

Sermon-Based Small Group Preparation

For the week of October 12, 2014

“Won’t You Be My Neighbor?”

Sermon Series: *Who Is My Neighbor?* (week 2 of 3)

Ruth 1:1-5

» Please look over these questions *before* your Small Group meeting «

Getting Started

10 minutes

- 1) It’s pumpkin carving time! Do you prefer to carve scary or funny pumpkins? Or, do you get truly creative, displaying your artistic abilities?

Key Concept

“Love your neighbor” means to love *all* neighbors, because every person has been created in God’s image.

Into the Bible

20 minutes

- 2) This week’s sermon centers on two women in the Old Testament book of Ruth. What does the relationship between Naomi and Ruth show us about Jesus’ commandment to love our neighbors?

Read Ruth 1:1-5 (Scripture is printed in the Additional Resource)

- 3) Describe the situations taking place in the lands of Israel and Moab – at the time when Naomi became a widow.

Read Ruth 1:6-9

- 4) Naomi tried to send Ruth and Orpah back home. How can this be understood as Naomi expressing love for her neighbors?

Read Ruth 1:16-17

- 5) What made Naomi decide to go back to Israel?

- 6) What character traits does Ruth show by staying with Naomi?

Digging Deeper

40 minutes

- 7) Review: Please share any results from your efforts of expressing love to your neighbors this past week.

- 8) In the sermon, Pastor Harrington notes that Orpah made the reasonable and prudent choice – and that Ruth, without any promise or prompting by God, made the *un*reasonable choice. Have you been blessed by a past *un*reasonable choice to serve God? If so, how?

- 9) What steps can we take as a congregation, in order to make our church look more like the neighborhood(s) where God has placed us?

- 10) “You have NEVER looked into the eyes of a person for whom Christ did not die.” How should this truth impact the way in which we relate to all other people, even those who may seem to be different from us – or “other” than us – in some way?

Sermon Notes

October 12, 2014

“Won’t You Be My Neighbor?”

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Pastor Tom Harrington

Group Prayer

20 minutes