

RUTH CHAPTER 4



The Courtroom: The Law of God in a Joy Story (vv. 1-12)

The Family Room: The Love of God in a Joy Story (vv.13-16)

“I think of joy as an embodied awareness of holy presence and extravagant love, an awareness that dawns upon us like grace. It carries a sense of the unexpected, of surprise.”

~ Mary Clark Moschella

The Throne Room: The Hand of God in a Joy Story (vv.17-22)

Practical Instruction for Happier Living

Profound Knowing for Joyful Living

“Joy is the effusive expression of gratitude and praise that flows from a resolute, trusting heart, that is suffused by hope in God.”
~ Marianne Meye Thompson

Going Deeper

(For individual or small groups to go deeper with the passage)

- Read the book of Ruth. Pay close attention to the blessings and prayers of the characters. Re-read chapter 4. What are the two major scenes in chapter 4?
- How has God brought about restoration to Naomi and Ruth? Think specifically—what was lost, prayed for, and brought to them by God?
- Who can you relate to in this chapter? How come?
- What seems to be the central focus of the author? Is it Ruth’s love story? Naomi’s happiness? Or something else?
- What do you learn in this chapter about how to reflect God’s character in the world?
- Where do you see joy emerging in the story? How is joy responsive?
- Spiritual Exercise: Both Boaz and Ruth display gratuitous *hessed* (loving loyalty) even though it would have been reasonable to act differently. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you a specific opportunity in which you can choose to act with gratuitous *hessed*. Trust the Lord. Act in faith.