



May 17, 2020

**OPENING PRAYER:**

God of grace, sometimes, like Naomi, your grace comes to us through unexpected sources. As we read and reflect on this story, open our minds and hearts so we might learn to see the grace and love you have woven into our own story. Amen.

*How we walk with the broken speaks louder than how we sit with the great.* Bill Bennot

**BREAKING THE ICE:**

When was a time you felt deeply blessed? Have you ever been blessed by someone you didn't expect to be blessed by?

**WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:**

Read Ruth 4:13-17

- The story of Ruth was likely one that really came into circulation when the people of Israel were slaves in Babylon. What do you think they would have learned from this story? How does that impact your life?
- In the ancient world, women were often viewed as worthless. What does the Book of Ruth tell us about how our God views women and other groups society views as having little or no value? Who do you believe God is speaking to in today's culture?
- Matthew lists Ruth in his genealogy of Jesus. Ancient genealogies didn't list women. Why do you think he wanted to remind us of Ruth's story when telling Jesus' story?

**NEXT STEPS:**

- What groups are often viewed by our society as worthless or having little value? How do those groups bless our society?
- How would you feel in this situation if you were Naomi?
- How could you bless someone unexpectedly this week? Develop a plan to bless someone and commit to act on your plan.
- Think about a time when you felt like celebrating God's unexpected grace. How could you celebrate all the ways God has blessed your life this week?

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

God of Grace, we are grateful for all the ways you bless our lives. Open our eyes so we can better see and celebrate your amazing grace. Open our hearts so we can be your instruments of grace to those in our world and our community who are often overlooked and mistreated. In the gracious name of our Savior we pray, Amen.