

Small Group Guide

Week of April 28, 2024

Speaker: Mark Delaney

In Search of Favor



Icebreaker



- If you could trade lives with any fictional character for a day, who would you choose and why?
- If you could be an inanimate object for a day, what would you choose and why?



Discussion



- Boaz greeted his workers with "The Lord be with you," acknowledging God's presence in the ordinary. How can we cultivate an awareness of God's presence in our daily lives and workplaces?
- Boaz's generosity towards Ruth went beyond simply obeying the law; he embodied the spirit of the law. In what areas of your life could you apply this principle of going above and beyond what is expected?
- Ruth's reaction to Boaz's kindness was profound gratitude. When was the last time you experienced overwhelming gratitude, and how did you express it?
- Compare Boaz's invitation to Ruth to dine with his workers to Jesus' invitation to the Lord's table. How does this analogy help you better understand the grace and inclusion of God's kingdom?
- What steps can you take to move forward from struggles or heartbreak in your life?
- God's favor is undeserved and unmerited, just like His grace. How does this truth challenge or encourage you in your faith journey?



Thought for the Group



The book of Ruth is not just a romantic love story, but a powerful testimony of faith in action and God's providence.

When Ruth stepped out in faith to gather leftover grain in the fields, God's favor led her to Boaz's field - it "just so happened" by divine appointment. Ruth couldn't control the outcome, but she took the courageous first step of obedience. This teaches us that God's favor finds and follows those who aren't afraid to move and take action.

Boaz responded to Ruth with remarkable generosity, going far beyond the law's requirements by allowing her to glean from the entire harvest and providing for her needs. This shows that God's favor is often experienced through the generosity of others who embody His spirit.

Boaz's kindness points to the lavish grace of God, who showers us with undeserved and unmerited favor, just as he blessed unworthy Ruth. Like her, we are invited to come to Jesus' table of redemption, where dividing lines are erased and we find belonging in His kingdom.

We are encouraged to turn the page from past hurts and struggles into the new chapter God has prepared, one of hope and revival by His grace. It challenges us to step out like Ruth, give generously like Boaz, and remain grateful for the boundless favor God has for His people.



Next Steps



- Identify and take one step of faith and obedience this week, no matter how small.
- Go above and beyond in generosity - with your money, time or kindness.
- Start a "Providence Journal" to record moments you see God orchestrating circumstances.