

Small Group Sermon Discussion Guide Ruth 4:12-22

September 16, 2009

General Questions about the Text:

What is the intended message of the writer?
Does the sermon capture the main point of the text?
What doctrinal truth is emphasized here?
How is that truth consistent with the rest of Scripture?
What promise is given? Have I been leaning on that promise?
What errors or sins does this passage warn against, which I easily fall prey to?
How can I use this passage to fight against such sins?
Are there duties and responsibilities in this passage that I am neglecting?

Specific questions about the Sermon:

1. Why does there always have to be a snag in this life just like all the characters in the book of Ruth? What is the final resolution to this that we find in the end of book?
2. What was the author's point in ending this beautiful story with what seem to be an anticlimax, such as a family tree? What do these names teach about the history of God's act of redemption?
3. The women of Bethlehem praised God saying "*Blessed be the Lord (Praise be to the Lord - NIV), who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel!*" What do these words tell you about God's work in history regarding the joys and sorrows of the believers? What is something about marriage, and childbearing that points us to God's work of redemption from our sins?
4. How is God's renown related to simple things in life, like marriage and childbearing-- including all of our activities in life, big or small, that are crucial in our call to gladly lead others to find gladness in God?

