

Redeemed





You are invited to attend The Clearing,
a contemplative worship experience
held the 2nd Saturday of every month at the

Vineyard Church of Augusta
3126 Parrish Rd., Augusta GA 30907

From 9-10 am

The next Clearing will be held on:

Saturday, November 13th

Please join us as we rest from the noise and busyness of life.
Prayer prompts and Scripture meditation exercises are offered
as an invitation to be still in God's presence.

Questions? Please contact:

Angela Otero

706.863.9766 or angela@vineyardaugusta.org



Looking for a place to call home?

Join us Sundays @ 10 AM
In person or online at Facebook Live
Vineyard Church of Augusta

Nursery through middle school ministry
at each celebration.

Small group opportunities
throughout the week.

For more information, please call 706.863.9766
or go online: www.vineyardaugusta.org

3126 Parrish Rd., Augusta, GA



*Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your strength.
Deuteronomy 6:5*

So often we hear this familiar verse as a command – something to be obeyed. But what if we heard it as an invitation? God, who loves you with all of his heart, soul and strength, is inviting you to love him back. That changes everything!

If your desire is to accept this divine invitation, then we must begin to prepare our hearts and souls and bodies for the task of loving well. For many, it is easier to think about strengthening our bodies than it is our souls. We are grateful for opportunities to build muscle and condition our cardiovascular systems. If we aren't careful, though, our souls are left behind.

This series of booklets has been designed as tool to care for your soul. Or better yet, as a tool that will allow *God* to care for your soul. When you are able, find a few moments in a quiet space to talk with and listen to God. We trust that God will be waiting to meet you there.

If you would like to talk with someone about your faith or would like someone to pray for you, you are invited to send an email to prayer@vineyardaugusta.org.

Redeemed

The story of Ruth and Boaz may be one of the most well-known love stories in history even though it starts with a tragedy; actually, a series of tragedies. Ruth's life is not living up to her expectations. She is a childless widow, living in a foreign land, dependent on the favor of strangers. Enter the Redeemer - the one who can rewrite the ending.

To redeem means to buy back, to free from distress or to make something worthwhile. Boaz enters the story and works to bring redemption to Ruth's suffering. Notice the care and protection he offers to Ruth. Hopefully, his character will remind you of God – protecting, providing, loving, and redeeming.

Do you have an ending that needs to be re-written or a story that needs to be redeemed? We pray that you will experience God's redeeming presence in a new way this month.

Ruth Chapter 1

¹In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. ²The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

³Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

⁸Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. ⁹May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband."

Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud ¹⁰and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people."

¹¹But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? ¹²Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— ¹³would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has turned against me!"

¹⁴ At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ “Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.”

¹⁶ But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

¹⁹ So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, “Can this be Naomi?”

²⁰ “Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.”

²² So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

Week One
Sunday, October 3rd – Saturday, October 9th

When you are able, find a quiet spot
and spend a few moments alone with God.

Quiet

Once you have found a comfortable place, spend a few moments in silence. Take a few deep breaths and feel your body begin to relax. When you feel your mind becoming quiet, offer a simple prayer to God, thanking him for his presence and inviting him to speak to you.

Read

Slowly read through Ruth chapter 1.

The complete text of this passage has been included on the preceding page.

Ponder

Sunday: What is God inviting you to rest from today? In what ways does rest sound inviting? What resistance, if any, do you have to resting? When was the last time you remember feeling completely rested? What was that experience like?

Monday: It's easy to think of Biblical characters as mythical. Choose to fill in the pieces of Ruth's story using your imagination. In what ways have Ruth and Naomi suffered? What are their lives like as widows? Why do Ruth and Orpah have no children? What can you assume about their state of mind?

Tuesday: What is your story of suffering? Which pieces of your story have you come to terms with and which pieces seem to defy meaning or purpose? What would it look like for God to redeem your story?

Wednesday: Why do you think Ruth was determined to go to Bethlehem with Naomi? What things did Ruth leave behind? What have you left behind in order to pursue a new chapter of your life? Is there anything you need to set aside but are unable or unwilling to? Talk to God about those things.

