



It's important that God's Word continues after the message. At Celebrate, we find that you will quite often talk over this week's message long after our experience is over. That's because God has impact. The Sermon Discussion Guide is designed to help you continue the conversation all week.

The Christmas Gift of – HOPE

There seems to be a tendency to get focused on what is right in front of us, and when things do not go as expected, we lose hope and miss out on God's plan for us. The same was true for Naomi in the Book of Ruth. She thought it was all over for her. Living in a foreign land, she suffers the loss of her husband and two sons. With just her daughter-in-law, Ruth, at her side, she returns to her homeland, Bethlehem, and the rest is HIS story of HOPE through the birth of Christ.

The first gift of Christmas is HOPE. Read *Romans 15:13*. What does it mean to “overflow with hope”? Share a time when you felt you had lost hope? How has that situation changed? Has God used that trial as part of your testimony? Why is prayer so important at times like these? *Romans 15:13; Psalm 42:5; Romans 12:12; Isaiah 40:31; Jeremiah 29:11*

Naomi was struggling with loneliness, loss, and depression. She urges Ruth to return to her own people, but in the midst of uncertainty, Ruth insists on staying with her. When challenges come your way, do you respond like Naomi or Ruth? Do you try to isolate yourself from others? Who in your life, or church family, has come along side you to help you walk through this time? How have you been like Ruth? When has your faith allowed you to be a blessing to someone going through a difficult time?

Ruth 1:15-20; Psalm 119:28; Psalm 31:9; Hebrews 4:16

In Ruth, Chapter 3, we were introduced to the concept of a family guardian or family redeemer. Boaz chose to take responsibility for Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi. How is this like the vision of Celebrate? What will this look like for the children of Terry Redlin if we embrace that vision together? For Christians, why is the union of Boaz and Ruth so important?

Ruth 3; Romans 12:13; 1 John 3:17-18; Proverbs 22:9; Ruth 4:13, 17; Matthew 1

What's Next

- Text the word YUM to 313131 to sign up to deliver a turkey or ham certificate to a family in the Terry Redlin neighborhood.
- Pray for God to help you look beyond the box to see what He has lying deeper for you.
- Invite and bring someone with you to one of the Christmas Eve services.