



Life Group Discussion Guide
Ruth: Mercy in the Shadows
God's Mercy in the Midst of our Plans – Ruth 3

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Main thought: With God it's never too late and you're never too far away for redemption.

Outline:

- Naomi's plan (1-4)
- Ruth's proposal (5-9)
- Boaz's promise (10-18)

Welcome and Fellowship Time (suggested time 10 min)

Open in Prayer

Discussion Starter (suggested sharing time 5-10 min)

- Share a time in your life that you had to trust and depend deeply in the Lord in the midst of challenging circumstance.

Week in Review (suggested sharing time 5-10 min)

- Can you think of a time recently that you can look back and see God's hand of providence at work in your life?

Sermon Review (suggested time 15 min)

Review the passage from Sunday's message and discuss the following questions.

- What stood out to you from this passage/message?
- In Verses 1-4 Naomi comes up with a plan to speed up the Ruth/Boaz connection. In spite of it being a questionable plan, how is it a positive step for Naomi?
- How are Naomi's actions different now than they were in Ruth chapter 1? What does this tell us about Naomi's renewed hope/faith? And what does it tell us about God?
- Ruth follows Naomi's plan until what point? How/why does she deviate from the plan?
- Read Ruth 3:10-14. What do we learn about Ruth and Boaz's character in these verses?
- What is significant about Boaz's gift and statement in verse 17?



Digging Deeper (suggested time 10 minutes)

Read Luke 15:11-24

- What does this story teach us about God's heart for those who go astray? What does it teach us about God's heart for those who return?

Application (suggested time 10 minutes)

- Naomi's plan demonstrates how we can pursue the right thing in the wrong way.
 - What are elements that drove Naomi towards her plan that also drive us in our plans that we should be cautious of?
 - What are practical things we can do to help guard against pursuing the right things in the wrong way this week?
- Every character in this story is given a second chance by God. How has God demonstrated His grace to you in your life by giving you a second chance?
- This story reminds us that with God it's never too late and you're never too far away for redemption. Let your life group know if you're ready to turn to Jesus for forgiveness and redemption in your life now.

Spend time gathering prayer requests, praying for each other & praying for application of the study in the lives of the group members. (Suggested time 20 minutes)