

Digging Deeper

[Engaging the message throughout the week]

Monday: 11.07.2011

Prayer Focus: Community Elections & Leaders

Passage: Ruth 1

Insight: *We are going to spend time this week reflecting on the life of Naomi and Ruth. Though they were connected as family (in-laws) their commitment to each other was very genuine - like dear friends.*

Questions for consideration:

*In what ways do you see authentic friendship taking place in the Naomi's and her daughter-in-law's lives?
How do you feel about Orpah's decision to return home?
How do you feel about Ruth's decision to stay with Naomi?*

Tuesday: 11.08.2011

Prayer Focus: Church Leadership

Passage: Ruth 2

Insight: *In this day and age, it was very challenging for a widow to survive ... let alone two of them living together. As Ruth goes out to glean the fields for grain, she "happens" to find a field of a relative she didn't know. Boaz shows Ruth kindness, generosity, and protection ... all great qualities of authentic friendship.*

Questions for consideration:

*How can you explain Ruth's decision to glean in the field she chose?
How related is Boaz's generosity to Ruth's compassion for Naomi?
Does the phrase "you reap what you sow" fit this situation? If so, how?*

Wednesday: 11.09.2011

Prayer Focus: Boost Ministries

Passage: Ruth 3

Insight: *A guardian-redeemer was a person who was related to a widow who would possess the obligation of redeeming a family member in great distress. By doing what Ruth did, she proved once again to be a woman of great character. Her obedience to Naomi also proves that she is a trustworthy friend.*

Questions for consideration:

*Why do you think that Boaz hasn't thought of his role as guardian-redeemer before now?
How does his reaction speak toward the core value of "serving others with mercy?"*

Thursday: 11.10.2011

Prayer Focus: Your personal compassion and service to others

Passage: Ruth 4

Insight: *As the story of Ruth concludes, we see that God used the sad situation of Naomi and Ruth to give us all hope. The son of Ruth will become the grandfather of David, the greatest King Israel has ever known! It's amazing what mercy can produce!*

Questions for consideration:

*What do you think motivated Boaz to redeem Ruth? Obligation or mercy or what?
What do you think kept the closer guardian-redeemer from redeeming Ruth, when he was so willing to redeem just the land?*

Friday: 11.11.2011

Prayer Focus: Our church worship services (11/13)

Passage: Jeremiah 12:1-3

Insight: *Friday is a busy day so we have a short reading today. We will reveal another "core value" this week and Jeremiah's questions give us a glimpse into that value. Asking great questions of God is a powerful path to revelation of God.*

Questions for consideration:

*How do you think that God feels about our doubts and questions?
How do we bring our knowledge (science especially) and our faith into deeper understanding?
How much do you question the ways of God?
When was the last time you felt like you learned something about God that you hadn't known before?
How much do you value your own personal discipleship?*



If you are interested in joining our iPray Team that will be interceding our concerns for the church, our community and nation, send Pastor Terry an email or fill out the "Get Involved" insert this morning!