Thursday: Naomi believed that God caused her pain. What is your theology of suffering? How does it affect your relationship with God? What things are you tempted to blame on God?

Friday: The beginning of the barley harvest seems to be a symbol of hope in this chapter of the story. What signs of hope are you able to see in your story?

Saturday: Naomi and Ruth may have been tempted to think that their story was over – that nothing good could come from it. Of course, we know that their story is far from over. God is about to write a totally new, beautiful chapter. What would it be like to envision your story as “in progress”? How would that affect how you see your present circumstances?

Pray

Offer a prayer in words to God. Thank him for his presence. Express your desire to experience his presence in an even deeper way.

*Leave this quiet time trusting
that God is redeeming you.*

Ruth Chapter 2

¹ Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side, a man of standing from the clan of Elimelek, whose name was Boaz. ² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor."

Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter." ³ So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she was working in a field belonging to Boaz, who was from the clan of Elimelek.

⁴ Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and greeted the harvesters, "The LORD be with you!" "The LORD bless you!" they answered. ⁵ Boaz asked the overseer of his harvesters, "Who does that young woman belong to?" ⁶ The overseer replied, "She is the Moabite who came back from Moab with Naomi. ⁷ She said, 'Please let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the harvesters.' She came into the field and has remained here from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter."

⁸ So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. ⁹ Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the women. I have told the men not to lay a hand on you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled."

¹⁰ At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She asked him, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?"

¹¹ Boaz replied, “I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. ¹² May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.”

¹³ “May I continue to find favor in your eyes, my lord,” she said. “You have put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant—though I do not have the standing of one of your servants.”

¹⁴ At mealtime Boaz said to her, “Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar.” When she sat down with the harvesters, he offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over. ¹⁵ As she got up to glean, Boaz gave orders to his men, “Let her gather among the sheaves and don’t reprimand her. ¹⁶ Even pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up, and don’t rebuke her.”

¹⁷ So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah.^[a] ¹⁸ She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough.

¹⁹ Her mother-in-law asked her, “Where did you glean today? Where did you work? Blessed be the man who took notice of you!”

Then Ruth told her mother-in-law about the one at whose place she had been working. “The name of the man I worked with today is Boaz,” she said.

²⁰ “The LORD bless him!” Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. “He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.” She added, “That man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsman-redeemers.^[b]”

²¹ Then Ruth the Moabite said, “He even said to me, ‘Stay with my workers until they finish harvesting all my grain.’” ²² Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, “It will be good for you, my daughter, to go with the women who work for him, because in someone else’s field you might be harmed.”

²³ So Ruth stayed close to the women of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

Week Two
Sunday, October 10th – Saturday, October 16th

When you are able, find a quiet spot
and spend a few moments alone with God.

Quiet

Once you have found a comfortable place, spend a few moments in silence. Take a few deep breaths and feel your body begin to relax. When you feel your mind becoming quiet, offer a simple prayer to God, thanking him for his presence and inviting him to speak to you.

Read

Slowly read through Ruth chapter 2.

The complete text of this passage has been included on the preceding page.

Ponder

Sunday: Ruth provided for her and Naomi by gleaning in the fields – picking up stray pieces of grain left over after the harvesters had done their work. Ruth was acquainted with hard work. Think through the past week. What did you accomplish that was hard? What did it require of you? Ask God to replenish the resources you used last week while you rest today.

Monday: The first few verses of chapter 2 almost make it sound as if Ruth and Boaz’s meeting was a happy coincidence. What do you believe about that? Take a moment to look back on the “happy coincidences” of your life. What role might God have played in arranging them?

Tuesday: What impression do you have of Boaz based on these verses? He takes great care to notice Ruth and to care for her. In what ways do you sense God noticing you? How is he caring for you today?

Wednesday: “May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.” (2:12) Where do you find your refuge? Reflect on a time when you took refuge under God’s wings. How did you feel? What did you hear?

Thursday: Boaz seems to delight in providing for Ruth. Naomi says of Boaz, “...he has not stopped showing his kindness...” In what ways is God showing you kindness in this chapter of life? How would you like to bless or thank him today?

