



Sermon Discussion Guide

Spread the Wing of Your Garment - Tim Knipp
December 12, 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.*
- When was a season of life where you have been empty: physically, mentally, spiritually? If you feel comfortable, share what that felt like and when, if yet, you have been brought “home” (to a rest).
- Watch the attached video about ancient threshing methods to gain some context for the work Boaz might have been doing.
<https://youtu.be/s6CxzZvkUtA>

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.*
- **Read Ruth 3 out loud together as a group.**
- Review: Once you’ve read this chapter, retell it with just the high points. Note the escalation of the story in a new way.
- Share some other examples besides Ruth from the Bible, of both kindness and/or boldness in followers of God.
- The Bible is full of wordplay and Ruth is another master example. The word *kanaf* meaning “wings” and *hesed* meaning “steadfast, loyal kindness.” Though we are not Hebrew experts, identify statements or actions taken within the book of Ruth that embody these two key words.

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.*
- The immediate need for rest and safety is all around us since the heavy rains and flooding in our community. Think locally, what are some ways we can



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embody the words *kanaf* and *hesed*? What are some ways that the church HAS embodied these concepts of rest and steadfast, loyal kindness?

- It's easy to separate the context of any story from God's hand at work in it. It is for me! I hear the background of Judges, the deep sorrow and hardship of chapter 1 of Ruth, and then let it sit there while I rejoice quite separately in the kindness of God in Ruth 3 and 4. Within Ruth 3, find moments of God's *hesed* and connect them to concerns, worries, anxieties from Ruth 1. See God's character.

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.*
- Have you ever felt God's loving kindness (*hesed*) under someone else's wings (*kanaf*)? Who was that to you?
- We cannot do justice and kindness on our own, but the God of *hesed* allows us to minister by his power. How can we be *hesed and kanaf* to those around us? Not in theory, but in reality. Can we be a part of God's mission to bring kindness and rest to our families, neighbors, or community?
- Is there a person or persons who comes to mind that you are being called to minister to and bring God's kindness and rest? Who are they (privately) and how will you step into God's mission in the world?

Time of Prayer