

OUTLINE & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

KINDNESS IN AN AGE OF SELF-ABSORPTION

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RUTH 1-4

Introduction

1. Ruth: *A Picture of* _____

• Un _____

• Ex _____

2. Boaz: *A Picture of* _____

• _____

• _____

3. God: *A Picture of* _____

• Gives us _____

• Produces his _____ in us

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

ICEBREAKER: Describe one of the kindest people you know. In what ways have they shown kindness to you and/or others?

1. Ruth 1:1-22. Why does Naomi commend her two daughters-in-law (v.8)? What reasons might Orpah have given herself for not showing Naomi the same degree of kindness that Ruth did (v.14)?
2. How would you define kindness? Describe someone to whom you have a difficult time showing kindness (although you perhaps think you should). Why is that hard for you to do? What's the relationship between empathy and kindness? In what ways might you empathize with the person you described?
3. Reread Ruth 1:16. Put this verse in your own words as if you were Ruth speaking to Naomi. Read Proverbs 12:25 and Ephesians 4:29. What are some characteristics of kind words that are mentioned in these verses?
4. Describe two people who could use some kind words from you today. What might those kind words be? Why don't we communicate kind words more often (multiple answers)?
5. Read Ruth 2:1-23. How did Boaz show kindness to Ruth (multiple answers)? What did it cost Boaz to show kindness? Describe a time when someone showed you kindness that might have cost them something.
6. The sermon emphasized our need to be observant or we will miss opportunities to be kind. Why do we often not "see" these opportunities? How could we become more observant?
7. Read Ruth 3 & 4, putting a circle around the expression "guardian-redeemer" every time it pops up. Explain the concept of a guardian-redeemer in Ruth's culture (see NIV Study Bible footnote/article for Ruth 2:20 if you need help). Why didn't the closest possible guardian-redeemer in this situation want to fulfill that role (see 4:5, 6 and the NIV Study Bible footnote)? What does this relative teach us, negatively speaking, about kindness?
8. Read Ruth 4:16, 17 and Matthew 1:1, 5 16. What's the connection between Ruth's story and Jesus? In what ways did Boaz's character and actions foreshadow the coming Redeemer?
9. Read Titus 3:4, 5 and Ephesians 2:6, 7. How has God shown his kindness to us according to these verses? In what other ways have you experienced God's kindness in your life?
10. Read John 15:5, 7. Where does the fruit of kindness come from? What spiritual habits enable us to remain in Christ? Which of these are you practicing? Describe. Which of these are you neglecting? Explain.
11. What's your most important personal application from this study?