

# SCRIPTURE COMPANIONS:

# MARRIED COUPLES IN THE BIBLE

**Week Four: August 21-31, 2022**

**Theme: Second Chances**

**Boaz and Ruth, Christ and the Church**

## **Opening Prayer:**

*Ephesians 3:17-19*

"And that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

## **Person 1:**

Lord and Father, Thank You that you promise us that where two or three are gathered you are in the midst. Lord, we welcome You amongst us today and celebrate the gift of life that you have lavished upon each of us. We ask that You would open our ears so that we may hear your voice.

## **Person 2:**

Open our minds so that we may receive your eternal wisdom. Open our spirits so that we may know Your leading and guidance. And open our hearts so that we may receive Your wonderful love. We ask this in the glorious name of Jesus. Amen.

## **Gospel:**

*John 3:16-17*

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

## Discussion Questions:

Ruth was a young woman when she became a widow. Na'omi, Ruth's Jewish mother-in-law, instructed her and Oprah, Na'omi's other daughter-in-law and also a widow, to go back to their people in the land of Moab. Oprah obeyed and returned to her mother's house. Ruth declined the offer and pledges a beautiful allegiance to Na'omi (Ruth 1:16-18). She remains in Na'omi's home and meets kinsman, Boaz. Boaz protects her and seeks the proper channels to make her his wife. Ruth is rewarded for her dedication to God and service to her mother-in-law with a second chance at happiness.

Christ and the Church might not be a typical couple. Though, it's important to recognize Christ and the Church are the very reason that marriage was lifted to the level of a sacrament. Marriage is a sign of what we are all promised, the goal toward which we all strive: Union with God. Marriage points to what our souls must desire, to spend eternity with the Lord of our hearts. Christ died for His Bride, the Church. He gave his life for her, and now we, as His Bride, are invited to live our lives for Him until it comes time for us to join our heavenly Bridegroom at the Marriage Banquet for eternity...Our second chance.

1. What spiritual preparation did you bring to your marriage? What can you do now to strengthen that area of your life?
2. How can God's love help you solve the problems in your life? In what way can that love help you meet life's demands with a gracious spirit?
3. Are you making your home a training ground for lessons in love? What can you do to train your children to live lovingly with others?
4. Can you recall a time when through God's grace you were given a second chance? How did you respond? Are you quick or slow when it comes to offering second chances to others? What would help you give more freely?
5. Through His blood and with His life, Jesus purchased our redemption and the promise of life over death. Do you feel worthy of this second chance? If not, how can you reconcile yourself to Him? In what ways can you give thanks to God for this big get? How grateful are you for God's endless love and mercy? Will you share it?

## For this Week:

The Book of Ruth is a beautiful (and short!) reading in the Old Testament. I encourage you to take the 15 minutes and read it. Ruth's devotion to her new family, God and her community is a story of love, patience, perseverance, and trust in the Lord. Attributes we should all strive to master.

## Closing Prayer:

*Romans 8:38-39*

*"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*