

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sovereign Redemption

RUTH

REVIEW // JUDGES

We completed the book of Judges! Take some time to review the book and discuss how it applies to our lives.

1. Give the group one last opportunity to reflect on our study of Judges. Suggested questions:
 - a. If someone were to ask you, “What is the main point of Judges?” how would you answer them?
 - b. If someone were to ask you, “How does Judges fit into the overall story of the Bible?” how would you answer them?
 - c. What are a few things Judges tells us about humanity?
 - d. What does Judges reveal to us about the character of God?
 - e. How does Judges point us to the greater Judge, Jesus Christ?
 - f. How have you been personally convicted or encouraged through our study of this book?
 - g. How should this book inform our life together as a church?

STUDY // RUTH

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

Note: Healthy Bible study asks three questions:

- **Observation:** What do I see?
 - **Interpretation:** What does it mean?
 - **Application:** Why does it matter?
1. Read Ruth 1-4. (It’ll take about 15 minutes)
 2. Identify the overall themes in the book. (Soverignty, kindness [*hesed* = covenant faithfulness], redemption).
 3. Chapter 1:
 - a. What do we learn about the context from the book in 1:1?
 - b. What has happened in Ruth 1:1-5? Who are the characters?
 - c. How does Naomi interpret these events? What is Naomi’s attitude in the midst of tragedy and loss? Who does she blame for all her hardships?
 - d. What is Ruth’s lineage? What’s significant about this given the way Ruth acts throughout the book?
 4. Chapter 2:
 - a. Discuss the ways you see the sovereign provision of the Lord.
 - b. Describe Boaz’s treatment of Ruth.
 - i. What is Ruth’s reaction when Boaz shows her favor (2:10)? Why do you think she reacts this way?
 - ii. What is Boaz’ motive (2:11-12)?

- c. How does Naomi react to Boaz's treatment of Ruth (2:20-23)? What does she say about the Lord? What does she call Boaz? What does it mean to be a redeemer (see Lev. 25:23-25 & Deut. 25:5-6 for the Old Testament customs)?
- 5. Chapter 3:
 - a. Whose best interest did Naomi have in mind?
 - b. Compare Naomi's instructions with what Ruth actually says to Boaz. What clues in the text give us insight into what Ruth meant in her conversation with Boaz?
 - c. How does Boaz demonstrate ultimate trust in God by consulting the closer kinsman-redeemer before moving forward in relationship with Ruth?
 - d. How do we see Christ in Boaz?
- 6. Chapter 4:
 - a. Compare and contrast the actions/motivations of Boaz and the nearest redeemer? What can we learn from both of these men?
 - b. How are is 4:13-17 a reversal of the first three chapters? What does this tell us about the character of God?
 - c. Notice how the book of Ruth ends. How does genealogy prompt us to look back? How does it prompt us to look forward?
 - d. What's the significance of the author ending both verse 17 and 22 with "David"? How do you this encourage God's people who read the story in the past? How does it encourage us today?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Are there place you're doubting the sovereignty of God in your life? If so, where? What does it look like to trust God in this area of your life?