

FEBRUARY 2014

BY FAITH, RUTH FOUND HER LEGACY

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Program Outline

- Call to Worship—Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16
- Song #50, “How Much More”*
- Heritage Page
- Song #52, “The Wonders of His Grace”*
- Devotional—A Legacy of Love
- Benediction

**The Salvation Army Song Book*

Discussion

1. Have each woman tell about the photograph they brought as a contribution to the centerpiece.
2. Can you identify the legacy left for your family by your forefathers?
3. Discuss the legacy Ruth left for her family for generations to come.
4. What is the legacy you would desire to leave behind for future generations of your family?

Introduction

While at a family reunion, have you listened to the stories about family members no longer alive? You may hear of how great-grandpa Smith use to plow the fields using a horse and a hand plow; or maybe a great story about great-granny Mason, who traveled as a teenager from Ireland with her family to begin a new life in America, the land of promise. These are not just stories. If you will listen closely, you can hear the measure of love that was a part of each decision. Today may we reflect upon what is our past, acknowledge what is our present, and celebrate what our future can be because of the legacy of love that has been provided for us.

Decoration

Prior to the program invite the women to bring in a photograph of a great-grand parent or other “great” relatives. Make photocopies of these pictures and crop them to fit the frames. Use three different sized frames (8 x 10, 5 x 7, 3 x 5) for each table. These will be used as a part of the discussion time.

Refreshments

Ask for volunteers who would be willing to prepare a family recipe to share for refreshments. Or to reflect the Scripture focus serve hummus, multi-grain flat bread, assorted crackers, olive oil, fresh herbs and olives.

HERITAGE PAGE

The following supplies will be needed for each woman:

- 1 – 12 x 12 piece of scrapbook paper
- 1 – 12 x 2.5 piece of coordinating scrapbook paper (solid works best)
- 1 – 12 x 2 piece of white scrapbook paper with the words “Legacy of Love” printed in black ink
- Brown scrapbook ink
- Assorted embellishments: buttons, flowers, stickers and ribbon

Directions

1. Using the brown scrapbook ink, lightly ink the edges of all three pieces of paper. This will help create an antique look for your heritage page.
2. Glue the 12 x 2 inch piece of paper printed with “Legacy of Love” in the center on the 12 x 2.5 inch piece of paper.
3. Glue the 12 x 2.5 inch of paper to the top of the 12 x 12 inch piece of paper being sure to leave a .5 inch top margin.
4. Embellishments the heritage page to make it more personal.
5. Add personal photographs.



A Legacy of Love

Ask four different women to each read aloud one chapter of the book of Ruth as part of the devotional time.

The Old Testament book of Ruth traces certain events in the life of a Hebrew family. We can learn a great deal from the journey that was for Naomi, Ruth and Boaz one that would change not only their lives, but ours as well. In looking at the book of Ruth we can see how God demonstrates His divine providence for His people.

First reflect upon what is the past. Naomi and her husband, Elimelech, along with their two sons, were from Bethlehem, Judah, but were living in Moab. When Naomi's husband died, she was left with two sons and their wives. After some time, the sons also died leaving Naomi with her Moabite daughter-in-laws, Orpah and Ruth. Both women were good and

kind to Naomi and desired to remain with their mother-in-law, but Naomi urged them to return to the homes of their families. Orpah bid Naomi farewell, but Ruth proclaimed she would remain at Naomi's side. Ruth said, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God" (Ruth 1:16).

Second acknowledge what is the present. In acknowledging the present situation for Naomi and Ruth we have to understand that Naomi was going to return to a land that she knew and understood, Judah, but not Ruth. The women find themselves facing many obstacles. They have no home to call their own, no food and essentially no voice within the community. It is important to note what they did have. Naomi had a relative by the name of Boaz who was a landowner with fields ready for harvest.

In this day, it was customary for the men to cut the fields while the servant girls came behind to bind the sheaves of grain. Only after the servant girls had moved through the field could others come in and glean what may have been missed. Boaz allowed Ruth to glean in his fields in an effort to provide for her and Naomi.

Third celebrate what can be the future. What could have looked like a very bleak future for Ruth and Naomi was certainly turning around. Not only did Boaz agree to allow Ruth to continue gleaning in his fields, he made arrangements that grain should be left behind for her to gather, which ensured her the provisions she and Naomi needed.

Ruth's future changed when she followed the instructions given to her by Naomi. She was to go to Boaz as he slept on the threshing room floor and lie at his feet with the request that he cover her with the corner of his garment. If Boaz covered her, this would signify that he was willing to watch over her and become her protector. In becoming her protector that day, he was acting as her kinsman-redeemer. He was redeeming her from the life she lived to one that would be better. For Ruth that new life entailed becoming the wife of Boaz, giving birth to a son named Obed. In the very last verse in the book of Ruth we find these words, "Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David" (Ruth 4:22).

And as commentator Paul Harvey used to say, "and now for the rest of the story." In the legacy of love that is the story of Ruth we understand the rest of the story to be that it is from the lineage of David that Jesus was born. Ruth is part of the lineage that brought to us our kinsman-redeemer, Jesus Christ.

