

Please be sure you know this week's memory verse and have finished the devotions. Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray for Pastor Mark as he wraps up our study in the book of Ruth. Pray that God will use him to teach you and help you grow. Pray for our church, too. Pray that we will continue to grow spiritually and numerically. Thanks!

Prayer Updates

Joy & Blessings

John and Cathy Crow welcome daughter **Ashlan Gail Crow**, born August 11, into their hearts and life.

Hospitalized & Surgeries this past week...

Bob Gubser – RCU, bleeding ulcer surgery

Bonita Montoya – follow-up surgery, month-long recovery anticipated

Destinee File – Stanford, leukemia

Shirley Shine – bypass surgery

Stan Stewart – hospitalized in Denver, critically ill

Recent hospitalizations/surgeries: Asako Pumphrey, Ed Fennelly, Erin Asamoto, Julie Rudge, Lorraine Kenyon

Home with the Lord

We were very saddened to receive the news that Joyce Shankland lost her son, **Jerry Shankland**, who died of lung cancer this past week and had in January lost her husband, Ralph. Pray for Joyce as she continues treatment for lung cancer herself and is very much in need of our love and care.

Please keep close in prayer Arletta Smith as she grieves the loss of her father, **Art Lewis**.

Our heartfelt prayer is extended to Shirley Starrett whose husband, **Monte Starrett**, is now home with the Lord. Please remember their daughter Jule, and her husband Gilbert Tanner, who also are in our TLC family.

Guy Routley's uncle **Al Hagin**, who knew and loved the Lord, is now present with Him. Guy has many fond memories of his uncle and asks that we remember his aunt Shirley as she grieves the loss of her husband.

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



Becoming an Agent of Hope

Mark Spurlock • August 16 & 17, 2008
Ruth 3:1-18

How to be an agent of hope...

1. _____
One day Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, should I not try to find a home for you, where you will be well provided for? Is not Boaz, with whose servant girls you have been, a kinsman of ours? Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. Wash and perfume yourself, and put on your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, note the place where he is lying. Then go and uncover his feet and lie down. He will tell you what to do." "I will do whatever you say," Ruth answered. *Ruth 3:1-5 (NIV)*

2. _____
So she went down to the threshing floor and did everything her mother-in-law told her to do. When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. In the middle of the night something startled the man, and he turned and discovered a woman lying at his feet. "Who are you?" he asked. "I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer." *Ruth 3:6-9*

3. _____
"The LORD bless you, my daughter," he replied. "This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All my fellow townsmen know that you are a woman of noble character. Although it is true that I am near of kin, there is a kinsman-redeemer nearer than I. Stay here for the night, and in the morning if he wants to redeem, good; let him redeem. But if he is not willing, as surely as the LORD lives I will do it. Lie here until morning." So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, "Don't let it be known that a woman came to the threshing floor." *Ruth 3:10-14*

4. _____
He also said, "Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out." When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and put it on her. Then he went back to town. When Ruth came to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, "How did it go, my daughter?" Then she told her everything Boaz had done for her and added, "He gave me these six measures of barley, saying, 'Don't go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed.'" *Ruth 3:15-17*

5. _____
Then Naomi said, "Wait, my daughter, until you find out what happens. For the man will not rest until the matter is settled today." *Ruth 3:18*

"We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield." *Psalms 33:20*

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Ruth 3:1-5. What does Naomi want to do for Ruth in this passage?

Who has been a “Naomi” in your life? How did their desire to make a difference impact you?

In what way do you want to make a difference? How could that bring hope to those around you?

Thank God today that He decided to make the ultimate difference in your life: He made a way for you to be a new creation in Christ! Thank God for those who have made a difference in your life. Ask God to give you the energy and desire to make a difference. Pray that your efforts will be received joyfully and that they will be agents of hope in the lives of others.

Tuesday

Please read Ruth 3:6-9. What risks did Ruth take in this passage? What do you think is the connection between Ruth’s willingness to take risks and Naomi’s willingness to make a difference?

In what area of your life do you feel as though you’re on the edge of taking a godly risk?

What is your greatest fear when it comes to taking risks?

How can taking risks impact your faith and relationship with God?

Thank God today that He never leaves you — even when you’re stepping out in faith and taking risks. Talk to God about your fears when it comes to faith and risks. Ask Him to give you the courage to step out and take risks, trusting in His timing and His direction.

Wednesday

Please read Ruth 3:10-14. What does Boaz say about Ruth’s reputation?

Think about someone you know whose reputation is above reproach. What words would you use to describe them?

What does living above reproach look like in your life?

Be brutally honest: In what area(s) of your life are you currently being tempted to compromise? What one choice can you make today to live above reproach in that area?

continued 

Thank God today for the opportunity to study the Bible. Spend some time talking to Him about the areas of your life where you’re tempted to compromise. Pour your heart out to Him. Ask Him for strength and courage and the desire to live a life of integrity.

Thursday

Please read Ruth 3:15-17, Proverbs 22:9 & II Corinthians 9:6-7. In what ways has Boaz already been generous to Ruth?

How does generosity give hope?

What hesitation do you have when it comes to being generous?
What do you love about being generous?

How do these passages encourage generosity in you?

Thank God today for His example of generosity towards you. Thank Him for those who have been generous to you throughout your life. Ask God for opportunities to practice generosity. Pray that you’ll develop this as a habit and that your generosity will generate hope in others.

Friday

Please read Ruth 3:18, Psalm 27:14, 33:20 & Lamentations 3:25-26. Waiting is difficult. It’s difficult when it’s just waiting in line but when it’s when waiting on God for an answer or a direction it can get really hard!

How has Ruth had to wait?

What do the passages you read today say about waiting?

What are you waiting for right now?

How does the story of Ruth and the passages you read encourage you to wait well?

Thank God today for the encouragement of scripture. Talk to Him about the areas of life where you find yourself waiting. Ask Him for the patience and willingness to wait well. Pray that you’ll apply the verses you read today to your life.



“My your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.” *Psalms 33:22*

