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Valley Church

May 15 & 16, 2021
Week 2 – Courage to Begin Again

Introduction:

Review:

- Elimelech and Naomi move family to Moab to escape a famine
- Elimelech dies, leaving Naomi a widow
- Naomi's two sons die, leaving both daughters-in-law widowed
- Naomi's daughter-in-law Ruth returns to Israel with her

How to Begin Again (Learning from Naomi and Ruth):

1. Walk _____ by _____ (2:1-7)

“So she...began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters.”

2. Rest _____ in _____ (2:8-20)

“You put me at ease by speaking kindly to your servant...”

“She ate all she wanted and had some left over...”

3. Think _____ with _____ (2:21-23)

“It will be good for you, my daughter, to go...”

The Big Idea:

Romans 8:38-39

No matter what thoughts you are battling, God is for you and not against you!

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. Starting over...beginning again...is seldom easy. Share about a time in your life when you felt like you had to completely start anew. Perhaps it was related to a relationship, to finances, to a living situation, etc. What life lessons did you learn in those days?

Ponderings:

2. In the weekend message, we saw the bold steps of faith taken by Ruth as she “cut in line” to glean grain from the harvest fields. Having been accepted into the family of God, she felt comfortable fully operating as a citizen with privilege. What parallels do we see in this to the way Jesus invites us to live under His New Covenant of grace? Discuss...
3. When Boaz treats Ruth with such grace, she responds by thanking him for “putting her at ease” by speaking kindly even though she didn’t have the right standing.” Romans 2:4 says that it is God’s kindness that leads to repentance. Share about a time God showed His kind grace to you and you struggled to believe you were in the “right standing” to accept it...
4. Ruth 1:14 says that she “ate all she wanted and had some left over.” Explain how this sentence exemplifies the reality of God’s grace not only in Ruth’s life, but in general...
5. The contagion of God’s graciousness spills over to Naomi, as she begins to declare blessings upon Boaz for his generosity. Can you share about a time when you’ve been the recipient of God’s grace being extended through another human being that was filled with grace themselves?

Promptings:

6. Toward the end of chapter 2, Naomi encourages Ruth to move forward in working the harvest fields. Glimpses of a hopeful future begin to break through after a long season of bitterness in Naomi’s life. In the week ahead, what are some tangible ways in which you can actually “be” a conduit of hope and healing for someone stuck in bitterness?