

RUTH

An Ode to Responsibility

Pastor Toby Locke • Week 3 • 1/23/2022



FIRST BAPTIST HORSEHEADS
LIFE GROUPS



Debrief Plan: 1/23/2022

Blessed, that we may Bless

Ruth 2

Introduction: Today we meet Boaz, yet another character called to take responsibility in a difficult situation.

Boaz's Story:

- What kind of man is Boaz? (vs. 1-7)
- What will Boaz choose to do? (vs. 8-9, 14-16)
- What are Boaz's motivations? (vs. 11-12)
- What effect do Boaz's actions have? (vs. 17-19, 13, 20)

What can WE learn from Boaz?

- ❑ We have _____ to those around us. (Romans 13:8, 15:1, James 1:15-16, 1 John 3:16-18)
- ❑ We've been _____ so we can _____ others. (1 Peter 4:10)
- ❑ We are called to act as God's _____. (Ephesians 5:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)
- ❑ Our _____ can draw people to God. (Matthew 5:16, 2 Corinthians 9:12-14)

Conclusion: One good person who uses their resources to care for others as God's agent can have a HUGE impact!

Icebreakers:

1. Who is a wealthy person who fascinates you or that you're curious about?
2. Who is a wealthy person that you respect for their generosity as well as for their success and wealth?

Sermon Summary: Boaz teaches us that one good person who takes responsibility of his own resources so that he can use them to care for others as God's agent in the world can and WILL have a huge impact!

Discussion Questions:

* **We have obligations to those around us.**

1. How does it *feel* to hear that you have obligations to the people around you? Why do you feel that way, do you think?
2. Read Romans 13:8, 15:1, James 1:15-16, and 1 John 3:16-18. Which of these obligations is the hardest to fulfil? Which is the easiest?

* **We've been blessed so we can bless others.**

3. We tend to think of others as wealthy, or blessed, or gifted, or resourced, but not ourselves. Make a list with your group of the blessings we have ALL received that we can (and should) pass along to others.
4. Once you have your list, think of one practical way that each blessing you listed above can be passed along to others (no, really, an actual situation).

* **We are called to act as God's agents.**

5. How does it *feel* to know that God has chosen to take care of other people THROUGH you?
6. Is it easy to forget that we are God's agents in the world in the middle of our busy lives? If so, why is that?
7. What are some practical tips for how we can remember through our busy days that we are God's representatives wherever we find ourselves?

* **Our generosity can draw people to God.**

8. Read Matthew 5:16. Why would people give glory to God in heaven and not to the person actually performing the good deed?
9. Read 2 Corinthians 9:12-14. Make a list of all the benefits of being generous found in this passage. Which one is most compelling to you personally?
10. Read John 17:20-23. Why would observing our unity cause people to believe that God really sent Jesus? Isn't sharing the good news of Jesus our most important contribution to the belief of lost people?