



Study #7: A Legacy of Grace and Joy LG Questions for the Week of February 17, 2008

Getting Started

1. Do you ever dream about the future? When we read the Bible, particularly a passage like this week's text, we find that God honors the long-range praying and planning of His people. So try it for a moment. Describe in a few sentences what you'd like the future of your family to look like 50 years from now. Then take an additional moment to ask God to make it so by His grace.

Getting into the Bible

2. JOY. Read Ruth 4:13-16. What was it that brought such joy to Naomi and the women of Bethlehem? How did this event rejuvenate Naomi after her losses in Moab and her bitterness toward God? If you know someone who has recently become a grandparent, how has this event positively affected their lives?
3. LEGACY. Read Ruth 4:17-22. We don't often recognize at the time what an impact one child can have on a city, a country, or even the world. For example, even though Obed may not be a "household name" to us, how did his grandson (Jesse's youngest son) go on to change not only the little town of Bethlehem, but also the future of Israel and the world? (See Matthew 1:1-17 for help.)
4. GRACE. Matthew 1:5 is the only other place Ruth is mentioned in the Bible. Why is it significant that she's mentioned there? Besides Ruth, what other women are included in Matthew's genealogy. Take a moment to identify who each of them is and how this further underscores the grace of Jesus.

Getting Personal and Practical

5. Looking back on the story of Ruth, what was the most gracious thing God did in her life? Now think about your own life. Share one way God has been gracious to you in the past and one way you're trusting Him to be so again in the future.