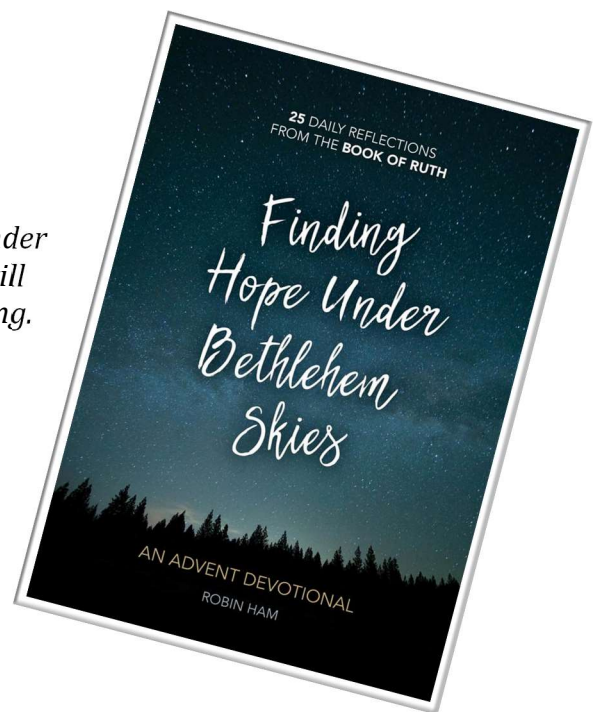


## Small Group Notes - Ruth 2

*This week we continue our series for Advent: 'Finding Hope Under Bethlehem Skies'. If you haven't had a chance to yet then it's still not too late to download the e-book devotional and follow along.*  
<https://www.10ofthose.com/uk/products/28441/finding-hopeunder-bethlehem-skies>

*Each day also has a Christmas song chosen to accompany the theme of the day. They can be found here:*  
<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7LWSR2h2macrgtTUarllfg>



### Introduction

It might be worth doing some recap as a group: in this second study we re-join the narrative just after Naomi's declaration of hopelessness in ch1 v 20-21: "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. 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."

Our study today follows the events of a single day, and a remarkable transformation that takes place in Naomi's outlook by the end of that day.

Suggested opening question –

'How much might it take for your hope in God to be strengthened, for your view of God to be transformed?'

### Read Ruth 2 together

#### *God's word*

Amidst the remarkable 'Godincidences' in this chapter is the very everyday faithfulness of God through the provision of His word (in this case particularly His law). Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy are each in the background of the narrative guiding the welfare provision that we see for foreigners, the poor and widows.

- What does this provision for foreigners, the poor and widows reveal about God's character?
- How easy do we find it to see God's word as a kind provision in our lives? Why? Why not? What might help?

#### *God's people*

As we noticed on Sunday, it is the appearance of Boaz that transforms both the mood of the narrative and the outlook of Naomi.

- What do we notice about Boaz in this chapter?

The pastor John Piper writes – *‘Evidently Boaz was such a God-saturated man that his farming business and his relationships to his employees was shot through with God. He greeted them with God. And we will see that these were more than pious platitudes.’*

- How easy do we find it to see God’s people as a kind provision in our lives? Why? Why not?
- The second half of verse 20 reveals that Naomi knew all along about Boaz but had still lost hope. Looking back in our own lives can we think of times when we had lost sight of God’s provision for us?

### *God’s redeemer*

Naomi knows Boaz to be a ‘guardian-redeemer’ for her and Ruth. Boaz, as the one who shows kindness to these women and has begun to rescue them from a hopeless situation, points us forward to the Lord Jesus, the ultimate guardian-redeemer who shows us kindness and rescue.

- How does looking to Jesus give us hope?
- Naomi is energised and transformed by what has happened. From this point on, she perseveres. In what ways does knowing the Lord Jesus’ kindness and rescue energise and transform us?

In the book of Ruth we see grace for past mistakes, a welcome for the outsider, and radical generosity. Where does this challenge us today?

### **Turn to Prayer**

Share how you need to pray in response (try to be as specific as possible given everything you have discussed so far) and then turn to pray.