

# CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Ruth – Loving Kindness

Life Group Study

The story of Ruth is an oasis of faithfulness in a somewhat dry landscape. The faithfulness of God, the faithfulness of specific individuals and the faithfulness of a community. Perhaps one of the reasons the book is so endearing is that it's, quoting Eugene Peterson, "a plain story about two widows and a farmer whose lives are woven into the fabric of God's salvation through the ordinary actions of common life." The book of Ruth reminds us that in the seemingly mundane and ordinary of our own lives God is working, He is Sovereign, and He is faithful to those who remain faithful to him.

### Read Ruth 1

- Have you experienced a time in your life when it appeared all hope was lost, and you perceived that God was against you?
- What is 'lament' and can you find other examples of people lamenting in the bible?

The word kindness in Hebrew is 'hesed'. It speaks of many things all rolled into one - loving kindness, mercy, grace, loyalty. Hesed is a quality which moves someone to act for the benefit of someone else without considering "what's in it for me?"

- Can you think of examples you know of someone who showed hesed to someone else or to you?
- How did God show hesed to Naomi and Ruth?
- Did Naomi's grief impair her ability to see the faithfulness of God?

### Read Ruth 4:13-17

- Ruth was grafted into the lineage of Jesus Christ. How have we as followers of Christ also been grafted in?

### Read John 15:4-8

- How does Jesus' cross shaped love, shape and form your life?

*What I can do, you cannot. What you can do, I cannot. But together we can do something beautiful for God. Yes, you must live life beautifully and not allow the spirit of the world that makes gods out of power, riches, and pleasure make you to forget that you have been created for greater things – to love and to be loved.*

**Mother Teresa**