

RECAP

Looking back at this past week:

Where did you see God's wings take the shape of His people? Did you witness or experience God's provision, protection, or presence through someone else? What did that look like for you?

INTRO

Brian painted a vivid picture of Boaz at the city gate—pacing, sweating, rehearsing his speech— not knowing how things would turn out. He was willing to step into a costly, complicated, redemptive moment even without guarantees.

When have you had to step into a costly or complicated situation to help someone, even when you weren't sure how it would turn out? What gave you the courage to move forward?

IDEA 1

Read Ruth 4:1-4

Redemption requires the right person and is costly. The closer kinsman immediately said yes when Boaz first presented the opportunity. He saw it as a good deal—low risk, increased wealth, and he looks good in front of the community. Win-win. When Boaz revealed that redeeming the land also meant marrying Ruth the Moabite, the kinsman's answer immediately changed from yes to no. The cost was too high. If Ruth had a child, that child would inherit the estate—the very estate this man would leverage his own resources to pay for. It would be a "wasted investment."

Think about a time when you said "yes" to helping someone—but only because it was convenient or made you look good. What was really motivating you?

Brian said the difference between the kinsman and Boaz was a heart of hesed. The kinsman did the ordinary, expected thing. Boaz did the unexpected, extraordinary thing. What could or does it look like for you to move from "doing what's expected" to embodying hesed—God's extravagant, costly love?

Jesus is our true kinsman redeemer—the right person who was willing and able to pay the price. How does knowing that Jesus chose to step into your story, even at great cost, change how you view your own redemption?

Jesus didn't just qualify as our redeemer—He chose to be our redeemer, even when it cost Him everything. How does meditating on the costliness of your redemption change the way you approach costly obedience this week?

IDEA 2

Read Ruth 4:9-12

Redemption restores the past and secures the future. Redemption looks backward and looks forward. We are redeemed FROM something, but also redeemed FOR something.

Ruth was redeemed FROM being an "outsider," a "foreigner," a "widow" without much hope for the future. She was redeemed FOR a hope-filled future within the security of family. Ruth becomes grafted in—a full member of the covenant community. The elders bless her, placing her in the lineage of Rachel, Leah, and Tamar. Ruth went from footnote to front page. Redemption rewrote her story.

Brian reminded us that redemption doesn't end with rescue; it re-names and re-situates. Ruth the Moabite becomes a matriarch in the lineage of the Messiah (Matthew 1:5-6).

What parts of your past feel unredeemable—like they can only be footnotes in your story? How does Ruth's story challenge that belief?

We aren't just redeemed from something; we're redeemed for something. What do you sense God has redeemed you FOR? How is He inviting you to participate in His redemptive work in the world?

Brian said: "Our redemption story isn't only about us—it's also about everyone who will be impacted by our transformed lives." Who in your life might benefit from your redemption? How does that expand your understanding of why God redeemed you?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Step 1: Silent Reflection with Movement (2-3 minutes)

Leader to guide the group through this reflective exercise:

Leader: "We're going to take a few moments to physically embody the journey from being unredeemed to redeemed. I'll guide you through some simple movements—do what feels comfortable for you."

Part 1 - Unredeemed (30 seconds):

"Close your eyes or lower your gaze. Cross your arms—a posture of being closed off, bound, or holding onto something. Think about what you were redeemed FROM. What held you captive? What kept you as an outsider?"

Pause for 20-30 seconds.

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Part 2 - The Cost of Redemption (30 seconds):

"Now slowly open your arms wide, palms facing forward—a posture of surrender and sacrifice. This is the cross. Jesus paid the price. He stepped into your story when no one else could. He chose you when it cost Him everything."

Pause for 20-30 seconds.

Part 3 - Redeemed (30 seconds):

"Now bring your hands to your heart, one over the other—a posture of receiving and gratitude. You have been redeemed. You are no longer an outsider. You have been grafted into God's family. You have been given a new name, a new identity, and a new purpose."

Pause for 20-30 seconds.

Part 4 - Sent Out (30 seconds):

"Finally, extend your hands out in front of you, palms down—a posture of blessing and giving. You have been redeemed FOR something. You are now part of God's redemptive work in the world. Who needs you to be the hesed of God to them?"

Pause for 20-30 seconds.

"Take one more deep breath. When you're ready, open your eyes."

Step 2: Small Group Reflection (3-4 minutes)

Have the group turn to 2-3 others nearby. Invite them to briefly share one of the following:

- **Which posture was hardest for you? Why?**
- **What word, image, or person came to mind during the "redeemed FOR" posture?**
- **What is one specific way you sense God inviting you to embody hesed this week?**

Remind them to keep sharing concise and to listen without fixing—simply witnessing what God is revealing.

End the time together by praying as a group.

PRACTICE THIS WEEK

Brian reminded us: "Too many times, we forfeit or surrender our true selves to things that hold us captive and lead to pain and hopelessness. But through the sacrifice of Jesus, we are redeemed."

Where do you need to surrender to Jesus' redemptive work in your life this week?

Below are some reflections to guide you:

- **What feels unredeemable in your story?** Bring it to Jesus and ask Him to show you how His redemption can rewrite even that chapter.
- **What are you still holding onto that Jesus wants to redeem?** A past hurt, a pattern of behavior, an identity that no longer fits who He's made you to be?
- **How can you live this week as someone who has been redeemed FOR something?** What is one way you can participate in God's redemptive work in the world?

The cross restores the past and gives hope for the future. Let redemption rewrite your story.