

Dig Deeper @Home – “Island of Misfit Toys”

Complement to lesson on 12/17/23 – “Accepting Outcasts”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What’s your favorite/least favorite Christmas song? Christmas movie?
2. When have you felt like an outcast?

MEMORIZE – Revelation 7:9-10

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

READ – Read Ruth 1

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What are the verses revealing about God? About people?
In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. Read Deuteronomy 23: 2-4. How do you make sense of this in light of the story of Ruth? And subsequently King David? And finally, Jesus as Messiah?
3. Compare Ruth with Rahab. What is similar in these situations? What is different?

If you have time, read the rest of Ruth. In what ways do you see God working? Where are examples of grace, truth, mercy and redemption?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Welcomed In

Throughout the story of Ruth, we see Ruth being cared for and welcomed in by both Naomi and Boaz. Do the same thing in the next week or two: invite someone/others to a meal or a game night or some kind of hang out where you can welcome them in. Take the opportunity to learn more about them. Who should you ask? Think of someone/others you don't know that well from the places you live, work, study, worship and play. Before the meal or hangout, spend time praying for God to bless the time with his presence, peace, love and joy.

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Echo Holy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pz5t7XTCxNE>

The First Noel - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnN27CB9h9s>

Come all Ye Unfaithful - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_bh_gldY_A

Hope has a Name - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DI-fTpLINZ8>

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the message:

Almighty God: thank you that even though I am a misfit, I am accepted into your kingdom through Jesus Christ. Fill me with joy and freedom to share this powerful truth with others where I live, work, study and play.