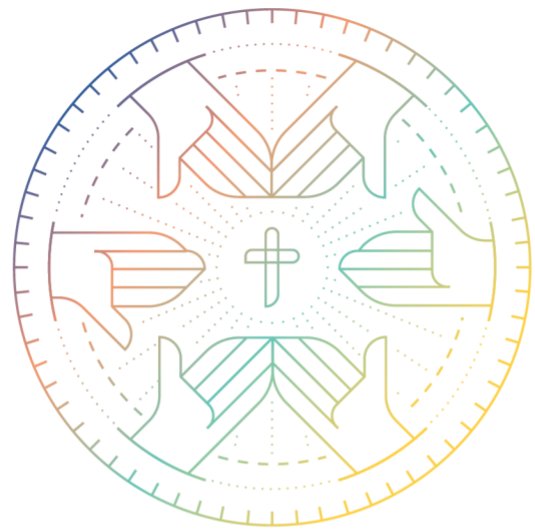


# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

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## ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Is there an interesting story behind any part of your name? What does your name mean? Are you named after someone in your family?

## INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

What most stood out to you from Pastor Jared's message?

Considered in its' totality, the Book of Ruth conveys a message of hope and redemption. What aspect of the book has been most encouraging to you?

## INTO THE WORD (20 MINUTES)

### Read Ruth 4:1-7.

The word, "behold" in v.1 indicates something unexpected. What was unexpected in these first few verses, and how does it point to God's sovereignty and providence?

Boaz seems well-prepared for the conversation with the "no name" relative. How does this scene at the city gate help shape your view of Boaz and his character?

**Read Ruth 4:7-10.** How does the ancient tradition of removing your sandal and giving it to the other person to seal a transaction compare to modern traditions? What did the exchange of the sandal signify to the Boaz and the elders?

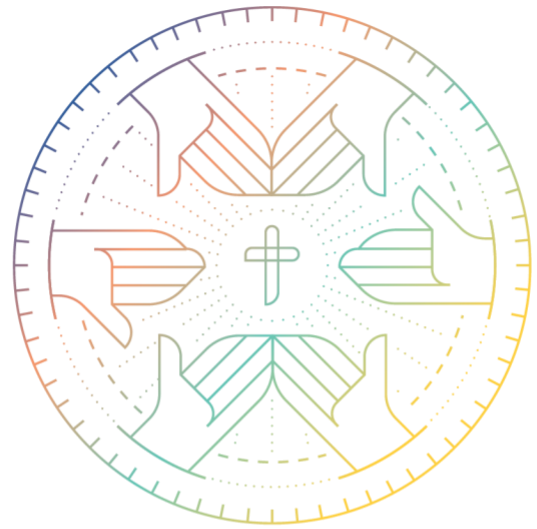
**Read Ruth 4:11-16.** It seems like quite a crowd had gathered around this transaction at the city gate. What is meant by referencing Rachel and Leah, as well as Perez, in blessing this commitment by Boaz?

How would you describe the contrast between Ruth Ch. 1 and Ruth Ch. 4?

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**Read Ruth 4:17-22 and Matthew 1:5.** How closely are Ruth and Obed related to King David and eventually Jesus, the Messiah? What encourages you about Ruth (a Gentile) being grafted into the Jewish lineage of Jesus Christ?

## APPLICATION (15 MINUTES)

What lesson can you take from each of the characters in this beautiful story?

1. Elimelech:
2. Naomi:
3. Ruth:
4. Boaz:
5. "No name" relative:
6. Obed:

Like God did with Naomi and Ruth, do you believe that God can redeem the bitterness of your hard experiences? What might you do today to open the door for God to redeem your situation?

Are there ways that God has shown his faithfulness to you and changed your sorrow to joy?

## PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

*Our Savior and Father, we are so grateful that you are a redeeming God. Just as you redeemed Naomi and Ruth's tragic story, you redeem our stories through the redemption found in your Son, Jesus Christ. Strengthen us today to walk with you, encouraged and led by your Holy Spirit. May our days on this earth be blessed by the One who blessed the lives of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz. Amen.*