Friday: Boaz provided a safe space for Ruth to work in. In what ways are you providing safety for others? In what ways is God providing you with a safe space to live, grow and work in?

Saturday: By the end of this chapter, Ruth and Naomi have settled into a new-normal. It wasn’t everything they’d hoped for, but it was safe. They had food to eat and the comfort of each other. What would you like to express gratitude for today? Talk to God as honestly as you are able about your hopes for the future.

Quiet

Offer your ponderings to God and ask him to speak to you.

Pray

Offer a prayer in words to God. Thank him for his presence. Express your desire to experience his presence in an even deeper way.



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Ruth Chapter 3

¹One day Ruth's mother-in-law Naomi said to her, "My daughter, I must find a home for you, where you will be well provided for. ²Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. ³Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. ⁴When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do."

⁵"I will do whatever you say," Ruth answered. ⁶So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do.

⁷When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. ⁸In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet!

⁹"Who are you?" he asked. "I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer of our family."

¹⁰"The LORD bless you, my daughter," he replied. "This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. ¹¹And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character. ¹²Although it is true that I am a kinsman-redeemer of our family, there is another who is more closely related than I. ¹³Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to do his duty as your kinsman-redeemer, good; let him redeem you. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning."

¹⁴ So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, “No one must know that a woman came to the threshing floor.”

¹⁵ He also said, “Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out.” When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and placed the bundle on her. Then he went back to town.

¹⁶ When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, “How did it go, my daughter?” Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her ¹⁷ and added, “He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, ‘Don’t go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.’” ¹⁸ Then Naomi said, “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.”

Week Three
Sunday, October 17th – Saturday, October 23rd

When you are able, find a quiet spot
and spend a few moments alone with God.

Quiet

Once you have found a comfortable place, spend a few moments in silence. Take a few deep breaths and feel your body begin to relax. When you feel your mind becoming quiet, offer a simple prayer to God, thanking him for his presence and inviting him to speak to you.

Read

Slowly read through Ruth chapter 3.

The complete text of this passage has been included on the preceding page.

Ponder

Sunday: Replay your week as if it is a movie in your mind. What was the best part? Thank God for this moment and celebrate it in his presence. What was the most difficult part? Offer this moment to God and ask him to help you process it with you.

Monday: A kinsman-redeemer is a close, male relative who had the privilege or responsibility to act for a relative who was in trouble, danger or in need of vindication. As Ruth's kinsman-redeemer, Boaz was able to rescue her from a life of widowhood, childlessness and poverty. What would you like to be rescued from? (Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology)

Tuesday: In what ways has Boaz acted honorably throughout this story? In what ways could Boaz have taken advantage of Ruth and her situation? In what ways has God been gentle, kind and honoring to you throughout your story?

Wednesday: Naomi is a loving mother-in-law to Ruth. She desires what is best for her without thought of how it will affect her. She offers her wise guidance and loving concern. Who has been a “Naomi” for you? What is it like to be cared for in that way? Who are you in a position to love in those ways?

Thursday: Once again, Ruth shows great courage in following her mother-in-law’s instructions. What do you think Ruth may have been feeling or anticipating as she made her way to Boaz’s threshing floor? Ruth is participating in her own redemption. In what ways is God inviting you to cooperate with his redeeming work in your story?

Friday: Boaz is eager to redeem Ruth from her suffering but there is a detail to be worked out and she must wait. What details are you waiting to have worked out in your life? What has the waiting been like? What would you like to say to God about the wait?

Saturday: “Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today.” (3:18) While Ruth waits, things are happening behind the scenes. Whether you can perceive it or not, God is working behind the scenes in your life too. Use your response to that statement to begin a conversation with God.

Quiet

Offer your ponderings to God and ask him to speak to you.

Pray

Offer a prayer in words to God. Thank him for his presence. Express your desire to experience his presence in an even deeper way.

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Ruth Chapter 4

¹ Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the kinsman-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, "Come over here, my friend, and sit down." So he went over and sat down.

² Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, "Sit here," and they did so. ³ Then he said to the kinsman-redeemer, "Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. ⁴ I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you ^[b] will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line." "I will redeem it," he said.

