

4. When you look at centuries covered in the story of God in Scripture and the centuries that have passed since the coming of Christ, it can seem that God's providential work is painstakingly slow. We wonder when his will be done on earth as it is in heaven. How does God's providence—his often hidden work behind the scenes—confuse you, encourage you, or frustrate you?

5. What are your thoughts on the John Piper quote from the outline?

6. When we have to wait, we learn to depend on God right now. What is the value in that?

7. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

SERIES: Ruth: Unexpected Redeemer

SERMON 2: "God's Providence"

TEXT: Ruth 2

DATE: December 5/6, 2015

THE PURPOSE OF THE BOOK OF RUTH

This is a book about the _____ of God. It's about a God who is not bound by the past or the future but works out his plan in his time and in his wisdom.

Six key verses:

- Ruth 1:1
- Ruth 2:1
- Ruth 2:3
- Ruth 2:20
- Ruth 4:14
- Ruth 4:17

God's providence is about God's _____ to accomplish his purposes, activity that's often behind-the-scenes and often goes unseen.

"Life is not a straight line leading from one blessing to the next and then finally to heaven. Life is a winding and troubled road. Switchback after switchback. And the point of biblical stories like Joseph and Job and Esther and Ruth is to help us feel in our bones (not just know in our heads) that God is for us in all these strange turns. God is not just showing up after the trouble and cleaning it up. He is plotting the course and managing the troubles with far-reaching purposes for our good and for the glory of Jesus Christ." (John Piper)

GOD'S PROVIDENCE CALLS FOR ACTION (Part 1)

The moral of the story is that we have work to do because God is _____ at work on his purposes, and he invites us to act and engage for his purposes.

1. Hard _____.
Ruth 1:22; 2:23

W_____ is sometimes the hardest work, but God is at work in the waiting.

You Can't _____ God.

- Abraham
- Joseph
- Moses
- David

When we have to wait, we learn to depend on God _____.

"God doesn't promise to give us the grace to survive all the scenarios we can dream up—but only to give us the grace to enable us to make it through whatever he actually brings into our lives. In fact, much of what we worry about turns out in the end not to be part of God's plan for us after all; our worry was wasted work!" (Iain Duguid)

Waiting is hard work, but it's not the _____ work of worry.

Matthew 1: ²⁰ "...Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

During Advent our DailyLife devotional will guide you in praying through four of the songs found in the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. The goal is to help you prepare for the HOLY DAY that Christmas is. To receive DailyLife sent to your email, write "DailyLife" on your Communication Card. Make sure we have your current email address. If you do not receive it within the next few days, check your email spam or promotions box.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Ruth 2

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

2. Everyday life is marked by waiting—waiting on the light to turn green, the coffee to brew, or the water to boil. What do you hate waiting on or waiting for in your everyday life?

3. What is the author's purpose in writing Ruth? (Review the six key verses listed in the outline that show the author's purpose in writing Ruth.)