



Mother's Day – Our Family Redeemer Spiritual Formation Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him.² The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there.

³ Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons. ⁴ The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth. But about ten years later, ⁵ both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband.

Ruth 1:1-5

But Ruth replied, "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.¹⁷ Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!"¹⁸ When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.

Ruth 1:16-18

So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the Lord enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. Then the women of the town said to Naomi, "Praise the Lord, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel. May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age. For he is the son of your daughter-in-law who loves you and has been better to you than seven sons!" Naomi took the baby and cuddled him to her breast. And she cared for him as if he were her own. The neighbor women said, "Now at last Naomi has a son again!" And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.

Ruth 4:13-17

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.

Ephesians 2:19-20

Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

James 4:8

Reflection Questions:

- Do you consider yourself to be a loyal person, and why or why not? To what are you especially loyal?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God encouraging and challenging you through the songs, the message, and being with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- Look over the story of Ruth in the biblical book of Ruth (a few snippets are included above). What stands out to you from the story of Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi? What about Boaz?
- Read Ephesians 2:19-20. How does this connect to Ruth's story? Is there a way that this truth connects to your own story?
- Michael shared, "Loyalty to Jesus brings clarity to the rest of our lives." What does loyalty to Jesus look like?
- Is there a situation in your life that you're wrestling with right now? What might it mean to be loyal to Jesus in that specific situation? Read James 4:8.
- "We can be loyal to Jesus, because he has already proven his loyalty to us." How has Jesus shown you that he is committed to you?
- Michael shared that the important recurring word in the book of Ruth is "redeemer." What comes to your mind when you hear the word, redeemer? (Consider looking up the definition, if you're not sure.) How does Ruth's story and this message help you understand God as your family redeemer?
- Is there anything else from this teaching that you want to explore more?
- Take time to pray and surrender to God as you close your time of reflection or discussion.

Want some resources and ideas for how to grow spiritually?

We are spotlighting our resource, "**How to Pray and Read the Bible,**" which you can get at our Next Steps Area or access online at https://www.wschurch.org/content/pdf/How2PrayBible_Digital.pdf. Visit www.wschurch.org/resources to see additional tools and resources.

Message Main Points and Scripture:

- "In the days when Judges Ruled..." - Ruth 1:1
- Judges 21:25 – "In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes."
- Ruth 1:1-5 – "In the days when the judges ruled in Israel, a severe famine came upon the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah left his home and went to live in the country of Moab, taking his wife and two sons with him. The man's name was Elimelech, and his wife was Naomi. Their two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And when they reached Moab, they settled there.
Then Elimelech died, and Naomi was left with her two sons. The two sons married Moabite women. One married a woman named Orpah, and the other a woman named Ruth. But about ten years later, both Mahlon and Kilion died. This left Naomi alone, without her two sons or her husband."

- Ruth 1:16-18 – “But Ruth replied, “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!” When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said nothing more.”
- Leviticus 19:33-34—“Do not take advantage of foreigners who live among you in your land. Treat them like native-born Israelites, and love them as you love yourself. Remember that you were once foreigners living in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God.
- Ruth 4:13-16 – “So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the Lord enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. Then the women of the town said to Naomi, “Praise the Lord, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel. May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age. For he is the son of your daughter-in-law who loves you and has been better to you than seven sons!” Naomi took the baby and cuddled him to her breast. And she cared for him as if he were her own.”
- Judges 21:25 – “In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.”
- Ruth 4:17 – “The neighbor women said, “Now at last Naomi has a son again!” And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.”
- **This micro story of redemption was a part of God’s macro story to redeem the world.**
- Ephesians 2:19-20 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.
- James 4:8 – “Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your *loyalty* is divided between God and the world.”
- **Loyalty to Jesus brings clarity to the rest of our lives.**
- **“This little Book of Ruth comes down to our level and tells the commonplace story of a couple who love each other. They were ordinary folk, average folk, and their love story is a mirror in which we can see the divine love of a Savior for you and me. As we proceed into the Book of Ruth, we see this wonderful love story unfold before us.” – Vernon McGee**
- **This is a love story about us and our family redeemer.**