 "an excellent wife"
- It is unclear what the name "Boaz" means. Perhaps strength.
- It is used rarely in the Old Testament.
- "He set up the pillars at the vestibule of the temple. He set up the pillar on the south and called its name Jachin, and he set up the pillar on the north and called its name Boaz." (I Kings 7:21)
- Every time people entered the Temple they walked past a pillar named Boaz.

There is a Boaz for the People of God

- Boaz is in Bethlehem while we walk the road from Moab to Bethlehem
- There is a God who provides
- We can only see to the horizon