

RECAP

Looking back at this week:

How did you embody God's generosity this week? What was your "Stan" moment—where you showed up as a faithful, recurring presence rather than just a one-time helper?

What happened when you moved from distance to proximity? Did you face an inconvenient opportunity? How did you respond?

INTRO

Rob shared how Ruth's story challenges our assumptions—a Moabite woman becomes the prototype of virtue in Scripture, completely upending cultural expectations.

What's a time when someone you initially dismissed, overlooked, or made assumptions about ended up teaching you something profound about God's character or love?

IDEA 1

Read Ruth 3:1-6.

Naomi devises a risky plan born from desperation. She's aware that harvest season is ending and the consistent provision from Boaz may be coming to an end. Her scheme puts Ruth in a precarious position—risking her reputation and safety to secure provision.

When have you found yourself in "survival mode" where desperation led you to take risky measures? What was at stake?

Naomi's plan could have led to multiple outcomes—most of them harmful to Ruth. How do you see God's redemption working even through flawed human plans and desperate circumstances?

Ruth's story echoes that broken beginning of the Moabite nation, yet here we see redemption. How does this reframe your understanding of where God can bring beauty from brokenness?

IDEA 2

Read Ruth 3:7-15

Ruth adapts Naomi's plan in a crucial moment. Instead of simple seduction, she invokes the kinsman-redeemer law, calling Boaz to responsibility, provision, and protection. Boaz responds with character—

IDEA 2

resisting temptation and choosing the righteous path that honors both Ruth and the law.

Rob. said: "God's redemption doesn't bypass human desire and attraction—it sanctifies and fulfills it." How does this challenge or expand your view of how God works?

Character matters—it's not just about the outcome but the journey there. Where in your life right now is God calling you to play the long game and choose righteousness over immediate gratification?

For those carrying shame from past moments when righteousness didn't win the day: How does Ruth's story—a Moabite from a nation born in brokenness becoming the prototype of virtue—speak hope into your story?

IDEA 3

Ruth's words to Boaz—"Spread the corner of your covering over me"—echo throughout Scripture. It's the same word (kanaph) Boaz used when he prayed God's wings would cover Ruth. It's the same word Ezekiel used describing God wrapping Jerusalem in his cloak. It's the same word Malachi prophesied about the Sun of Righteousness rising with healing in his wings. Jesus longs to gather us under His wings like a hen protects her chicks (Matthew 23:37).

Where in your life right now do you need to let God cover you with His hesed (loving-kindness)?

God's love and generosity are often experienced through others. Who has been God's wings for you—spreading their covering over you in a time of vulnerability or need?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Step 1: Quiet Reflection

Invite everyone to sit with their hands open in their lap, palms facing up—a posture of receiving and openness.

Read the prompt on the following page slowly and clearly:

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

"Ruth came to Boaz in the darkness, vulnerable and exposed, asking him to spread his covering over her. She needed protection, provision, and refuge.

Take a moment to acknowledge where you feel vulnerable right now—where you need God's covering. Maybe it's a relationship, a financial situation, a health concern, or an area where shame has kept you hiding.

Now imagine God's wings—His hesed, His loving-kindness—spreading over that vulnerable place. His covering often comes through His people.*

Where might God be inviting you to receive His covering through someone else? And where might He be asking you to be His wings for another?"

Pause for 60-90 seconds of silence. Encourage deep breathing and awareness of God's presence.

Step 2: Sharing

Have the group turn to one or two others nearby and briefly share:

- One area where you need God's covering right now (keep it only as vulnerable as feels safe in this moment)
- OR one person God is bringing to mind who needs you to be His wings for them this week.

Step 3: Prayer

Gather back as a large group and have one person pray for the group as they continue to process this week.

PRACTICE THIS WEEK

Think specifically about someone who needs you to be the embodiment of God's hesed—His provision, protection, and faithful presence. This isn't about fixing their problems or being their savior. It's about showing up, drawing near, and being a tangible expression of God's loving-kindness.

How will you practically "spread your covering" over them this week?

Be specific: When will you do this? Where? With whom? Write it down!