

Two Responses from the Story of Ruth:

- This Christmas you can be a **REDEEMER** in someone else's life

Ruth 4:13 *"So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her the Lord enabled her to conceive and she gave birth to a son."*

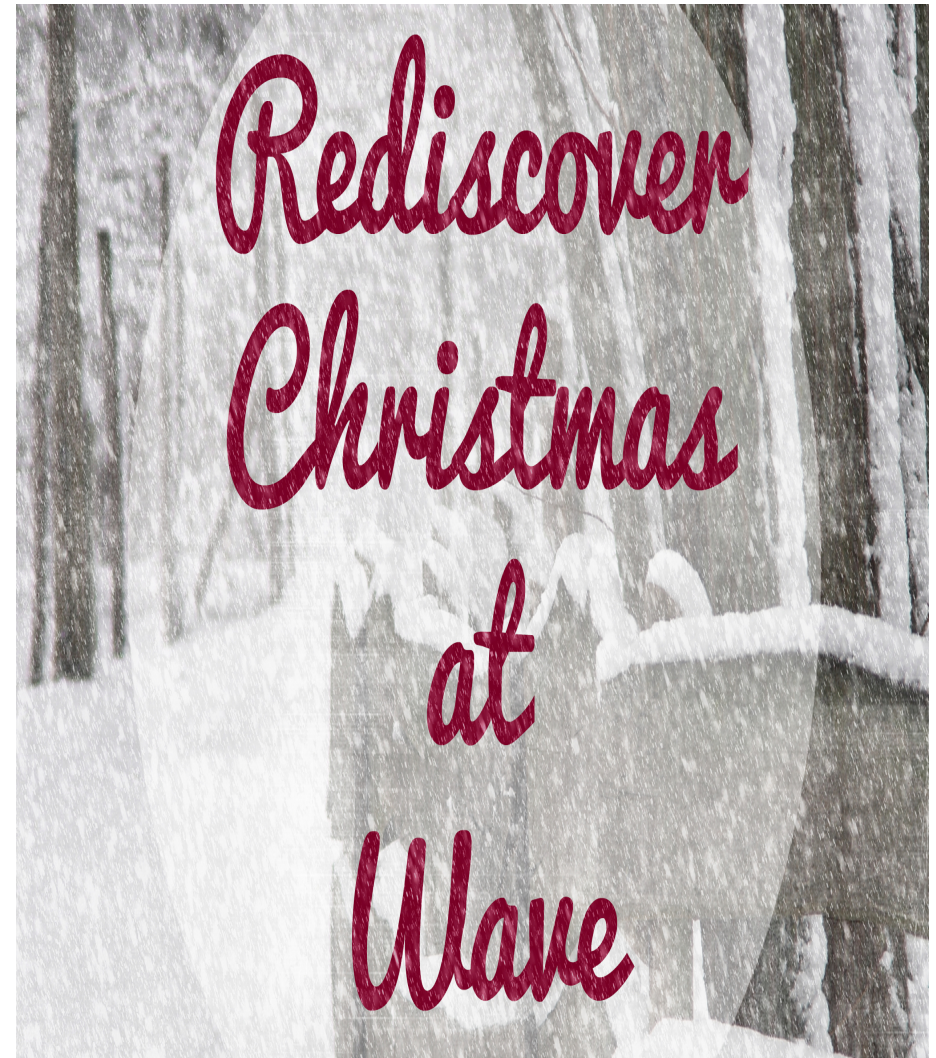
- This Christmas your story can be **REDEEMED**

Ruth 4:17 *And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi." They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.*

Matthew 1:1, 5 *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David... Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of David the king.*

Life Group / Reflection Questions:

- *Have you ever been disappointed in a present you received for Christmas? You wanted a toy, but got something else?*
- *How have you experienced loss, loneliness, disappointment? How have these experiences shaped the way you see God and the hope he offers?*
- *How do you relate with the Story of Ruth? Do you find yourself living in a season of loss or a season of redemption?*
- *Does your story have to be defined by our loss, loneliness and disappointments? How does the hope of redemption from God change how you define and respond to life circumstances?*
- *How might God be calling you to be a redeemer in someone else's life?*
- *How might God be redeeming your story this Christmas season?*



Sunday Nov. 30th
Re-Discover Christmas
"The Gift of Hope"

Re-Discover Christmas
“The Gift of Hope”

Romans 15:13 *“I pray that God who gives you hope will keep you happy and full of peace as you believe in him. May you overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

A Story of Loss

Ruth 1:1-5

1 In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁵ and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

➤ **Because of Christmas we have the HOPE of a HOME WITH GOD**

A Story of Loneliness

Ruth 1:16 *“Naomi where you go I will go; and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me be it ever so severely if even death separates you and me.”*

A Story of Disappointment

Ruth 1:19-20 ¹⁹ *So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, “Is this Naomi?” ²⁰ She said to them, “Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.*

- **Micah 3:2**

➤ **Because of Christmas we have HOPE that God can do great things in INSIGNIFICANT PLACES**

Does our story have to be defined by our loss, loneliness and disappointments? Or could it be defined by something else?

➤ **Because of Christmas We have the HOPE of REDEMPTION**

A Story of Redemption

Ruth 2: 2-3 *And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor.” And she said to her, “Go, my daughter.” ³ So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech*

- **Romans 8:28** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

A Story of Hope

Ruth 3: 1-5 *Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, should I not seek rest for you, that it may be well with you? ² Is not Boaz our relative, with whose young women you were? See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. ³ Wash therefore and anoint yourself, and put on your cloak and go down to the threshing floor, but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴ But when he lies down, observe the place where he lies. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down, and he will tell you what to do.” ⁵ And she replied, “All that you say I will do.”*

A Story of a Future

Ruth 3: 8-11

There was a woman lying at his feet. ‘Who are you?’ he demanded. ‘It is I, sir, Ruth,’ she replied. ‘Make me your wife according to God’s law for you are my close relative.’ ‘Thank God for a girl like you!’ he exclaimed. ‘Don’t worry about a thing, my child. I’ll handle all the details for everyone knows what a wonderful person you are.’”