

# Welcome to Family Day

## God's Work in the Ordinary



# Re-Thinking Ordinary



➤ We don't always like  
the idea of "ordinary."

# Re-Thinking Ordinary



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- But the “ordinary” things are a big part of our families, and our lives.



# ➤ A book in the Bible that seems very "ordinary:" Ruth

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## RUTH

### Naomi Widowed

**1** In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. <sup>2</sup>The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. <sup>3</sup>But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

### Ruth's Loyalty to Naomi

<sup>5</sup>Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the Lord had visited his people and given them food. <sup>6</sup>So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. <sup>7</sup>But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go, return each of you to her mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>8</sup>The Lord grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!" Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. <sup>9</sup>And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." <sup>10</sup>But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? <sup>11</sup>Turn back, my daughters; go your way for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, <sup>12</sup>would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the Lord has gone out against me." <sup>13</sup>Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>1</sup> Naomi means pleasant. <sup>2</sup> Moab means bitter.

<sup>14</sup>And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." <sup>15</sup>But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. <sup>16</sup>Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you." <sup>17</sup>And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

### Naomi and Ruth Return

<sup>18</sup>So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?" <sup>19</sup>She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara; for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. <sup>20</sup>I went away full, and the Lord has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the Lord has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?" <sup>21</sup>So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabite her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

### Ruth Meets Boaz

**2** Now Naomi had a relative of her husband's, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. <sup>3</sup>And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." <sup>4</sup>So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. <sup>5</sup>And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered, "The Lord bless you." <sup>6</sup>Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" <sup>7</sup>And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite

# Ruth 1:3-5

<sup>3</sup> Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left with her two sons.

<sup>4</sup> They took for themselves Moabite women *as* wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. And they lived there about ten years.

*\*All verses from 1995 New American Standard Version*

# Ruth 1:3-5

<sup>5</sup> Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and the woman was bereft of her two children and her husband.

# Ruth 1:16

<sup>16</sup> But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you *or* turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people *shall be* my people, and your God, my God.

<sup>17</sup> Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the LORD do to me, and worse, if *anything but* death parts you and me.”

# Ruth 2:20

<sup>20</sup> Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “May he be blessed of the LORD who has not withdrawn his kindness to the living and to the dead.” Again Naomi said to her, “The man is our relative, he is one of our closest relatives.”



# Ruth 4:13-17

<sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife, and he went in to her. And the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

<sup>14</sup> Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed is the LORD who has not left you without a redeemer today, and may his name become famous in Israel.

# Ruth 4:13-17

<sup>15</sup> May he also be to you a restorer of life and a sustainer of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.”

# Ruth 4:13-17

<sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her lap, and became his nurse.

<sup>17</sup> The neighbor women gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi!” So they named him Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

# God's Ordinary, Great Things

1) See God's  
work in the  
ordinary.



# 1 Kings 19:9-13

<sup>9</sup> Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, and He said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”



# 1 Kings 19:9-13

<sup>10</sup> He said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.”

# 1 Kings 19:9-13

<sup>11</sup> So He said, “Go forth and stand on the mountain before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great and strong wind was rending the mountains and breaking in pieces the rocks before the LORD; *but* the LORD *was* not in the wind.

# 1 Kings 19:9-13

And after the wind an earthquake, *but* the LORD *was* not in the earthquake.

# 1 Kings 19:9-13

<sup>12</sup> After the earthquake a fire, *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.

# 1 Kings 19:9-13

<sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard *it*, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice *came* to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”



# Matthew 28:20

<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

# God's Ordinary, Great Things

- If we only look for the big things, we will miss so much of what God is doing!



# God's Ordinary, Great Things

2) Be God's  
work in the  
ordinary.



# 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

# 1 Corinthians 12:30-31

<sup>30</sup> All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?

<sup>31</sup> But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.



# 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

<sup>1</sup> If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

# 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

<sup>2</sup> If I have *the gift of* prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

# 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

<sup>3</sup> And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

# 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant,

<sup>5</sup> does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*,

# 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

<sup>6</sup> does not rejoice in unrighteousness,  
but rejoices with the truth;

<sup>7</sup> bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things, endures all things.

# 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

<sup>8</sup> Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of* prophecy, they will be done away; if *there are* tongues, they will cease; if *there is* knowledge, it will be done away.

# God's Ordinary, Great Things

- When we simply live out our faith, God uses it to make a difference!



# Matthew 10:42

<sup>42</sup> And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”



# Philippians 1:19

...Yes, and I will rejoice,  
<sup>19</sup> for I know that this will turn out for  
my deliverance through your prayers  
and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus  
Christ,

# Colossians 4:6

<sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

This week God will be  
working again...  
let's keep our eyes open,  
and let's be part of it!

