

# The Facilitator

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Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

6/4/17

**Text: Ruth 4:1-17**

**Title: The Ultimate Reversal**

**Teacher: Tim Rice**

## **Surrender through Prayer:**

*Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.*

## **Engage with the Sermon**

*Read the passage together*

*Tim continued our series in the book of Ruth as we looked at the great reversals of Naomi and Ruth. Naomi, who had lost everything was loved by Ruth, and ultimately saved through her actions. Likewise Ruth, who had attached herself to the bitter reality of Naomi's life, is shown a deep love in Boaz who redeems her at great cost to himself. In the same way as we find ourselves victims of hardship and pain, we are in need of a greater hope and a greater savior in our darkest times. Because Jesus gives us a hope for now, for our future, and for our eternity, rather than being victims of our circumstances, we can hold on to a Greater Hope found in Jesus, and then, we can love others in their darkest times too.*

## **Reflection Questions:**

1. *As we saw, Ruth and Naomi both experienced a great reversal, as they were brought "from death to life" because of the love they experienced from someone else.*
  - **What is the greatest reversal you've personally witnessed? (from "death" to "life" or "life" to "death")**
2. *Tim talked about how our circumstances can have great affect on our state of mind, often influencing how we think about God. Naomi said, "call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty."*
  - **Have you ever felt like God is against you, or has it in for you?**
  - **What circumstances led you to believe that?**
  - **What still keeps you from having a greater hope in the LORD that overcomes your circumstances?**
3. *As Tim said, Jesus offers a Greater Hope that loves us, even at our worst. Even when we're dead and turned to stone from the impact of our circumstances, Jesus can bring death to life.*
  - **Who do you know that is in deep hardship and is losing their hope? (Maybe it's you)**
  - **Who needs you to enter into their story and love them, even at their worst?**
  - **What does it look like for you to love sacrificially (at home, work, school, Community Group, Trinity, with Friends...etc)?**

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## **A.C.T.S.**

*(Spend time in prayer and worship as a group as you consider Adoring God, Confessing your sin and limitations, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart during your sermon discussion. Use the Worship Folder prayer items as needed.)*

### **1. ADORATION**

***What draws you to Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions?***

### **2. CONFESSION**

***How has this sermon brought to mind sin that you need to Confess and Repent of or ways in which you are finite and limited?***

### **3. THANKSGIVING**

***What has drawn you to thank Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)?***

### **4. SUPPLICATION**

***In what particular ways do you need Holy Spirit to transform you?***

## **Prepare for Gospel Community:**

***How has God impacted you the most through this sermon?***

## **YOU CAN PRAY WITH US...**

- 1. Worship the LORD, God Almighty, for whom nothing is too difficult. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His omnipotence and His goodness to powerfully work all things together for our good.*
- 2. How have you lived as if hardships are permanent? Or how have you avoided others in hardship because of how costly they are? Confess your unbelief and loveless heart to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and change you.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for His great work to bear your hardships and commit to you in the midst of just how costly you are! Thank Him for owning you and for being willing to do what no one else would do to save you.*
- 4. Who do you know that is willing to own you even when you fail? Thank the Lord for them, and pray for them, asking the Lord to sustain them and to help you learn from them about true love.*
- 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the hope of Jesus in His redeeming power because of His steadfast character and the power of His resurrection victory. Read Isaiah 61:1-3 and pray for that hope.*
- 6. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow in you a heart of compassion for the weak and vulnerable. Pray for insight into how Jesus, as your Redeemer, has covered you in order to fuel you to joyfully seek to cover others.*