

Small Group Discussion Questions

Heaven on Earth: the Book of Ruth

These questions are designed to invite group reflection on today's Bible passage and life application of the themes introduced in today's sermon.

Week 4

Ruth 2:17-23

1. Think of, and share, one thing that gives you a sense of accomplishment or significance. Can you identify something that contributes to your sense of security? Have any of your sources of significance or security ever been lost or threatened? How do/did you feel about those times of threat or loss?
2. Naomi and Ruth are vulnerable persons in their ancient Middle-Eastern context. Based on what you've learned so far in the Book of Ruth, what are some reasons for their vulnerability? Put differently, what represented significance ("I matter") and security ("I am safe and provided for") for women in their context?
3. Some things have improved for Naomi and Ruth in today's passage. What hasn't? What is still missing for them?
4. Read Leviticus 25:23-28. What basic rights does God guarantee all Israelites? What is the guiding principle behind God's rules for land distribution (verse 23)?
5. What hope does this set of rules represent for Naomi? How does this hope depend on Boaz? What evidence have we seen that Naomi and Ruth's hope may be well-founded?
6. What does land and a lasting name represent for God's people in the Old Testament? If it is the "kinsman-redeemer's" duty to secure these, what does it mean to call Jesus Christ *the Redeemer*? What does He secure for us?
7. Revisit the sources of significance and security you identified in Question 1. How does knowing Jesus as your Redeemer impact your relationship with these things?

Pray: That through Jesus, God reassures you of your significance as His child and your security as a member of His household; for others to know Jesus as Redeemer.