

RECAP & REFLECT

Last week, we explored the practice of being the embodiment of God's hesed—His provision, protection, and faithful presence—by "spreading our covering" over someone in need.

- **Did you follow through on spreading your covering over someone this week? Share what happened. How did showing up and drawing near impact both you and them?**

ICEBREAKER

The sermon explored how waiting often brings "what if" scenarios that consume our thoughts and steal our peace.

Think about a time you were waiting for something important—test results, a job offer, a first date's text back, etc. **Share the most DRAMATIC or RIDICULOUS "what if" scenario your brain created during that wait.** (E.g. "What if they don't text back because they got abducted by aliens?" or "What if I don't get the job because they secretly hate my shoes?")

IDEA 1

Read Ruth 3:16-4:2

Ruth finds herself in a season of waiting where the "what ifs" are very much in play. Rob lists several "what ifs" Ruth might have experienced: What if the other redeemer wants the land? What if Boaz regrets his decision when he runs the numbers? What if she's misrepresented at the gate?

- **What specific "what if" scenarios are currently making your own seasons of waiting difficult? What do they sound like in your head?**
- **Despite all her "what ifs," Ruth chose to wait rather than take control or run. What do you think enabled her to stay in that uncomfortable position? What can we learn from her posture during uncertainty?**

IDEA 2

Ruth finds herself in a moment of waiting coupled with complete reliance on others—and ultimately on God.

- In a culture that celebrates self-sufficiency, dependence is seen as weak. **Why is it so uncomfortable for us to be in Ruth's position rather than Boaz's? What does this reveal about our hearts?**
- Rob shared that "Forced humility often leads to a surrender with God" and "Profound encounters with God often come after moments of uncomfortable waiting." **Can you think of a time when being forced into humility and reliance led you to a deeper surrender and encounter with God?**
- **How are you doing at receiving? Is your pride keeping you from God's hesed experienced through others? If you can only read this story with yourself as Boaz and not Ruth, what might you be missing out on?**
- "The best givers are people that at some point were humble recipients." **How has being on the receiving end of generosity shaped your ability to give to others?**

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

1. Naming the "What Ifs" (2-3 mins)

Invite everyone to slow down. Say something like: "Close your eyes. Think about a situation you're currently waiting on—something where the outcome is uncertain.

Ask the Holy Spirit: 'What "what if" scenarios am I wrestling with in this season of waiting?' Don't rush. Just listen. And then write down the first one or two that come to mind."

Once everyone is ready, invite people to speak these "what ifs" out loud as an acknowledgment of what they've been carrying in their waiting.

2. Receiving God's Truth in the Wait (2-3 mins)

Now shift from surrendering to receiving. **Say something like: "Holy Spirit—what truth do You have for me in this moment of waiting and uncertainty? What promise can I cling to while I wait?"**

(Have them listen before writing.)

Have them write the promise or truth. Once everyone is ready, go around the group and read their promise out loud.

4. Partner up & pray (2-3 mins)

Split up into 2s or 3s and pray for each other, affirming God's promises over one another and asking the Holy Spirit to cultivate humility, surrender, and trust during seasons of waiting and reliance.

PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK

Think about an area of your life where you need help at the moment.

Then reach out—via text, phone call, or in person—and make your request. Be clear and specific about what you need.

Practice humble receiving as an act of surrender to God, receiving his provision for you embodied in the help of another person.