



LIFEGROUPS

Sermon title: The Three Wise
Women Who Saved Christmas

Scripture: Ruth 1-4

Date: Dec. 5 & 6, 2015

—[LET'S TALK]—

- What are some Christmas traditions that you look forward to?

—[LET'S WARM UP]—

- What does Christmas have to do with the troubles we and our world face?
- How do you typically react when you face challenges outside of your control?
- Where does the world look for hope and salvation during times of distress?
- Why do we seek explanations or someone to blame when bad things happen?

—[LET'S DIG | CHOOSE 1]—

- Read Ruth 1:8-22, 4:13-15 and talk about trusting the Lord.
 - a. Why, in the face of being single forever, would Ruth go with Naomi?
 - b. How did Naomi interpret the death of her husband and sons?
 - c. Judging by Ruth's actions, how might have she interpreted the situation?
 - d. What happened in the end and what does it mean for Naomi?
- Read Ruth 2:8-20, 4:2-10 and talk about showing '*hesed*' (faithful/enduring love) to others.
 - a. How did Ruth show '*hesed*' to Naomi?
 - b. How did Boaz show '*hesed*' to Ruth?
 - c. What is the significance of a Moabite beggar (Ruth) receiving help from Boaz?
 - d. Why did Boaz choose to be the guardian-redeemer and the other man chose not to?

—[LET'S ACT]—

- Learn more about the word, '*hesed*.' Spend some time reading about it. Look up a few other places it's used in the Bible (there are many to choose from) and read the context. Then, consider the circumstances our world and nation are in currently. Write this down and keep it somewhere as a reminder during difficult times: "God is my hero. He has not forgotten me. He has shown His '*hesed*' for all through Christ. He shows His '*hesed*' today through me when I follow Christ and His way. He will show His '*hesed*' when Christ comes again."



—[**SERMON REVIEW**]—

- Naomi was a victim. She suffered and was reduced in the eyes of her culture to an outcast.
- Naomi’s response was to lay the blame for at the feet of Yahweh: God.
- God is not the villain though. Rather sin is the villain—particularly Elimelek’s disobedience.
- God is the hero who never forgot Naomi and showed His *‘hesed’* (faithful/enduring love) to her through Ruth and Boaz.
- Through God’s *‘hesed’* in Ruth and Boaz he sustains His *‘hesed’* in Christ, their descendant.

—[**NOTES**]—
