

Please be sure that you've finished this week's devotions and know this week's memory verse. Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that as we continue the study in the book of Ruth that God will use Pastor Mark to encourage and grow our church. Please pray for Pastor René and his family, that God will use this sabbatical to restore and refresh them all!

Prayer Updates

Hospitalized & Surgeries this past week...

Art Lewis (Arletta Smith's father) – gall bladder surgery
 Bob Gubser – RCU, bleeding ulcer surgery
 Destinee File – Stanford, leukemia
 Erin Asamoto – surgery
 Julie Rudge – shoulder surgery
 Lorraine Kenyon – RCU, back surgery
 Shirley Shine – bypass surgery

Recent hospitalizations/surgeries: Anne Webb, Bailey Ryan, Dustti Zuniga, Nicholas Rendon

Home with the Lord

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bev Dueck and family in the loss of her dear father, **Elden Ollenburger**, after a lengthy illness with cancer. Thankfully Elden knew and loved the Lord, and is now present with Him.

Please remember Jack Jackson in prayer, in the loss of his beloved wife, **Laura "Lolly" Jackson**, who passed away July 31. (Jack is blind and one of our church family who is a resident at Dominican Oaks.)

Heartfelt prayer is extended to the family of **Alyssa Warr** who suffered a tragic accident and died in the loving presence of her husband Petty Officer Brent Warr, parents Kelley and Cindy Trousdale, siblings Jessica and Kelley Trousdale and many caring friends. A celebration of Alyssa's life will be held at Twin Lakes Church, Sunday, August 10 at 2pm.

Men's Prayer Group

TLC men, you are invited to join the Men's Prayer group, meeting every Thursday since 1960 from 6:00am–7:00am in the Office Lobby.

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center. **Subscribe to the Prayer Update:** www.tlc.org/profiles



Finding Hope in the Small Stuff

Mark Spurlock • August 9 & 10, 2008
 Ruth 2:1-23

Why is there hope in the small, everyday stuff of life?

1. Because little things make _____ !

- A little _____

“So (Ruth) went out and began to glean...” *Ruth 2:3a (NIV)*

- A little _____

“As it turned out, she found herself working in a field belonging to Boaz... Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem...” *Ruth 2:3b-4a*

- A little _____

“She went into the field and has worked steadily from morning till now...” *Ruth 2:7b*

“(Ruth) exclaimed, ‘Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me — a foreigner?’ Boaz replied, ‘I’ve been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law... May you be richly rewarded by the LORD... under whose wings you have come to take refuge.’” *Ruth 2:10b-12*

- A little _____

“You have given me comfort and have spoken kindly to your servant...’ Boaz said to her, ‘...Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar.’...He offered her some roasted grain. She ate all she wanted and had some left over.” *Ruth 2:13-14*

“Boaz gave orders to his men, ‘Even if she gathers among the sheaves, don’t embarrass her...pull out some stalks for her from the bundles and leave them for her to pick up...’” *Ruth 2:15-16*

- A little _____

“So Ruth gleaned in the field until evening. Then she threshed the barley she had gathered, and it amounted to about an ephah. She carried it back to town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gathered. Ruth also brought out and gave her what she had left over after she had eaten enough.” *Ruth 2:17-18*

Q: What little things in my life are contributing to big things?

2. Because little things help others _____ .

“Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. ‘He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead.’” *Ruth 2:20b*

Q: What little thing can I do to help _____ find hope?

“So Ruth stayed close to the servant girls of Boaz to glean until the barley and wheat harvests were finished. And she lived with her mother-in-law.” *Ruth 2:23*

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Ruth 2:1-3a. What stood out to you in last weekend's sermon?

How have you recently seen a little thing make a big difference (for good or bad)?

In reading today's passage, what step of faith did Ruth take?

Please read Luke 17:5-6 & Colossians 2:6-8. What do these verses say about faith?

In what way is God asking you to step out in faith?

Thank God today for Ruth, Naomi and Boaz' examples. Thank Him for the fact that He rejoices in each little step of faith you take. Ask God to increase your faith and confidence in Him. Pray that your relationship with Him will be an example for those around in you.

Tuesday

Please read Ruth 2:3-4. What divine appointment takes place in this passage?

What role have divine appointments played in your life?

Please read Acts 8:26-40. This is an amazing example of a divine appointment! What do you learn from Philip's example?

What divine appointments have you recently been part of?

What steps can you take to remain open to divine appointments?

Thank God today for the divine appointments He brings you. Thank Him for the opportunity to encourage others and bring them hope. Pray that you will have a spirit of willingness to accept the divine appointments that God sends your way and the desire to follow His leading.

Wednesday

Please read Ruth 2:5-12. In this passage, what character qualities do you see in Ruth and Boaz?

How has your character been tested lately? What did your actions say about you?

Why are little character choices so important?

Think about the day ahead. What little character choices can you make to bring hope and encouragement to yourself and others?

continued 

When are you most tempted to choose convenience over character?

Thank God today for the opportunities that lay ahead of you. Thank Him for the Holy Spirit and His direction. Pray that your heart will be soft to His leading as He consistently leads you to choose character over convenience. Pray that your little actions of character will make a big impact on your corner of the world.

Thursday

Please read Ruth 2:13-16. A small kindness can be such a source of encouragement to others! In what was Boaz showing Ruth kindness?

Think about the last week. In what way were you shown kindness? How did you show kindness to others?

Sometimes opportunities to be kind just appear (holding the door for someone, running an errand, etc.) but they can also be planned! Write down three acts of kindness you can do in the days ahead.

Thank God today for the amazing kindness that He has shown you. Thank Him for the people in your life who have shown you kindness. Pray that you'll be aware of opportunities to extend kindness and that you'll have the courage to take them! Ask God to use your offering of kindness to encourage and minister to those you encounter.

Friday

Please read Ruth 2:17-23. Working in the fields is a difficult way to make a living. What extra effort did Ruth make in this passage? What was the impact on Naomi?

Take some time to answer the two application questions from last weekend's message:

1. What little things in my life are contributing to big things (for better or for worse)?
2. Write down the name of a person in your world who needs some help finding hope. What little thing can you do to help build that into their life this week?

Thank God today for the great lengths to which He has gone for you. Pray that you'll have the character and strength to make the extra effort in your relationships. Pray for the person(s) in your life who need hope. Pray that God will give you opportunities to bless them.



"May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."
Ruth 2:12 (NIV)