Fellowship Group Questions for *The Power of Redeeming Love* Sermon #4 – *Getting Grace*

Review where we have come in the story of Ruth up to this point.

What are some words that bring you pleasant thoughts/feelings to you when you hear them?

Read Ruth 2:4, 8, 11-12. How would you describe Boaz?

Read Ruth 2:3. How does the verse describe Ruth's ending up at Boaz's field?

Out of all the fields Ruth could have gleaned at how did you think she ended up at Boaz's field?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:18; 2 Peter 1:2. What was it that Paul and Peter were desiring or praying for the people they were writing to?

If Paul and Peter desired/prayed that these followers of Jesus get more of God's grace what should that motivate us to pursue?

Read Ruth 2:10. How does Ruth describe Boaz's action toward her?

In his prayer asking God to bless Ruth for her kindness to Naomi Boaz stated that Ruth had sought refuge under God's wings (2:12). Is God a like the birds or angels that have wings?

Choosing to put herself under God's "wings" put Ruth in a position to receive grace. How can you put yourself in a position to get grace?

How can we perpetuate (spread) grace?

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Review where we have come in the story of Ruth up to this point.

What are some words that bring you pleasant thoughts/feelings to you when you hear them? Pastor Randy talked about the word "love" and "hug" that for many immediately

Read Ruth 2:4, 8, 11-12. How would you describe Boaz? He seems to be a man who reverenced God, treated his workers with respect, showed kindness and understood the importance of being under God's care.

Read Ruth 2:3. How does the verse describe Ruth's ending up at Boaz's field?

Out of all the fields Ruth could have gleaned at how did you think she ended up at Boaz's field?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:18; 2 Peter 1:2. What was it that Paul and Peter were desiring or praying for the people they were writing to? They prayed that they would have grace. It's important to note that both Paul and Peter were addressing Christians, people who had already accepted saving grace. The grace that they were praying these folks would have was grace beyond saving grace. The grace they desired for them was sustaining grace.

If Paul and Peter desired/prayed that these followers of Jesus get more of God's grace what should that motivate us to pursue? Grace. Ruth wasn't specifically pursuing God's grace but she was seeking someone who would be gracious to her and allow her to glean from their field.

Read Ruth 2:10. How does Ruth describe Boaz's action toward her? Depending on the translation it either says "what have I done to deserve such *favor*?" or "what have I done to deserve such *kindness*?" The word translated "kindness" or "favor" is the same word used in verse 2 when Ruth asks Naomi to let her go look for anyone who would be "kind" enough to let her glean from their field. It is the Hebrew word for "grace." So, Ruth pursued grace and when it was extended to her she recognized it and acknowledge it.

In his prayer asking God to bless Ruth for her kindness to Naomi Boaz stated that Ruth had sought refuge under God's wings (2:12). Is God a like the birds or angels that have wings? Referring to God as having wings is a figure of speech used in a number of places in the O.T. (cf. Ps. 17:8; 36:7; 57:1; 61:4; 63:7; 91:4) It was used to create an image of God's protection and care. Take a look at how Jesus used it in Matthew 23:37.

Choosing to put herself under God's "wings" put Ruth in a position to receive grace. How can you put yourself in a position to get grace? God's regular channels of grace are 1) His word, 2) His ear, 3) His people. Regularly being in His word, talking to and listening for His voice and being in regular fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ puts us in positions to receive God's sustaining grace.

How can we perpetuate (spread) grace? If we use Ruth's example we can see that she perpetuated grace by extending it toward Naomi by giving to her some of what she had been blessed with. She also perpetuated it by living in the grace that had been extended to her.