

# REDEEMING GRACE

## SERMON DISCUSSION

### What If It Feels Like God Isn't Here?

#### Quotable Moments:

- When it looks like God is absent -- He's always actively involved.

**Scripture:** Ruth 1:1-2, 16-17, 20-21; Ruth 2:11-12;  
Matthew 2:2

#### Key Things You Heard:

- History is the story of God moving and proving His love for you.
- Be your own king -- and you'll end up with a king -- not of your liking.
- In the middle of this dark period in history, when everybody was doing what was right in their own eyes, God was not absent.
- When Mary had her child -- no one believed this was an ordinary birth.

**Pray:** Jesus, thank you for the story of redeeming grace. Thank you for including the story of Ruth in our Bible - to show a story of redemption, in the middle of preparing the lineage of Jesus. Thank you for the story of Jesus at Christmas. Thank you for redeeming my life and giving me a relationship with my Heavenly Father. Help me to follow you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

#### Moving Forward:

- Memorize Ruth 1:16.
- Re-watch and/or share the sermon with a friend. Go to [rivertown.cc](http://rivertown.cc) or the RCC App.

#### Questions for Group Discussion:

**First Minutes:** How far back have you traced your genealogy? Share something interesting about one of your ancestors.

- As a group, summarize the story of Naomi and Ruth. What is significant to you about Ruth's story? Which character do you identify with most?
- Read Ruth 2:11-12. What is significant in the blessing spoken to Ruth?
- How does the idea that God richly rewards faithful obedience feel to you?
- Read Matthew 2:2. What caused the wise men to believe Jesus was no ordinary baby? Why did they go on such a long journey and bring such extravagant gifts?
- What next step of obedience is God prompting you to take? Would you open up your life to His unconditional love, acceptance, and leadership?
- Spend prayer time expressing gratitude for God's redeeming grace in your life. Thank Him for the gift of salvation and for how He is redeeming your story.