

Small Group Guide

Week of May 5, 2024

Speaker: Mark Delaney

How to Live Blessed



Icebreaker



- What's the most interesting or unique job you've ever had?
- If you could travel anywhere in the world for free, where would you go and why?



Discussion



- Can you share an experience where you felt overwhelmed by God's generosity or kindness in your life?
- Boaz's actions towards Ruth demonstrated protection and provision. How can we, as a community, follow his example in caring for those who may feel like outsiders or marginalized?
- Ruth never complains throughout the book, despite her difficult circumstances. What can we learn from her attitude of gratitude, and how can we apply it in our own lives?
- The sermon highlights three lessons on staying grateful: receiving our blessings, carrying our blessings, and sharing our blessings. Which of these areas do you find most challenging, and how can we support each other in growing in that area?
- Jesus is the ultimate blessing, and we are called to share this blessing with others. How can we practically live out this calling in our daily lives and within our community?
- The challenge given in the sermon is to go a week without complaining or arguing (Philippians 2:14). How can we hold each other accountable and encourage one another in this challenge?



Thought for the Group



Ruth, a widowed foreigner, worked hard gleaning fields to provide for herself and her mother-in-law Naomi. A wealthy landowner named Boaz took notice of Ruth's kindness and allowed her to gather from his fields, even inviting her to dine with him and his workers.

Boaz's actions towards Ruth beautifully depict God's lavish grace towards us. Though undeserving, God showers us with blessings and favor, just as Boaz did for Ruth.

The story teaches us three powerful lessons about staying grateful for God's blessings:

1. Receive your blessing - Ruth received Boaz's kindness humbly, recognizing it as an unmerited gift.
2. Carry your blessing - Ruth worked diligently to make the most of the opportunity given to her.
3. Share your blessing - Ruth generously shared her bounty with Naomi, her mother-in-law.

Ultimately, this story points us to the greatest blessing of all - the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Like Ruth, we are called to receive this gift with gratitude, live it out purposefully, and share it generously with others.

The challenge for us is to follow Ruth's example of unwavering faith, humility, and an attitude of thanksgiving, even in difficult circumstances. Let us strive to do everything without complaining or arguing, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the true source of our joy and hope.



Next Steps



- Go an entire week without complaining or arguing, replacing negative words with gratitude and praise.
- Think of the marginalized or outsiders in your life. Take practical steps this week to extend kindness and provision to one specific person or group.
- Look for opportunities this week to share your testimony or the gospel message.