

DIGDEEPER

August 21, 2016

Shapshots of Love: Ruth by Dr. Richard Rogers

Ruth 1:1-18 ([Listen Online](#))

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus gave us the instruction that we are to love God and love others. It's this virtue that marks the life of a believer. But what does it mean to love? As Scripture describes it, love is an action anchored in faith and hope. If we want to love well, we must trust the right things and expect the right things. This week, we take a look at love properly anchored in the story of Ruth and Naomi.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

- What does it mean to love someone?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- In what way(s) does our culture's incorrect idea of love do damage to people?
- Who has best displayed to you what it means to love? What did that love look like, and how can you learn from their example?
- The story of Ruth opens with tragedy. What has tragedy taught you about love? Where in your own life is there sorrow or sadness that needs a bit of loving-kindness right now?
- Think of one other story in the Bible where someone acts in a loving way. How is their love anchored by what they trust and expect? Is it similar to what Ruth trusts and expects?
- How are Christians, with their hope and faith in God, freed up to love differently than those who don't know Jesus?

GO DEEPER

- The story of Ruth illustrates for us what true love looks like in action. This [loyal \(hesed\) love](#) (explained more fully [here](#)) is what we receive from Jesus and are set free to give to others.
- Even as we zoom into the picture of love between Ruth and Naomi, it's helpful to remind ourselves of [where this one story fits in God's story](#) and what it has to tell us about him.
- Ruth took great risks for the kingdom of God, and her faith stands as an example for us. Most importantly, however, we can have great comfort in the knowledge that [she was a sinner just like us](#) who simply placed her trust in a great God.

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

What relationship in your life is calling for you to be loving this week? When you think of that person, what are you believing to be true about them and what are you hoping for their future? Ask God to show you how a trust in what he has said and an expectation for what he has promised might make you more loving. Then, find a way to act on your faith and hope in a practical and loving way.