

FAMILY WORSHIP

Guide

Sermon: **Expect the Unexpected: A Ray of Hope**
Text: **Ruth 2**
May 24, 2020

Use this guide to engage in further discussion about today's message, applying it to your heart in a personal way. Feel free to alter questions to fit children in your family.

Follow this simple outline:

1. Sit down together with no distractions.
2. Have a member of the family open in prayer.
3. Read all or a portion of the sermon text.
4. Work through the discussion questions. Encourage your family to talk.
5. Share ways to apply the sermon to life
6. Close in prayer.

Time
Commitment:
15-20 Minutes

Discussion Questions:

1. During the Coronavirus Crisis we have the opportunity to advance the kingdom in a profound way (Matthew 6:33). Are you finding it difficult to get past your own concerns and fear and think this way? What kinds of fears are you personally experiencing in this challenging season? Can you ask someone you love and trust to pray for you?
2. Throughout the first half of the book of Ruth, and especially in chapter two, Ruth puts herself in the place of obedience. In following her example, what does this principle look like for you? Are you truly abiding in Jesus in this time, trusting that He is the vine and we are the branches (John 15:1-4)? We are never called to be fruit producers, but we are called to be fruit inspectors. If you are being honest, what is the quality of your spiritual fruit? How is your time in the Word? How is your prayer life? Are you serving others in need? Have you shared your faith with someone that you know needs Christ?
3. Ruth is a great example of one who lived in the present. What do you think Pastor Jeff means when he encourages us to do the same? Is it hard to live in the present when we are longing for this season of pandemic to end?
4. It is easy for us, especially when we are all feeling so distant, to forget that our lives are interconnected with others. Our faithless choices, like Elimelech's, affect others, and so does our obedience. How does this principle change the way you think about your daily walk with the Lord? Through your obedience are you blessing others the way that Ruth blessed Naomi? Are you more like Naomi, for rather than blessing others, you are receiving the benefits of their obedience?

VBS Challenge!

Our ministerial staff have already begun to meet and plan for Vacation Bible School. We are planning to have VBS from middle to late July. Our own Josh Winkles will be this year's VBS Director. Pray for Josh, but also begin to pray for your own involvement. We will need our entire church mobilized for this effort, as we plan to take Vacation Bible School into the neighborhoods in and around Smyrna. There will be ways that all of us can contribute to make sure the gospel is shared all throughout our city. Pray that the Lord will give us the spirit of Ruth. God wants to use us to bless others and bring glory to King Jesus!

