



## Sermon Discussion Guide

God's Hesed Kindness Expressed in an Israelite Man - Christian Lindbeck  
December 5, 2021

### Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key ideas/questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!



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### Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.*
- Share about a time in your life when you needed and someone extended what felt like God's *hesed* loving kindness to you.
- Ruth 2, the text for today, starts when Ruth "just so happens" to be gleaning in the field of a close relative. When was the last time something worked out for you that felt like more than just good luck?

### Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.*
- **Read Ruth 2 out loud together as a group.**
- Review: what are all the things you know as a group about the setting and context for the meeting of Ruth and Boaz? (see Ruth 1 for hints)
- What do you find interesting, confusing, surprising, or significant in this part of Ruth and Naomi's story?
- What are some examples of God's *hesed*, His steadfast loving kindness, in the text?
- We see God mentioned in some of the dialogue of this story. Where do you see God on the move and at work in this text?

### Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
- Where do you see the need for God's *hesed*, His steadfast loving kindness, around you in our world today?



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- How have you been connecting the story of Ruth to any thoughts or reflections you are having about Advent and Christmas?
- How do we see God involved in the day to day joys and hardships of this story and our lives?
- What is the Good News of Ruth 2? Where do you see glimpses of God's Big Story in these initial encounters between Ruth and Boaz?

### Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
- Who in your life do you feel God calling you to be a "Boaz" to? Where can you extend God's *hesed* kindness and mercy right now?
- What does this story lead you to pray for?

Time of Prayer