⁵ Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property." ⁶ At this, the kinsman-redeemer said, "Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it."

⁷ (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.)

⁸ So the kinsman-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And he removed his sandal. ⁹ Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. ¹⁰ I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!"

¹¹ Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.

¹²Through the offspring the LORD gives you by this young woman, may your family be like that of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah.”

¹³So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When he made love to her, the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

¹⁴The women said to Naomi: “Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! ¹⁵He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth.”

¹⁶Then Naomi took the child in her arms and cared for him. ¹⁷The women living there said, “Naomi has a son!” And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

¹⁸This, then, is the family line of Perez:

Perez was the father of Hezron,

¹⁹Hezron the father of Ram,

Ram the father of Amminadab,

²⁰Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

²¹Salmon the father of Boaz,

Boaz the father of Obed,

²²Obed the father of Jesse,

and Jesse the father of David.

Week Four
Sunday, October 24th – Saturday, October 30th

When you are able, find a quiet spot
and spend a few moments alone with God.

Quiet

Once you have found a comfortable place, spend a few moments in silence. Take a few deep breaths and feel your body begin to relax. When you feel your mind becoming quiet, offer a simple prayer to God, thanking him for his presence and inviting him to speak to you.

Read

Slowly read through Ruth chapter 4.

The complete text of this passage has been included on the preceding page.

Ponder

Sunday: Boaz working out the legal details for his marriage to Ruth, provides a beautiful picture of God working to redeem you. While you rest today, what would you like for God to accomplish?

Monday: Boaz is an excellent businessman. He gathers the facts, puts together a group of witnesses, and lays out the terms of the agreement. He is thorough and strategic. Reflecting on your story, where do you see God's thoroughness and strategic mind at work? What motivates Boaz's efforts? What motivates God's efforts in your life?

Tuesday: The witnesses Boaz gathered bless him and Ruth and their future offspring with prayers and prophetic words. Who offers blessing in your life? What does it feel like to receive the blessing of others? Who do you offer blessing to? What is it like to bless others? Who taught you how to give a blessing?

Wednesday: A redeemer has arrived on the scene and changed everything about Ruth and Naomi's life. What do you imagine their lives were like after the wedding? What in your life would you like to see redeemed? Ask the Spirit to give you a vision of what that would look like.

Thursday: Ruth and Boaz have a son who becomes King David's grandfather. Ruth has gone from an immigrant to the great grandmother of a King of Israel. In what ways does Ruth's story of redemption bring you hope? What are the pieces of your story that you feel are the least likely to be redeemed? Offer those things to God and invite him to begin the work.

Friday: Not only does Ruth's lineage lead to a king but also to The King – Jesus, the Messiah. Ruth's life is a chapter in The Story of redemption. What future effects could your story have? How far down the river can you imagine the ripples of your redemption flowing?

Saturday: What is your favorite part of Ruth's story? How do you see her story mirroring your own? In what ways is Jesus your kinsman-redeemer? Which stage of your story are you in – suffering, refuge, restoration, redemption? What will you need from God to continue until his work in you is complete?

Quiet

Offer your ponderings to God and ask him to speak to you.

Pray

Offer a prayer in words to God. Thank him for his presence. Express your desire to experience his presence in an even deeper way.



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God Loves You

It's simple but true. You are loved by God – no matter who you are, what you've done, who you've disappointed, or what you have suffered.

Unlike others who may say they love you and fail to show it, God demonstrated his love for you by sending his son, Jesus, to earth to give his life as a ransom for yours.

Jesus died and was raised to life by his loving Father not as a one-time, show-off move but as an example of what God wants to do in *your* life. He wants to give you a new life.

The invitation has been offered. How will you respond?

Maybe you are ready to tell Jesus that you want him to be your Savior and Lord? Maybe you want to begin a conversation with God?

Whatever your next step is, you will find God ready and waiting to listen and respond to you.

If you have questions or would like to talk about your next step with someone, please email us at prayer@vineyardaugusta.org.

Special thanks to Pastor Michelle Bauer, who wrote this beautiful soul care resource, began Vineyard Augusta's spiritual formation ministry, and established the spiritual direction program at Vineyard Augusta.