

21 February

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: The Book of Ruth – week 6

 Let's hear your story

1. Looking back at your life, share a story of how God brought life after death for you?
2. According to v.13; what is God's order for marriage? (**Covenant; consummation / union and then conception**).
3. What statement according to v.13; is a clear revelation that God is the Author of life? (**The Lord gave her conception and she bore a son**).
4. How valuable was Ruth to Naomi, in v.15? (**More than seven sons**).

 Let's go deeper

5. Who gave the name of Naomi's grandchild in v.17? (**Women of the neighborhood**).
6. What was the name given to Naomi's grandchild in v.17? (**Obed**).
7. What does the name Obed mean? (**Servant or worshipper of God**).
8. What does the genealogy according to v.22 reveal about Ruth and Boaz? (**The genealogy reveals that through Ruth's redeemer husband, Boaz and their son, Obed, came the great king David, and then ultimately the Lord Jesus Christ**).

 Let's apply this

9. There is life after death:

The women in the book of Ruth ended with rejoicing in what God had done and prayed for the future. Let's follow this model and end our time in the book of Ruth with prayer:

Take time to rejoice in what God has done in us and pray for our future

I would encourage you to not rush through the prayer time, but really look at the past and the future so you can learn to think generationally.

SUMMARY:

- **The story of Ruth – Faith; Hope and Love**

Read: Ruth 4:13 – 22

v.13; The story of Ruth and Naomi, reveals that life comes after death. Ruth and Naomi's example provides hope to keep going until you're on the other side. God's order of marriage is covenant, consummation, then conception. For the first time, Boaz and Ruth enjoyed the gift of marital intimacy as husband and wife. And, God blessed their union by enabling Ruth to conceive a son. In this we see that God is indeed the author of life. Although Ruth had previously been married for 10 years, she remained childless. But the statement that "the LORD gave her conception" is a clear revelation that this was God's work.

v.14 – 15; The women rightly saw Naomi's grandson as her redeemer who would be a source of life and joy to her and a constant reminder of God's loving provision for her. Ruth was declared by the women to be of greater value than seven sons, which is remarkable because seven sons is, according to Scripture, synonymous with a perfect family (Job 1:2, 42:13).

v.16 – 17; The final portrait of Naomi in the book of Ruth is one of the most moving in all of Scripture. The older woman who had shed many tears and felt much pain was no longer stressed and depressed, but rather finally blessed and at rest. She who was bitter with God for leaving her emptyhanded now wept in gladness for His goodness as she rubbed the back and stroked the head of the grandson resting in her lap. Although it seemed as if all hope had been lost for Naomi to ever hold a grandchild, God was indeed faithful and granted Naomi the desire of her heart. In the end, she was a redeemed woman, protected by the great Boaz, loved by her daughter-in-law, Ruth, and blessed by her baby grandson.

Naomi's friends named the boy Obed, meaning servant or worshipper of God. The boy was promised to serve his grandmother and worship his God.

v.18 – 22; The genealogy reveals that through Ruth's redeemer husband, Boaz and their son, Obed, came the great king David. 2 Sam. 7:1–17 promised that through David would come the Redeemer of all, the Lord Jesus to establish His Kingdom.

Roughly a thousand years after Ruth, Matthew 1:1–17 records the genealogy of Christ and it's the only place in all of Scripture apart from the book of Ruth in which her name is mentioned. Even more intriguing is the scandalous type of women who are mentioned as members of Jesus family, namely the five women:

Tamar (Matt.1:3 and Genesis 38); **Rahab** (Matt.1:5 and Joshua 1; 2 & 6:17; Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25); **Ruth** (Matt.1:5; Genesis 19:30 – 38 and Ruth 1 – 4); **Bathsheba** (Matt.1:6 and 2 Samuel 11) and **Mary** (Matthew 1:16 – 2:23).